

Miracle In Pakistan

It was the year 2020, as we were sitting in our living room, waiting for the Franklin Graham Easter telecast to begin on our computer screen. The chat window scrolled by with quick, short statements from viewers around the world. Suddenly, my wife stopped, staring at one message that was disappearing almost as quickly as it had appeared. “What was that?” She scrolled backward to a simple message from Pakistan. It was simply asking for “prayer”.

Thus began a relationship with an unforgettable young man and his family, his wife and two little children (now three).

We first contacted him through Facebook. “Hassan” (his name is protected) was asking for prayer for his family and for a small community of believers. Covid had shut down the country including the factory in which he was employed. He was starving and about to be put out of his shabby apartment, with a hole in the roof. Under even normal circumstances, his country permitted Christians only three days per week of work, often at the most menial jobs. He worked part-time in a factory, which at least was not the sewer system. We cautiously sent him a small amount of money for food. He sent us photos of using the money to buy one meal for the family and food for starving neighbors. We then sent a little more. Again, this was followed by photos of more people fed, as well as his own family. With time, we videoed directly through an encrypted connection. He would speak in broken English, through tears of thanks. We learned that he had a small but significant ministry outreach to a circle of Christian families. Early on, he asked if we might help him arrange an import business to America. We pointed out that it was not practical, or easily able to be done. Instead, as we learned of his efforts with families, we sensed God’s call that he should by faith devote his efforts to ministry and that we would prayerfully help. It should be noted that less than 1% of the population of the country is evangelical Christian.

This direct video communication cemented our relationship with Hassan. This was no third-party donation of money or concern. It became real-time exchange that began to chronicle triumphs and tragedies, week after week. As news of salvations and miracles began to be reported, our participation grew, with faith rising at the challenges he was enduring.

We contacted friends and eventually found 39 other people who contributed enough money to build him a home outside the town, in a relatively safe area (although, even that was targeted twice by thieves not long ago--They lost everything). One couple donated enough for a small motorbike, so that he would not have to walk for many miles to minister. Hassan has been travelling by motorbike to an expanding population of people eager for salvation and water baptism. They beg his prayers for healing miracles. The motorbike was later stolen while he was ministering at a home, but after some time, another was able to be provided. His fearless stand for Christ has become increasingly well-known. Where other persons, from "Christian TV" or from other sources, have typically charged money for praying, without effect, his work has been quietly reshaping the evidence of an answering Savior. Challenged to make ends meet each month, he is dependent on donations in order to help those in his sphere of concern.

But it has not been without pushbacks. The religious hucksters, who live in relative luxury, have been losing attention from the minority Christian communities. As his work has grown, Hassan has had to resist many flattering overtures to work for them, followed by their threats when he refused. He was at one time kidnapped and severely beaten by five men, literally hired by one source to either extort him for an impossible ransom or otherwise threaten him with immediate execution if he would not stop preaching the Gospel. Through a series of miracles, that ransom was made at the last minute. As they were expecting to kill him, he impressed them that he was unafraid, declaring his total trust in Christ. This left them so utterly perplexed that upon releasing him, they offered him their telephone number, in case he "needed their help" in the future! He left them with the message that one day it would be THEY who would need HIS help. Several months later, he received a telephone call from his former captors, pleading that ever since that event, they had been plagued with so many "problems" that four of the five men decided to receive the Truth of the Gospel. The kidnappers admitted that never had they encountered anyone who was unafraid of death at gunpoint. So, he met them again, this time under different circumstances. They repented in tears and were baptized with joy. Later we learned that they had to flee the country because of persecution for their new Faith.

Hassan remains in persecution. He was once attacked by a group of men while teaching one Sunday morning in a community of very poor, homeless believers. In

addition to other severe injuries, he was hung upside-down by a stake through his legs and had been reported dead. Yet he lived and was hospitalized for many weeks, requiring surgery. Through individual donations he recovered, but with some lingering disability.

Since then, we have heard almost innumerable accounts of ministering through danger. In the years we have known him, his courage and persistence remain undauntedly calm. As we have continued to pray and support him, others have joined who have also seen evidence of his growing testimony. Hassan himself has said that these opportunities for ministry have been possible because of our involvement, but had not quite realized how supernaturally this was so, until he began to tell us of something truly unusual.

He began to describe that an increasing number of individuals and married couples, from various regions, all unknown to each other, had contacted him, with a certain urgency to do so. The pattern was always the same: they each had the same vision in the night. In their vision, they were met by two “messengers” in bright white garments, telling them that they needed to receive Jesus as their Savior. They were instructed with urgency to find and talk to a man named “Hassan” who would tell them what to do. Upon awakening, they contacted individuals who were known to be Christians. Since Hassan is famously regarded in that region for his integrity and vital Faith, these were able to be directed to him.

Upon arriving at Hassan’s house and customarily being received with kindness, they were seated and began to tell their account. During that discussion, they noticed an enlarged photo of us on the wall. With that, they asked, “How do you know these people?” Hassan responded, “...we call them our parents and are in touch with them all the time.”

With widening eyes, their response has always been: “Those were the two messengers who came to us in the night!”

All of them then with joy, were often described to us as “jumping up and down”, gladly repenting, receiving the Savior. This was followed by baptism. We understand that there have been some accounts of two other people who have appeared to some as well. These have later been identified as some of our friends who are also actively giving into Hassan’s ministry.

Having pondered these reports, involving perhaps twenty people or more, we realized that we were indeed part of the actual ministry with Hassan.

Then something dawned on us, that this wasn't exactly the same situation as that of Philip, who in the book of Acts, was carried by the Holy Spirit and taken to the Ethiopian eunuch (to explain the prophecy of the Messiah out of the book of Isaiah), because Philip of course REMEMBERED that event, in order to record it in linear time. But this was different. In all of these, we ourselves had no memory of it. Yet, when some of these people insisted upon seeing us on live video, they couldn't understand why we did not recognize them!

The only conclusion available was that we were given to appear to these people in a yet-to-be realized (from our standpoint) state of GLORIFICATION-- the resurrection state-- that all true believers will one day experience. It is in fact a state outside of linear time. It is the state that the Lord Himself walked in, after His resurrection. It is in a very real sense, "Heaven come to earth". Perhaps it is a preview of things to come.

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