

A MINISTRY REPORT OF CHURCHES IN PAKISTAN

Pervaiz Sultan

INTRODUCTION

The present Christian Communities in Pakistan are directly or indirectly a product of the Western Missionary Movement of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Majority of them came with a humble socio-economic background but with the passage of time, there have been developments in their social standing. Presently Christians are confidently earning their living and practicing their faith sharing the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of folk religious practices and the challenges of Modern trends of consumerism etc. Pakistani society works in the backdrop of feudal landlordship which maintains the status quo of big land owners in the rural areas who also influence the socio-political scene of the country. This has kept the country on traditional lines. There have been constitutional and legislative developments to keep the socio-religious strata of the country conservative to suit the use of religion in politics. Churches all over Pakistan have grown in their spiritual and physical existence to serve the communities around in regular and extra ordinary times with their limited means and resources.

DIFFICULTIES AND SUCCESSES OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES IN PAKISTAN

To run pastoral and social ministries successfully according to the gospel values requires a good theological understanding of the issues involved. Many Christian Pastors and lay people who are running Christian ministries of different kinds are not fully aware of the issues and theological discourse needed. Many follow a rather traditional theological conviction for mission and evangelism which has its strength but does not address the more important issues fully. Forced and under age marriages is one example in this regard and Inter-faith dialogue to move forward is another. Evangelical and biblical understandings of the followed and adopted discourses are missing in many areas of ministry involvements.

Many ministries are run as a family enterprise, this keeps people of ability and potential off and creates barrier among the evangelists and communities.

Christian ministries including that of compassion and education have been understood and received with various reactions at different times and places. Within the community many act as recipients and do not play any part to progress and develop physically and mentally, and outside the community they are interpreted as means of evangelism. It is important that ministries are run voluntarily for the upliftment

of people from all walks of life.

The level of successes of Christian ministries is high because of the legacy and good name of the Church. Opportunities of trainings are there and many Christian workers are coming up as able and committed community workers.

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Covid-19 has affected Christian ministries in Pakistan as elsewhere. This has raised at first instance, the challenge to stand by the affected, and secondly move forward along with the challenge of the virus over two years. In times of lockdowns, there was a need to make sure that poor people who work on daily wages do not go hungry. Many churches including theological schools and seminaries reached out with daily use commodities to help people which was much appreciated at all levels. Covid-19 has affected the mobility, and coming together of groups which was the common point for ministries to run their programs. Overseas and national funding was affected. Christians have realized the value of fellowship, time and life in the context of Covid-19 which has added to their spirituality to serve humans and worship God.

PRAYER REQUESTS: PLEASE PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN

1. For the safety of many who suffer for their religious beliefs
2. For the unity among cultural traits of grouping for personal gains of reputation and name.
3. For Covid-19 cases and its development that alert people to stay safe. Still many people do not take seriously the risk of getting the virus. Pray for pastors and evangelists who are open to the risk of getting the virus as they engage with people in groups and for Christian Youth for greater confidence to meet the challenges of the pandemic.



*Pervaiz Sultan,
pervaizsultan35@yahoo.com*

Rev. Dr. Pervaiz Sultan, Coordinator Postgraduate Program and Dean of Research, Lahore College of Theology, Lahore, Pakistan

REPORT FROM GLOBAL HOPE INC.



Global Hope Inc. is a non-profit humanitarian and development organization committed to building a global community to share hope with the suffering and needy children. We partner with individuals, corporations, and groups in bringing hope to people in crisis through education, child partnership, relief, medical assistance, skills training, and other sustainable efforts.

We build Villages of Hope. Through building Villages of Hope, we accomplish more than just relief, rehabilitation, or development; we make changes.

Global Hope Inc. is a mission clothed in an NGO's image to attain a truly wholistic fruits among the suffering. We perceived the traditional missionaries are no longer effective as time passed and decided to wear the clothes of NGO to spread Jesus' love that we had also felt. It's an opportunity for us to be absorbed in the area where hope is needed. Especially, we are certain that we could be anywhere we want to be to achieve our vision despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

GHI is providing various educational welfare services to children who are suffering from poverty like orphans, and children with single parents. It has a mentorship program that operates in nine countries and it is helping the children's holistic development.

This global leaders' training via mentoring is named HopeLine 2000. We provide educational expenses, after-school classes, and talent development opportunities to children who can't receive regular education due to poverty, which we called as intellectual mentoring. Also, we provide regular consultation and home visit for building self-esteem, seminars, and educational support for parental care, which we call as emotional mentoring. We also provide social mentoring which are opportunities for cultural and artistic experiences via art, music and physical activities, and community activities. Lastly, we aim for the improvement of living conditions and physical development via regular nutritional and growth condition checks under physical mentoring.

Global Hope Inc. is working in 11 countries which includes Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, India, Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Global Hope Inc. Myanmar is supporting the education of Myanmar's 70% children. The 'Myanmar's 70% Campaign' will provide an opportunity and environment of education for the children. We also operate the Hope Line 2000 project and are currently running boarding schools.

In 2013 due to super typhoon, the Philippines suffered 12,000 deaths and 11,400,000 typhoon survivors. We started emergency relief activities such as providing emergency kits, clothing, and school supplies. We

also constructed school buildings and provided consultation for PTSD.

Global Hope Inc's India branch is operating the HopeLine 2000 program, coaching centers, and scholarship programs to help families and communities become independent. Global Hope Inc's Central Asia Headquarters in Kyrgyzstan operates HopeLine 2000 program, education & culture program, and local development programs to build villages of hope.

Global Hope Inc. the headquarter in Seoul, with the support of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea, operates social integration programs and early adaptation programs for migrant refugees from the Middle East and operates projects through MOA or MOUs with governments, local NGOs, and related agencies abroad.

In Myanmar GHI is working with the Ministry of Education and has established itself as an important educational institution in the community through a network with town leaders while operating educational development projects through MOUs with local NGOs and partnerships with boarding schools in the region.

The Vietnam branch is registered as an 'INGO' and conducts various activities throughout Ho Chi Minh City, including Korean education through MOUs with academies such as Ho Chi Minh City University of Education (HCMUE) and Van Hien University (VHU), as well as scholarships and educational support to help blind children thru welfare MOUs with local social welfare centers.

Global Hope Inc. Kyrgyzstan branch registered a local subsidiary to provide specialized education for low-income children and adolescents in the region to discover and utilize their talents and operates a cultural center to provide specialized programs. Global Hope Inc. Philippines branch is also registered as a local corporation with Pangasinan province NGO, and has signed MOA with various cities to steadily operate vocational technology training for low-income residents.

In addition, Global Hope Inc. is seeking sustainable development in developing countries through the support of KOICA, an ODA organization of the Korean government, and fulfills its responsibility as an NGO through joint social welfare fundraising and corporate sponsorship. As such, Global Hope Inc. is working with various organizations in the community in a total of 11 branches in the world to support global leaders.

* <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalHope.org/>