

God Put South Asia in my Life

I was living a “normal” life in the USA. I was about 45 years old. I had a good “normal” job, three daughters, a lovely wife and was involved in my local church. I had served as a Deacon and an Elder and taught many different Sunday School classes. Things were going on quite normally, then God put South Asia in my life.

I took a missions course that was offered by one of our churches in town. The title for this course was “Perspectives on the World Christian Movement.” The goal of the course was to show local church believers that our God has had a missionary heart for the whole world ever since the beginning. This course taught that God wants to use all believers to be witnesses for Him to the ends of the earth. The Perspectives course placed an emphasis on the parts of the world that have not been reached with the Gospel. Many of these unreached parts of the world were dominated by the Muslim religion and had very few outreach workers in them. South Asia was one of these Muslim dominated areas with very few Christian workers sharing the Gospel. It was through this process that God put South Asia in my life.

I have now been serving with SIM in South Asia for the past 12 years. In many ways and at many times – God has confirmed to me that this is the place of service for me. South Asia is a very poor part of the world and there are many physical needs that the people face. SIM has programs in South Asia to help with the physical needs of the people. In my case – I have been involved in an Arsenic Prevention Program to help those people whose lives are being destroyed due to drinking arsenic contaminated water. But even more critical than these physical issues are the spiritual needs of this area.

There are still many places and hundreds of millions of people in South Asia who have not had any opportunity to hear about the Gospel of Jesus Christ that our God has provided. While the physical poverty in many places produces suffering in this life, we know that without the Gospel of Jesus Christ, there will be much greater suffering in the life to come. It is this knowledge that motivates me to share my faith with the people of South Asia.

It is good that the Bible has been translated into the language of the people of South Asia. The Jesus Film is also available in the local language along with many different types of outreach and discipleship material. The tools for outreach and discipleship are ready, and the people in this area have great spiritual hunger – but the workers are few. There is a great degree of openness within South Asia to share our faith with the Moslem people who live in this area. Many of the Moslem people have a hunger for the spiritual truth, but they do not know where to find it. It has been a great blessing to work here and share the truth of the Gospel with the people of this area and see them come to faith in Christ.

There is still much work to be done. The local church here is very small and actually quite weak in the face of the Moslem dominated culture. The people who come to faith face persecution from their families and their communities. This young church is still working out what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this local culture. It is an honor to be here at this time and partner in this work of outreach and local church formation. But the workers are still few. Will you pray about where God might want you to serve? Will you get better informed about the needs of the world by participating in some type of missions learning course? I hope that you will – because then – maybe you too will be able to say – that God has put South Asia in your life.

Don, Serving with SIM in South Asia