We know who God is because of Jesus Christ. That is Good News! Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

Upon arriving at the airport in Lahore and after being somewhat swindled at customs and baggage, Attiq Masih's family and friends, including armed guards and my constant companions, met me with ongoing, world-class hospitality. Respect is priority. The women always served buffets of delicious traditional food and also catered to my customary tastes, including french fries. Yum! It was a large show of kindness in the midst of chaos.



## The Pakistan Project

SRN News reported, "Although they are a tiny minority in Pakistan... Christians are celebrating Christmas, a holiday this worshiper says, 'It reminds us that we have to be together in a community and





spread peace, joy, love, happiness."

It is so true. Pakistani Christians are incredibly kind, considerate and generous, among other good and godly qualities, ever under the threat of persecution. Normally, Pakistanis take care of elderly parents in-house, visit extended family regularly and count children as the greatest wealth. Pastor Attiq feeds dozens of orphans three meals daily in his home. Numerous among the poor, children are well dressed, normally clean above the ankles and mostly happy.

## We traveled from Karachi to Islamabad.

In the guide Pakistan - Culture Smart!, Safia Haleem says, "...some people think that driving in Pakistan is like purposely courting death. Even if there are demarcated lines, people don't stay in them, happily passing other cars [opposite ways with pedestrians casually, confidently crossing] while breaking the speed limit [among various carts, mules, camels, rickshaws, busses, trucks and countless motorcycles often carrying three or more people including small children]. Honking horns is normal behavior





[to declare right of way]." I often slept to keep my eyes closed or gazed directly out the side window to watch independent peddlers among small stores and greater businesses such as sweets shops guarded by men with large guns, also various livestock and curious but cautious, unkempt dogs. It is another experience deeper into most neighborhoods as roads are unpaved and quite narrow, a motorcycle ramp to nearly every door. It is business as usual.

However, the government is corrupt. They blocked all main roads to prevent protestors from going to Islamabad for Imran Khan, a leader in jail who represents the people. The United States has made it difficult to immigrate and avoid persecution or violence. There are young women hiding from Muslims who would force them into marriage or kill them. Orphans are too often the result of landowners murdering Christian parents. Bridge of Grace can provide shelter but freedom is evasive. They need help. Debtors are enslaved in brick factories. Schools and churches are heavily guarded. Constant vigilance is required. Yet these are also places for Christians to meet and serve as in The Book of Acts.

We went to the province of Sindh where leaders at Bridge of Grace schools are teaching many children to believe in Christ, speak English and live better lives than in slavery or fear. Those leaders are making connections through extended families and several villages are learning the truth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He died for us. Some are hearing for the first time. Often they will respond as a village. It may seem foreign but true believers are multiplying by hundreds. We also preached around Lahore at brick factories, in Christian neighborhoods and visited several schools. It may seem lovely (or pervasive) to hear Muslim prayers on loud speakers early and each day, yet Christians can be heard during Sunday services, as well as at other festive gatherings and events. We are sharing the Good News of our living Lord and Savior.

## Christians have a powerful testimony under heavy burdens.

I write because of positive things and great potential in Pakistan, despite the turmoil. They need support. Trump said he is "very good friends" with Imran Khan but was not mentioned during his campaign. Immigration is puzzling. Sponsors are needed. There are large Christian organizations such as Samaritan's Purse which could help spread the Gospel especially through Christian schools but it is difficult and dangerous. Partners are vital. Pray without ceasing for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus broke the bread, divided the fish and said, "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37–43).

> For more information and to get involved: www.BridgeOfGraceMissionsInternational.com