

Only jailed twice in 2005

I wish you could meet Brother Buta. The last time I was in Pakistan we had opportunity to eat with all the team on three occasions. The last time we saw them, Bill Rich, my traveling companion and Barnabas board member, just grabbed this guy with a hug and gave him a big kiss on his forehead. They just grinned at each other even though the language barrier made it difficult to communicate. One American and one Pakistani, sharing love for one another — why? Jesus, of course.



Brother Buta had only been jailed twice in the year 2005 according to the report I have in my office. His health is well and he continues to reach out to Muslims in the cities of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Rawat, Turnoil, Jhelum and Gujar Khan. Together with his traveling companion, Brother Naeem, they saw 3,239 Muslims take a Bible or New Testament from their one-on-one evangelistic efforts. That's about nine (9) people each day. What an awesome testimony. Lord, please watch over brothers in difficult places touching the Nations.

If you've been watching any of the international news over the past week, you've seen thousands of Muslims go literally berserk over parts of the middle-east and Europe because of a cartoon published in some Danish and other European papers depicting Mohammad as a terrorist. These people have basically gone indiscriminately crazy over this thing, burning down embassy buildings and church buildings and chanting any number of death slogans all in an attempt to show their love for God. Yeah - go figure that one! Do you want to reach out to folks like them.

Every day when our team goes to the field, they face terrible risks. It is not uncommon for them to be chased out of a town or village by radical zealots and most of the team has been beaten on more than one occasion. It's just plain tough.

The picture above is one of young Muslim men, who are literally whipping themselves with chains to show their devotion to Muhammad on the anniversary of his death. This ritual takes place every year and it gets quite messy. I have some video of the event, and I gotta tell ya, these guys get worked up.



The picture to the left has two team members manning a book and literature stall in a busy tourist section of a mountain town. As a matter of fact, this town is on the way to where the earthquake hit on the Pakistan side of Kashmir. What a contrast.

Remember I was telling you about Brother Bill and Brother Buta standing together smiling and hugging. One American, one Pakistani, both Christians. This thought is one of the ones you can hold in your mind next time you see Muslims on television rioting or bombing someone. There are brothers and sisters out there who live in very difficult places and labor under incredibly hard circumstances. Remember to pray for the efforts among the unreached Islamic world. They need the words of a new Prophet - **Jesus**.

Ken