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From the desk of
JOHN BRADSHAW



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Dear It Is Written friend,

A few months ago at one of our Partnership events, I sat across from a lady I'll call Josephine, and I knew It Is Written was blessed beyond measure. We had found someone who was passionate about soul-winning and had the experience needed to spearhead our evangelistic work in India. For over five years, It Is Written has worked alongside Dr. Jacob Prabhakar to bring sight to the blind in India. And while eyesight is a priceless gift, it is only a small part of the love people need. It Is Written is planning a large scale evangelistic effort to be held in India in February of 2020. I've asked Josephine to tell you, in her words, why ***it is urgent that we make our work in India a priority.***

My car stops in front of a lot in shambles! I don't move from my seat. Although bushes prevent a clear view, I've sized up the situation and it looks hopeless. I'd like to tell my co-journeymen that we don't need to look further. It's obvious. This sad little neglected church cannot be revived!



This sad little neglected church cannot be revived!

But my companions are out of the car already. They've begun bashing on the padlock which secures this house of worship. I reluctantly follow. Thorny bushes snag at me as I pick my way towards the now opening door.

I'm exhausted after many days on rough roads inspecting churches. This church is number 43.

I step into the sanctuary. Wow! The dirt! Layers and layers of dirt, cobwebs from every angle, the remains of a dead rat. I'm appalled, but then I'm surprised by children's voices. I turn to see that some boys have run into the church.



Above: The exterior of an abandoned church in India.

Left: Dirt inside one of the many abandoned churches.

“Send us a pastor, madam. You send, we will come.” I look around at expectant faces and startled at this mature request made in English.

“If there is a pastor in this village, you’ll come worship here?” I ask for clarification. “Yes, madam! We want pastor.”

I retrace my steps to the front door. The brier-covered, garbage-littered yard spreads out before my gaze. The young men squeeze past, jostling each other as they go.



Josephine and the boys waiting for a pastor.

Suddenly I see the church and its yard with new eyes, “Boys, this front yard is huge!” I call them back. “You can play cricket or soccer here!”

“Yes, madam. Yes, we want a pastor! We will help you clean this church. Please send us a pastor.”

Over the last 20 years, most converts to Christianity in India have come from the poorest of the poor. Intensely aware of their need and with little to lose in their search for hope, these converts entered the church in large numbers. Newly built churches quickly filled with newborn believers who loved Jesus. For most, they were the first Christians in their region and **the entire congregation was dependent on the spiritual care and discipleship training of a Bible worker.**

**“Yes, madam. Yes, we want a pastor!
We will help you clean this church. Please send us a pastor.”**

Tithes and offerings collected in this area of the world are meager and local churches have struggled to maintain enough financial resources to pay Bible worker salaries. As a result, **hundreds of Bible workers were laid off and many rural churches closed.** Immature converts to Christianity were abandoned to fend for themselves. No longer able to hear the gospel, much less read it, **the church members left and the church buildings fell into disrepair.**

Last month while in India laying plans for our upcoming February mission trip, I was very tempted to feel overwhelmed by the number of closed churches and lost congregations. I wondered what one woman could do to make any difference. I challenged God with that question. I opened my Bible in hopes of reading something encouraging and my Bible fell open to Haggai chapter 1. Something nudged me to read before moving on. And in that moment God answered my question. I saw with greater clarity that God cares very deeply about this crisis. He cares about the churches that are closed. He cares about his followers who

cannot hear His word. In Haggai 1:8 (NASB), He pleads, “Rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified.” **The answer was to rebuild—one church at a time, one community of believers at a time.**

God reaches us one heart at a time, so I’m not surprised that he’s using Josephine, It Is Written, and our volunteers to rebuild these churches the same way. It Is Written’s goal is audacious: reopen 50 churches and hire 25 Bible workers to evangelize and restart congregations in these communities.

We need your help to make this a reality. In February 2020, It Is Written volunteers will be on the ground in India holding meetings in all 50 of these reopened churches. We would love for you to join us. It Is Written is funding the repair work and Bible worker salaries to bring Jesus back to these communities right now, and we need your help. Our estimates suggest that this project will take approximately \$150,000 to complete. **That’s only \$3,000 per church.** Would you or your small group or your congregation be able to fund one or more of these churches? Your gift will provide the needed repairs to the church structure and fund a Bible worker to provide spiritual leadership for the community. Jesus is coming back soon, and it’s vital we bring faith in Christ back to these communities in such desperate need. It breaks my heart to see that the light of the gospel has stopped shining in so many communities. Please help us to shine the light of truth again, and lead people back to the Word of God.

Right now, we have a Partner who has already committed \$25,000 towards this project. That means that **eight churches are already funded. Would you help us reach the rest with a gift this month** to It Is Written’s mission projects? Your gift will be powerful in answering the request of those young men who surprised Josephine with the request, “Send us a pastor!”

Your partner in ministry,



Pastor John Bradshaw
Speaker/Director, It Is Written

Click the button to

DONATE NOW

P.S. For years, It Is Written has been investing in the physical eyesight of the people in India. Recently, local churches have lost Bible workers for their congregations. As a result, congregations have stopped meeting and church buildings have fallen into disrepair. Our goal is audacious: repair 50 churches and provide them with Bible workers. In February 2020, It Is Written volunteers will be visiting those same churches and holding meetings for the community. There is a lot of work to do between now and February which is why I’m asking you now to help us. For just \$3,000, a church can be repaired and a Bible worker hired to lead the community back to Jesus. Please help us reach this important goal for the people in India.



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