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exists in the world today.

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Crossroads International

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New Frontiers

A few weeks ago, I returned from a fact-finding mission that took me to the far reaches of western India to the town of Kalimpong, south of the Bhutan border. I was there to meet with a group of pioneering missionaries and local pastors who have established a missions beachhead into the nation of Bhutan. These entrepreneurial missionaries are blazing a trail of evangelism into Bhutan and working at equipping the fledgling church that exists there. The goal of this trip was to investigate ways Crossroads could network with them in reaching Bhutan for Christ.

Below is a page from my journal record of the trip.

My meeting today with the Bhutan Network proved eye opening in more ways than I could have imagined. There's a reason the nation of Bhutan is known as the "land of the thundering dragon". The conditions of the fledgling church in Bhutan are disheartening but revealing. The hold that Buddhism has on the land of Bhutan and over the minds of the people is staggering. The strong spiritual forces at work in this country could make you think twice if it were not for the knowledge that God specializes in dethroning "gods", rescuing people, and reforming nations.

In the West we get a glimmer of the work of this "dark spirit" through the unqualified acceptance the Dalai Lama, the internationally recognized leader of Buddhism, receives. The Dalai Lama is the only religious leader to enjoy such unwarranted access to and unprecedented influence on world governments and its leaders enjoying uncensored authority to speak on any subject, his viewpoints accepted as valid and credible. Unlike the Pope he is virtually uncontested as a spiritual inspiration by world leaders, Hollywood, and the political left, with none criticizing his beliefs or his religious viewpoints regarding life, man's origin, or his solutions, as a Buddhist, to the complexities of our world.

As we in the West embrace this spiritual darkness more and more Crossroads is looking for a way to pierce that darkness at one of its strongholds - Bhutan, the land of Buddhist monasteries and saffron robed monks. But after this initial visit I come away aware more now than ever that this spiritual stronghold will only be broken by a combined thrust of sacrificial living, intense intercessory prayer, together with a fearless witness willing to embrace emotional isolation and the potential of personal persecution.

We got a firsthand introduction to the "spirit" at work in this land when driving up from the town of Bagdogra, India to Kalimpong, a three hours drive, we came to a dead stop on the side of the mountain (Kalimpong is located in the mountains at the foot of the Himalaya's) half way to our destination. The reason - the towns folk (Kalimpong) had revolted (they refer to it as a strike but it is more confrontational and violent) and shut down the entire traffic flow up and down the mountain. The entire region around and incorporating Kalimpong used to be territory belonging to Bhutan; it is also a stronghold of the Dalai Lama who had just been there before our arrival. The area is an unstable area full of insurrectionists and Chinese Maoists who are also carving out a "new territory" for China (China occupies unlawfully about 20 miles of territory belonging to India in this same border area). After three hours sitting on the side of the mountain in winter

weather we were able to proceed on to Kalimpong. The next day I met with the Bhutan Network to hear of their work and plans for Bhutan. Four hours into a scheduled two-day meeting a local youth pastor stepped in to announce that the entire region had been called to join in a strike later that day. The strike was to last 25 days. In follow-up skirmishes with the Indian army the day before 5 local towns people had been shot dead; local businesses had been burned, and the "insurrectionist" were planning on confronting the army. It was decided that having an American caught up in this chaos was not something they wanted to deal with so I and the Crossroads country director for India, Olem Jamir, were politely asked to leave - IMMEDIATELY. So into town we were speed by this Youth Pastor. Arriving in the middle of town we were surrounded by chaos as people tried to get out of harm's way. No taxis were moving, no businesses open under threat of retaliation for failure to "participate" in the strike. Finally, we were able to find one man willing to take the risk and take us back to Bagdogra. So off we went. A day later, we headed for New Delhi.

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Child Relief Projects



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Ways To Be Praying

1. Understanding for pursuing involvement in Buthan and financial needs to make those steps happen.
2. Consistent funding for the administrative costs and supplies for the Alpha Care Center as we begin to expand into the 1st grade.
3. As we begin the micro-development sewing ministry started for widows in India that God would continue to provide the funds needed.

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I feel that the meeting with the Bhutan Network, though brief, will eventually prove beneficial to Crossroads as well as to the Network itself. We have established a relationship and begun a dialogue regarding the future. Though nothing is definite, it remains very promising.

One thing I walk away with is a better understanding of the need of the Church in Bhutan, the believers' needs, and the challenges facing us as we make plans as to how we will engage this land, its people, and the spirit fighting hard not only to hold to its domain but to extend its reach around the world.

As you pray please consider holding us up before God for wisdom and open doors as we seek ways to influence the church in Bhutan and work within Bhutan to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

Pakistan Update

Many of you joined in to help a group of Pakistani Christians devastated by the historic flooding of 2010 that took place over a 3 month period. Over one-third of the Northern region of Pakistan was under water, leaving in its wake hundreds of thousands of people now destitute - homes washed away, lives shattered, family heirlooms and memories lost forever. Crossroads ministry partner in Pakistan, Reverend Iftikhar, has led a continuous effort to help these devastated families providing blankets, shoes, clothing, shelter, livestock (goats), and recently start up sewing centers for woman and girls through which they can earn a living in order to rebuild their lives.

A big "thank you" to each of you who this past December flipped through the **Crossroads Christmas Catalog** and bought gifts (shoes, coats, goats, blankets) for Pakistani families devastated by these floods. As you can see from the photos below your gifts are impacting real families and making a genuine difference. The unfortunate reality is that the effects of last years epic floods continue to leave a wake of destruction for many families long after the waters have resided. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of helping Christian families in Pakistan email us at info@crossroadsinternational.org.





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Child Relief Projects



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usa_info@crossroadsintern.org

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Surviving Terrorism: A Personal Testimony

On November 26th, 2008 television screens across the world lit up with news of yet another terrorist attack. Islamic jihadists had launched multiple coordinated attacks in the heart of the financial district of Mumbai, India. The terror lasted three days. When the dust settled 166 people were dead, 308 wounded. Few who encountered these terrorists first hand survived the ordeal, one who did was a man named Uledar. Uledar, a Christian in his twenties, would later serve as one of the government's star witnesses at the trial of the sole surviving terrorist.



We had the privilege of having Mr. Uledar share his testimony at the Navi Mumbai Youth Movement, a monthly Youth Outreach Ministry of Crossroads, Mumbai. Speaking first hand of his personal encounter with the terrorist Ajmal Kasab, Mr. Uledar spoke about death and life, challenging the young people to think about how fleeting life can be. As a result, 6 young people gave their lives to Christ that night.

With terrorism at the forefront of all our minds we thought you might find uplifting the amazing story of God's saving power in the face of terrifying circumstances. Below is the story of God's protecting grace in Mr. Uledar's own words.

This is how God saved me from the hands of terrorists.

My sister was admitted in Cama Hospital just adjacent to Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (train station). She delivered a baby girl on 25th November 2008, but due to complications the baby and mother had to remain in the hospital.

The next day, the 26th of November, a large number of family members, friends, and myself (a total of 10 individuals all believers in Jesus Christ) went to visit my sister. It was about 9:30 pm when we decided to go back home. Half of the group left then and a few of us lingered a little longer. Just as we were leaving the hospital the five who had left earlier suddenly rushed back into the hospital telling us to run and hide, shouting that terrorists had attacked people in the train station next door, killing many.

Rushing back into the hospital we turned and saw 2 of the terrorists, armed with AK-47's, entering into the building premises. As they entered, they shot and killed the two security guards at the entrance.

As we sought safety ourselves, we were cautioning people to hide in their hospital rooms or wherever they could. My mother and Auntie went into the 2nd floor where my new born niece was. The rest of us ran to the 5th floor to be with my sister. By this time, panic had set in as news spread fast of terrorists on the hunt within the hospital. Many patients seeking safety had torn open their surgeries, leaving a trail of blood to where they sought safety.

We tried to secure the Ward doors but could not as there was no lock inside. Hence, we tied the gate outside the doors with a piece of cloth and switched off all the lights in the Ward. After few minutes, I noticed that a tube light at the end of the corridor was on and so I went out of the room to switch it off. My brother-in-law (Chinakar) and one of my friends (Soumen Ghosh) followed me. I could not locate the light switch, when I turned back to head for the Ward, I saw the 2 terrorists coming up the stairway armed with assault rifles & guns pulled. As I saw them I was stunned, I could not move and I prayed in my heart *"Father I am coming Home, receive me"* because I felt there was no way of escape. However there was no fear at all in me because the Word of God says *"The Lord has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind"* (1 Timothy 1:7).

One of the terrorists named Ajmal Kasab came rushing up the stairs directly towards me pointing his assault rifle at my chest demanding, *"Where are the other people?"* I replied *"I don't know as I came running up the stairs"* (Ajmal Kasab, was the only terrorist captured alive).

At this time they saw my brother-in-law, grabbing him they demanded *"what is this, where are we?"* I replied *"This is a hospital sir, people are already half dead here"*. He looked at me in anger and took us back inside the Ward. Ordering the 3 of us to lie down on our stomachs they started loading their rifles with fresh rounds of ammo. We were then told to stand with our hands up. While one terrorist held us at gunpoint, the other, looking like a hungry lion on the prowl, started searching for people. The most incredible thing was that this Ward was filled with many newborn babies and some women who had undergone operation just few hours back, but nobody made any noise.

Searching the Ward, the terrorists found an elderly man (Harischandra - 56 yrs old) hiding in a back room. He was ordered to stand with us but he refused and kept pleading with the terrorists *"Don't kill me in the bathroom, kill me here itself"*. So they caught him by his hair and pinned him on the ground. They told him give praise to "Allah" and shot him in the shoulder. Then standing him in front of us they stabbed him and left him on the floor of the Ward.

A few minutes later, another person was found hiding in a dark corner of the Ward. He was forced to stand with us, hands in the air, as the terrorists repeatedly tried to fire their guns, each time their guns failed to fire.

Suddenly they stepped backwards out of the bathroom locking us in from outside. They had received word that police were in the building hunting for them so they left to take up positions. Left locked in the bathroom we were confessing the Word of God, binding the spirit of terrorism and death while simultaneously releasing the Spirit of Life. No one came to our rescue for nearly 2 hours; then 10 police officers came and opened the door, amazed that we were safe.

The ensuing gun battle with the police left one terrorist dead, the other captured. A year later, I served as a witness in the trial of Ajmal Kasab who in 2011 was convicted and sentenced to death.
