

Global iNSIGHT



July 2023

Multiplying Disciple Makers

“Conflicts without, fears within”

The Apostle Paul wrote the above words in 2 Corinthians 7:5, of his first century missionary work. Over the last three years, this phrase could also be used to describe the experience of “Multiplying Disciple makers” by the dedicated leaders of iTEE Global in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Fears Within



The work of iTEE Global was first introduced in Myanmar to a few English speakers in 2017. Two students enrolled. By 2018, the first Bible course in the Myanmar language, Burmese, was available. More students enrolled and began to study. In 2019, God touched the hearts

of Pastor Martin and Esther Khant (pictured with their family), a dedicated pastoral couple to lead the work of iTEE Global.

As they transitioned to leadership in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic struck Myanmar, as most of Asia, with devastating results. It became very difficult for these national missionaries to travel, to teach God’s Word, and to encourage students to become multiplying disciple makers. “I have been very afraid these past months,” said Pastor Martin at that time, “afraid of Covid-19, of people against us, of many problems brought on by COVID-19. But we need it, and I want to lead this ministry and organize iTEE Global workshops in many states and divisions of Myanmar. How can I do this?”

Despite the obstacles, Pastor Martin and Esther followed the example of Paul who also wrote in Philippians 3:14, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

During that time, in the middle of the pandemic, they conducted their first iTEE Global workshop in a neighboring city. “I very much praise God, because this is a supernatural work of the Lord our God. All of our pastors and leaders are afraid of COVID-19. I’m also worried, but I told God that, when I contact the next church and the leader accepts me, I will do this iTEE Global Workshop. The period during COVID-19 is very difficult, but God can solve the problems. I saw that the participants are very hungry for God’s words. Because of this, I believe our LORD has prepared iTEE Myanmar for us. Hallelujah!!!”

But in early 2021, as the iTEE-Myanmar work grew, and with more students studying God’s Word both face to face and online, another disaster struck.

Conflicts on the Outside Civil War Erupts in Myanmar



After 50 years of military rule that isolated the country from the rest of the world, an amazing change occurred in 2012 – Myanmar released its political prisoners and opened up to the world! Its economy began to thrive.

The exercise of “partial democracy” - establishment of a civilian government along with a military one, brought tens of millions of dollars of foreign investment and jobs into this impoverished Asian country.

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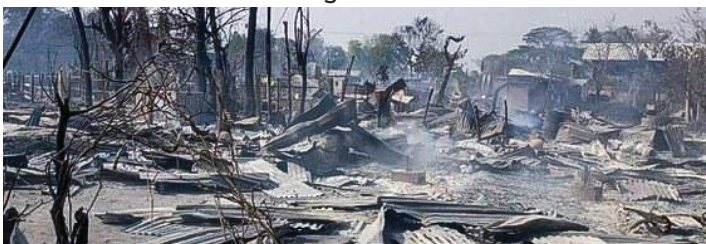
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By 2014, the ordinary people of Myanmar had their first-ever access to the internet.

On February 1, 2021, however, all the hope and promise ended abruptly when General Min Aung Hlaing, pictured left, staged a military takeover of the democratically-elected civilian government. Peaceful protests by ordinary citizens and the walkout of thousands of doctors, nurses, and teachers in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) were met by a brutal crackdown from the Burmese army. Protesters and CDM personnel then formed their own "People's Defense Forces" (PDF) to fight the military government, or they joined existing militias.

By mid-2023, the Myanmar military's war on its own people has resulted in over 30,000 deaths and 1.5 million internally displaced people. In the last few months, in the area where our iTEE Global National Director and many students live, hundreds of homes have been burned to the ground.



A village in Sagaing Myanmar reduced to rubble.

How do you conduct the iTEE Global ministry when artillery shells could puncture your home or the home of loved ones at any moment? When friends and relatives are being arrested or hiding for their lives? When there are soaring food prices, electric power shortages, increasing internet costs, and where there is "fighting without and fear within"?

Pastor Martin and Esther and their team did not give up. In the last two and half years, their perseverance has resulted in the online publication of 5 new biblical courses in the Burmese language, and the enrollment each term of over 100 students. By the end of 2024, their goal is to enroll 300 students per term by training more leaders to start 2nd and 3rd generation groups and so "multiply disciple makers." Please pray with them.

"The future plan is God's plan," they share. "We will do it for God. We will go to that place where God guides us. Because the time is so close for the rapture, we will pray and make more disciples like in 2 Timothy 2:2 that says: And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

You can encourage Pastor Martin and Esther and help Myanmar believers in their Biblical education. Go to <https://iteeg.org/myanmar.html> or scan QR code:



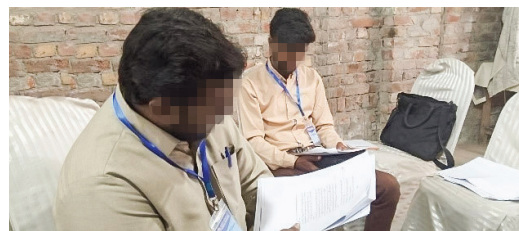
"Pakistan lies at the very heart of the unevangelized world. Over 350 peoples and castes can be regarded as unevangelized. Many of these have no churches, no Christians, no missionaries and no witness. Pakistan is the world's second-largest concentration of unengaged, unevangelized peoples and the world's second largest Muslim population. Few countries, if any, present a greater challenge for missions." – Operation World

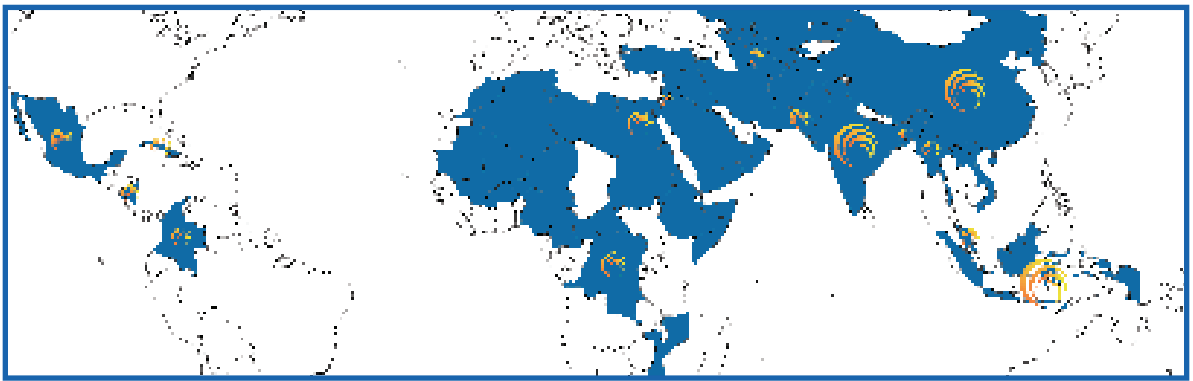
97% of Pakistan's 234 million people are Muslim. They are unreached with the Gospel at a rate of 99%. Why? It is because of satanic blindness, Islamic oppression and persecution of Christians. Also, a weak, fearful and fragmented Christian church unfortunately, contribute to the lack of progress of the Gospel in Pakistan. In November of 2022, an iTEE Global team visited Pakistan to meet with students to provide


Pakistan

discipleship training face to face. Later, in February 2023, this initial training was taught in Urdu to a group of 28 Pakistani disciple making trainers, who are currently studying Biblical courses in their native Urdu.

We give thanks to God for this good start of the work of iTEE Global in Pakistan. Please pray with one student who remarked: "I'm so happy because we have learned so much in these 3 days. Thank you for sharing in a simple way how we can reach out to people and tell them about Jesus Christ. I want iTEE Global to work all over Pakistan. Amen."





 Countries with the highest level of persecution.



Countries with past and present iTEE Students: Pakistan, India, Myanmar, China, Colombia, Turkmenistan, Cuba, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Egypt, Congo DR, Mexico, Malaysia, Jordan, and Nicaragua

Persecuted Church



Many believers around the world do not have the freedom to worship God. For many of them, persecution lurks around the corner. According to the Open Door's World Watch list, "360 million Christians worldwide experience persecution and discrimination, and 312 million experience very high or extreme levels. 5,621 Christians were killed because of their faith in 2022."

On the World Watch List, Myanmar (formerly Burma), is at number 14. Since the country's independence in 1948, missionaries are not allowed entry into Myanmar. Much of the country is hostile to Christians. There is also the frequent risk of attacks from the military that have impacted students and staff, causing them to flee at times for their safety. Many of them who desire to see the Gospel reach all parts of the country, bravely return and continue to teach. One facilitator who fled in fear, said, "Honestly speaking, we feel unsafe, discouraged. What will happen? When? We don't know. Who is safe? Who will face the terrible things? We feel sadness, hopeless, discouraged, and upset all the time, day and night. Sometimes I want to cry out for my children."

One of the lead facilitators in Myanmar has a nephew who is a pastor that was arrested by the army. His arrest brought great concern for the family, but thankfully, he was released. Often people who are arrested are beaten or become victims of extortion.

Pakistan is number 7 on the World Watch List. During the week of May 15th, one of our students sent a message

that civil unrest in the country between the authorities and civilians left many people dead and hundreds missing. Access to the internet became sporadic during this time, leaving many of our students dependent on cellphone data to complete their work.



When a team of iTEE Global facilitators organized the Project Nehemiah in Pakistan last year, security was very bleak. The first meeting had to be conducted in a hotel room. A second meeting was done in the home of a Muslim family who were sympathetic to Christians and opened their house to ensure security. In that meeting, many people came forward for prayers. We thank God for protection; God is always giving us favor in difficult circumstances. We hear stories of some students and their family members being beaten more than once. In really bad cases, extremists have killed some of their relatives.

iTEE Global staff and volunteers know that when traveling to some countries, they may experience persecution. Sometimes the team has to stay undercover, or adjust their activities. Often, booking a hotel room needs to be done separately from a meeting place to protect the people in the country. Many team members have had their pictures taken by people within the country; this can raise important concerns for future access into the country. The students and staff in those countries may also be at greater risk of persecution for being around and spending time with iTEE Global teams.

Recently in Nigeria, according to Open Doors UK, church worshippers were gathered for a service when suspected Fulani militants attacked, killing one person and kidnapping a further 25 in Kaduna State. The violent attack on Bege Baptist Church, in the village of Madala, happened as believers gathered for Sunday worship. The militants kidnapped at least 40 people from the church; however, 15 of these managed to escape. "We thank God that, somehow, 15 of the kidnapped persons escaped," said John Hayan, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). "However, 25 of the remaining worshippers are still in captivity without a word from their abductors."

Women who become Christian from Muslim backgrounds face tremendous persecution from their families. If they are married, they run the risk of being ostracized by the husband, family and friends. Many become homeless.

iTEE Global Ministry Opportunities

Server/Application Support Analyst

Provide support of servers, applications and data, system upgrades, installing/upgrading apps, performance monitoring, security setup, troubleshooting and debugging, and working with Azure.

Writer/Editor

Assist course writers in writing/editing courses. Support in the development of communications materials, and resources for funding and development.

Finance Director

Manage and oversee the financial operations of the ministry. Will ensure the ministry meets and exceeds ECFA standards.

Contact: HRinfo@iteeg.org

In Tanzania, a woman who accepted Christ, and was going to church, lost access to her family home while she was carrying her second child. The husband has thrown her out of the house and kept the oldest child. She lived in several places until she gave birth. The pastor and his family were able to give her shelter in their home. She said, she cannot go back to being a Muslim. Jesus will take care of her.



A church burned in Nigeria.
Source: persecution.org

Prayer Points

Please join us in prayer:

- For successful partnerships with organizations and churches, locally and internationally.
- Pray that we can translate and produce three courses in 10 languages, i.e. Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi, Malayalam, Telugu, Spanish, Urdu, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili. This goal requires expertise and funding.
- For guidance in additional locations for ministry, i.e. Asia, Eurasia, Africa, Central America, and South America.
- For facilitators and students in persecuted areas.

Send your personal prayer requests for our staff to pray for you, pray@iteeg.org

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