



# The Great Commission Fund

FRUIT THAT ABOUNDS TO YOUR ACCOUNT—PHILIPPINES 4:17

July 2021

## HOW YOUR GCF PROCEEDS HELP TO ENLARGE AND ENHANCE MINISTRIES

REPORTS FROM PASTOR SHAUKAT SIDDIQUE IN PAKISTAN

### By Jon Nelms

When we first learned of Shaukat, he seemed to be almost alone in his service for the Lord. I say he seemed to be, but in reality, he was not. The problem facing Shaukat is the same that hinders men around the world; that problem is the lack of funding to do all they can.

Paul made it clear to the Philippian house church that he had received the funds they sent him. Those funds were especially significant because of all the churches he had planted and requested help from; only the Philippians had responded. They had met his needs, and it was as a perfume to his nostrils and an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice to God. He reminded them that as they had met all his needs, even so, the Lord would meet all their needs, from His Heavenly surplus, through the administration of His blessed Son, Jesus.

We, too, should meet the needs of others, knowing that the Lord will meet our needs as well.

When we first met, he was already busy in his service and wondered if we might be able to help him financially. So as we began to send funds, we carefully monitored how he was using them and what effect they were having in advancing the gospel in Pakistan. Let's look at the various ministries he already had that the Great Commission Fund has now accelerated.

### Bible Institutes:

When we first met less than two years ago, Shaukat

had a small Bible institute in his house. Several times he honored me by inviting me to teach a class via Skype. Unfortunately, the connection was weak and continually failed. The screen would freeze, and the video continually dropped as the audio continued. I realized that he needed a better internet connection to take advantage of teaching tools online and allow other pastors here to participate in his teaching. But he also lacked a good screen and projector. I also saw that his students were all seated on the floor, which is customary but makes taking notes difficult.

We wanted to help him by making his needs known to you and my how you responded. As a result, we purchased him a screen, a video projector, a PA system, and some forty-plus desks.

As we talked later, I learned that Shaukat had wanted to open a second location for teaching. The need is great because he reaches large numbers of men and ladies in



their twenties and thirties who are eager to study God's Word and become evangelists, pastors, and missionaries. So several months later, he had inaugurated a second location, then a few months later, he opened a third. Then, in late June, he sent me an email saying, "We have wonderful Bible class in our 3rd branch. We started this class weekly. In the start, just five students joined after three months, 17 more students joined hallelujah, they have all agreed to train for the ministry and work with us."

Then just eight days later, I received a report from him stating, "By the grace of God our bible schools are growing. I am sending you some photos of our Sunday evening Bible study." (see photo below)



*Above: Third Bible Institute location in the home of a convert.*



This location is in a city area with electricity, making it possible for Shaukat to have night classes. Bear in mind that in much of the world, churches generally do not meet for evening services. Instead, they have prolonged services in the day, giving people the opportunity to worship, eat together, and have more teaching afterward. Therefore, it is necessary to end the services in the mid-afternoon because some people have to walk long distances along highways or jungle trails before arriving home. You don't want to find yourself in the jungle at night.

Shaukat takes young students along to attain on-the-job training. Shaukat is hesitant to birth a church and abandon it on the doorstep. His strategy is to start the church, then open a branch institute and send a fellow pastor or student with experience back to teach weekly,

conduct services, baptize converts, and teach evening classes. The goal is to develop a man from among the new believers who can be trained as a pastor. From this plan, each new congregation becomes the source of an evangelistic team to reach the next village and train them to do likewise. It is the exact method Paul introduced us to in the New Testament.

#### **New Churches:**

Shaukat started ministry in his home area near Lahore, planting several churches. Then he trained his students to start house churches in their communities. Later, he began to branch out to the desert communities that are eight, ten, and twelve hours away by car. And since he does not have a car, he has to rent one. That, again, is where the GCF resources have helped. Renting a van to

carry his team for a week at a time costs well over \$500. At this time, Shaukat was working for a living as a manager in a warehouse. To do ministry, he had to repeatedly lose a week of work, rent the equipment, and provide food for his team. We stepped in and began providing all

this for him. This teamwork produced conversions, baptisms, new village, and house churches started, with his Timothys leading them. (See the bottom photo where the Timothy is encircled.)



#### Youth Camp:

In March, he conducted a two-day camp with an enormous number of teens and young adults attend, and 135 converted from Hinduism and Islam to Christ. Unfortunately, we could not help much with this because we didn't know about it in time. I have asked Shaukat to give us at least a thirty-day notice in advance for his subsequent efforts so we will have time to notify those of you who would like to give for this effort.



## Projects:

If you have followed our email in the last eight months, you will remember that Shaukat asked us to help his five desert churches by purchasing a tent for them to meet in. The desert churches are poor, subsistence farmers living in a drought-ridden area and have no way to build a structure. So they meet first in houses, then when the attendance is too large to squeeze them all in, they move outside. Culturally, the men and boys sit in the front in the shade, and women and girls sit behind them in the sun.

You may recall seeing photos of the tent we purchased for him. But almost immediately after buying the first one, he sent word that he needed four more. So we showed you the pictures he had sent as proof that he had been accountable with the funds, and you responded by giving us the funds to purchase the other four.

Then most recently, he asked that we help him dig a well

no longer have to walk miles to the nearest stream to get water. Now they could have their first showers ever! (Water weighs eight pounds per gallon. How many gallons does your family use in a day?)

Shaukat is tireless in his efforts. He looks for ways he can improve, be more effective and reach more people for Christ. He is one of the most effective preachers I have seen in my thirty-five years of missionary work. Not only does he serve, but he also teaches others to do the same



for one village church. Again you provided the entire amount needed. Shaukat not only dug the well, but he also built an outdoor baptistry. Then he installed solar panels to power the pump since the village has no electricity and built two community restrooms. If that wasn't enough, he then ran water pipes to the front of every house in the village. This was the first time they had ever experienced running water. The looks on their faces demonstrated their surprise and fascination. He told us that the women particularly loved it because they would

by his example. It is not enough for him to teach his students doctrine. He also demonstrates how to serve, then allows them to do so as well. As a result, some lead in village churches, some desert churches, some plant local churches, and others teach the adults, youth, and children.

As he sends us reports and pictures, I am drawn to the visible needs the people have. Among them is the need for our Touch a Life program, especially in the desert churches. I hope to find a way to provide this for him and



his people in the next year or so.

Without a doubt, he has the trained men and ladies to carry on and eventually evangelize the entire country. He wrote again recently, saying, "Our New Branch of Bible school is going very well; we started this class one month



ago. In our first class, 25 students joined; now, six more are added, praise God. This town is 50 miles from my village, and by the grace of God, many adults and youngsters are joining us in Bible teaching classes. (photo below) Revival is coming in Pakistan. Soon many students will start Local churches and preach the gospel of Christ among lost people, nations, and tribes."

What a joy and privilege it is for us to work with this man.

Recently we learned he needed a new motorcycle, so some of you gave for that need. This past week his wife needed emergency surgery, and you provided that. Can you imagine the encouragement he receives knowing

that you are here and care about his family and ministry? You are like Barnabas, whose name meant "the encourager."

In the past several months, as Michael, Daniel, and I evaluated Shaukat's' progress, we realized that though he works circles around most preachers, he was not full-time. As I mentioned earlier, he works full-time in a warehouse. We looked at the funds in our GCF account and determined that we could replace his salary, about \$350 a month, and allow him to be full-time. Much of what I have revealed to you has transpired since he went full-time.

Now we see that we also need to help some of his trained men with a subsidy to produce more for Christ. Unfortunately, we don't have a surplus at this time, so if you would consider doing so, send an offering for the Great Commission Fund and let us know you are interested in helping Shaukat and his workers.

The more you pray and give, the more they can do. You are the link.

