



Pastor's Perspective — He Refused to Be Silent About the Savior

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The letter's power didn't come from its one line of words: "Stop preaching Christ!" Its delivery method made the greater impact. It was attached to the bloody body of a Bible college student named Sheraz. The letter and his body were dumped at the front gate of his church near Lahore, Pakistan.

Sheraz hadn't followed the letter's advice. He had preached everywhere he went about the love of a Savior who had died for his sins. He had preached to the workers at the factory where he worked, to his Bible school and to his own family.

What if Pakistan turned to Christ?

A week earlier, Sheraz was working at the factory to support his parents and three sisters when he got into a discussion with some Muslim coworkers. They had become angry, and other workers reported a heated argument. That was the last time anyone saw Sheraz alive.

Sheraz had known the risk. Many others in Pakistan had been killed for sharing their faith. Others had been accused of blasphemy and locked away into prison, but the gospel message was too good—and Sheraz just couldn't keep it to himself.

At last report, the members of his church haven't taken the letter's advice either. They have continued to preach the gospel to Muslims, offering the love of Christ to those enslaved by hatred and fear. They, too, know the risks, but they have said that they will continue—even if they must follow the example of Sheraz.

I was reminded of Sheraz (and his fellow Christians in Pakistan) when I heard about the suicide bombing on

a recent Sunday that killed more than 80 people who had gathered to worship at a church in Pakistan. A few days later, I was reminded again when I learned of a Christian businessman whose throat was slit in the town marketplace as police and spectators watched. According to the laws of that country, the killing was just. Boota Masih had blasphemed the name of Islam's prophet by sharing the gospel of Christ. Reportedly, efforts are underway to change the law. In the meanwhile, it has been reported that Christians in a village near Lahore, have fled town after their pastor was similarly accused.

Given the place-description, "near Lahore," I've been curious: "Are those Christians the same as those who received the bloodied body of Sheraz?" I've also wondered: "In fleeing, have they remained silent about their Savior?" I have no way of knowing the answer to the first question, but if they knew Sheraz, my guess is that they have been both vocal and courageous for Christ.

In the Bible we read that when "a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem.... Those who had been scattered preached the Word wherever they went" (Acts 8:1, 4) and that the result was a powerful advance of the gospel. What if that happened in our day? What if Pakistan turned to Christ? What if other countries round about? What if our own? Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Pakistan. Ask that Christians would not stop preaching Christ. Pray that God would give us all Sheraz-like courage to tell others of the love of Christ. Pray that none of us would be silent about the Savior, least of all, you.

Missions Conference

"The Lord's Patience Means Salvation," Mission Conference last month blessed many people. Fellowship families showed their love and care for Missionaries Jim and Jan Ruff, John Wilburn Jr., and Sallie and Larry Fogle, by hosting them in their homes, preparing dinners, contributing to the Missionary Cupboard from which the missionaries could restock office and household supplies, and presenting them with a love offering of \$5,278.



Women's Retreat



Ladies from Fellowship enjoyed their annual Women's Retreat with speaker Sallie Fogle last month. It was a great time of physical relaxation and spiritual refreshment while deepening interpersonal relationships. Plus, we laughed a lot.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—A time for honoring those who shepherd God's flock (1 Peter 5:2). Take time to show our Pastors and their families they are appreciated and loved!

Fellowship-in-Homes

Soon our deacons will be contacting their Shepherding Groups for Fellowship-in-Home gatherings on Friday or Saturday, October 11-12. These quarterly gatherings afford us as a church family with rich occasions for fellowship outside of our regular, weekly times of worship. Your participation in these gatherings is a vital source of encouragement to your brothers and sisters in Christ and also serve to strengthen you in your walk with the Lord. Thanks for building these occasions for fellowship into your schedule and for thus contributing to the Lord's work among us.

Identifying Men to Serve as Deacons

Fellowship is in the process of selecting deacons to begin service in 2014. Please turn in your Request-for-Nominations forms by October 15. Your input plays a key role in helping the Clearing Committee to identify those men the Lord would have serve in this important church office.

Men's Retreat



December 13-14, 2013
 "Pressure Points"
 Cost: \$80.00
 Registration: Begins October 6

October 2013 Bible Memory Challenge



*"The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"
 Psalm 27:1-2*

Money Matters

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,134
2013 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,229
2013 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$189,404
2013 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$203,932

Bible Study Offers Growth and Fellowship for Women of FBC

"I like coming, because it makes me study more. When I first came, I wouldn't have been able to find Zechariah, but now I can," said Kay Bray. She was voicing excitement about the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, at 9:30 AM, at our church.



Women's Bible Study

She is among the group of women who have been studying the book, The Names of God, by Ann Spangler. The Bible study book covers 52 names or titles of God in the Old and New Testaments. The weekly studies include background information and Bible passages to help understand the names, using a series of questions the women study at home to discuss together at the church.

"I like the camaraderie," she continued. "It's great the women can come together. We can talk about anything without feeling judged."

Louanne Robinson agreed. "I enjoy that when we are studying and answering questions, I am receiving answers in a way that I haven't thought of and I get to know the personalities of the ladies better...and there is that fellowship we have in Jesus."

The study is designed so women can join in at any time, since each week focuses on a different title or name of God. It is not too late for ladies to join in and it is also a great place to bring friends who might not be available to visit the church on a Sunday. Not only does the study encourage fellowship among the women, it is a great opportunity to grow spiritually.

"I have been enjoying learning the various names of God when they were used in the Bible and what they mean, and incorporating them into my prayer life," said Jill Porter.

Calendar

Oct. 2	First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner (6:30 PM)
Oct. 5	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Oct. 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 11-12	Fellowship in Homes
Oct. 26	Fun with Fellowship movie & dinner
Oct. 30	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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