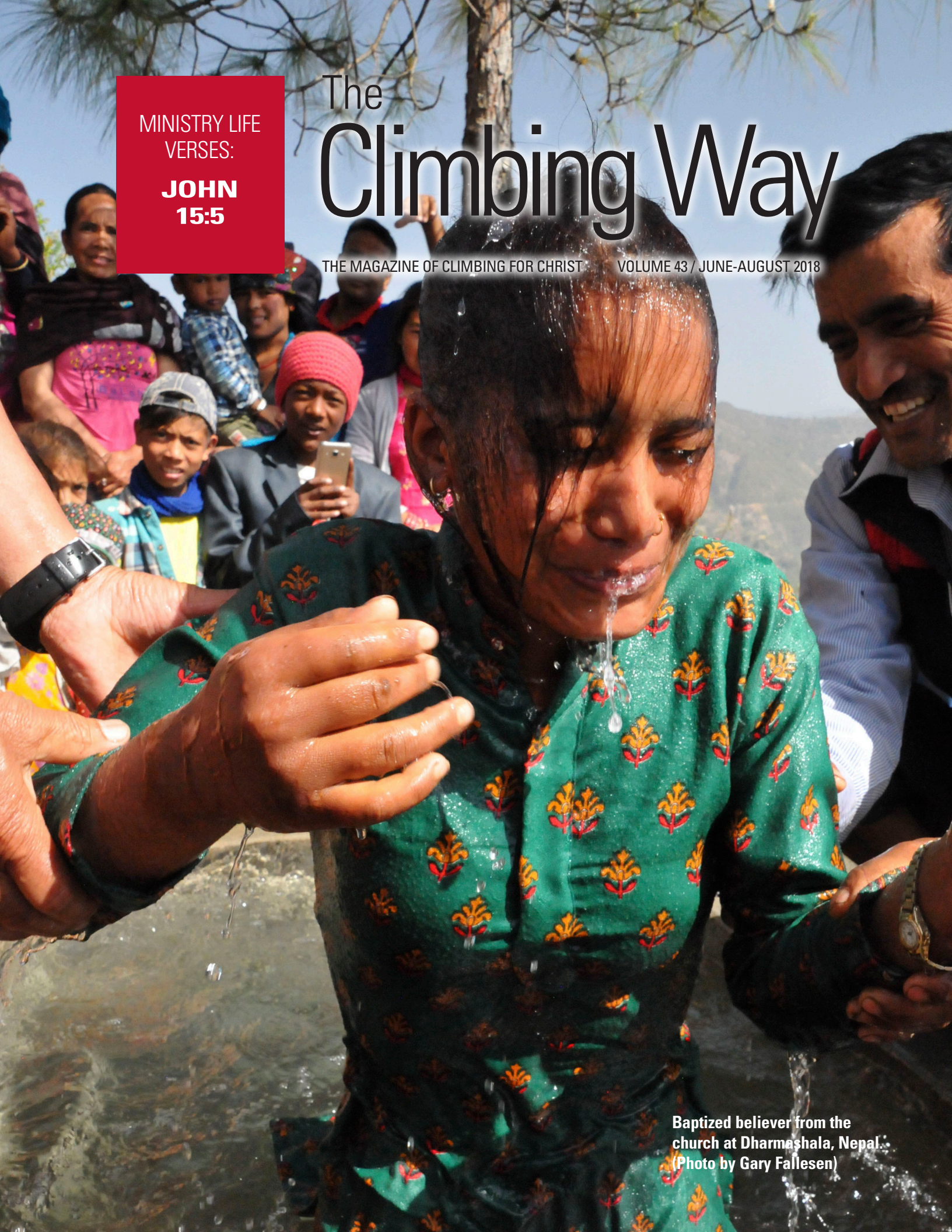


MINISTRY LIFE  
VERSES:

**JOHN  
15:5**

# The Climbing Way

THE MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST VOLUME 43 / JUNE-AUGUST 2018



Baptized believer from the church at Dharmashala, Nepal.  
(Photo by Gary Fallesen)

# Apart from Him we can do nothing

BY ELAINE AND GARY FALLESEN

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* – John 15:5 (NASB)

When Gary set out for Thailand in October 2017 to join hundreds of other like-hearted co-laborers at a seven-day gathering, we knew it was going to be a very, very important time. We are part of a network of ministries seeking to engage Muslim unreached people groups (among others) and this meeting of minds was intended to strategize the next few years of work.

The consultation was the result of the first international meeting of this network, held a decade earlier, and the chair of the 2017 event sat with another worker at that meeting and listened to him speak about abiding. The chair was moved to change the way he was doing ministry.

He welcomed us to "Abide Bear Fruit," and almost immediately whatever we thought this gathering was going to be about was forgotten. A spiritual journey began.

**The focus turned to "extravagant time lavished on Jesus." Abiding. The way we do ministry changed.**

We started digging into the life verses of HIS ministry of Climbing For Christ in the last issue of *The Climbing Way* (Volume 42, March 2018). We shared about **Psalm 121:1-2**. In this issue of *The Climbing Way* (Volume 43, June-August 2018), we are looking at **John 15:5**, **Proverbs 16:9** and **Ephesians 2:10** will be discussed in the next two issues of our quarterly magazine.

During Abide Bear Fruit every person was expected to start the day in "personal abiding time." We then gathered for praise and worship, community and personal prayer, training and workshops, and networking with brothers and sisters from around the globe.

Budi Yuwono, our C4C Indonesia leader, attended Abide Bear Fruit with Gary because we were encouraged to bring laborers from the global south. Budi was one of about 18 Indonesians at the event.

Day 4 of the gathering was a fasting and prayer day. Gary spent time in his hotel room, researching and praying about MUPGs in Indonesia and Pakistan. The Indonesian group that had popped up every day was the Konjo Pegunungan, an unreached people that had been on our radar for a couple of years. It is one of the 170 MUPGs with a population of more than 100,000. Our gathering had previously prayed specifically for this still large (too large!) number of big MUPGs. The chair called it a "travesty" that there were still so many. It was heartbreaking.

The Konjo Pegunungan of Sulawesi, also known as the Highland Konjo people, came up again as we fasted and prayed. Then Gary and Budi attended a regional workshop



South Sulawesi, Indonesia. (Photo by Jordan Rowley)

and met another Indonesian brother who works with, yes, the Konjo Pegunungan. Total God timing.

**The branches waited until the Vine opened a harvest field to us.**

On Mission: Indonesia 2018 in late May and early June, Gary, Budi and C4C spiritual coordinator Jordan Rowley visited Sulawesi to survey the Highland Konjo. A potentially fruit-bearing work began. **For more about Mission: Indonesia, read Jordan's "A View" story, "Descending into darkness," on page 8.**

All of the stories in this issue – and every Mission Moment we experience – result from abiding in HIM. We lavish extravagant time on Jesus. Because, as Jesus told us in the Gospel of John, "apart from me you can do nothing."

Climbing For Christ has:

- Helped the church of Nepal build five houses of worship (with an opportunity to add a sixth should funding be provided). See C4C Canada coordinator Brandy Fisher's "From homes to houses of worship" on page 3.
- Been led to the remote Mid-West district of Rolpa, which was the center of the Maoist insurgency during the Nepalese Civil War. See Gary's story "From guerrilla fighter to God's soldier" on page 4.
- Supported the care of dozens of orphans through Project 1:27. See Elaine's story "Thriving" on page 6.

Read on! †

*The staff of Climbing For Christ has been reading a daily devotional by the chair of Abide Bear Fruit since late last year. We try to tithe our time to Jesus every day.*

# From homes to houses of worship

BY BRANDY FISHER

As you look at the congregation at a church dedication, you may look into the weathered eyes of a widow who has surrendered everything to Jesus and has been rejected by her family for accepting Christ.

Or into the eyes of a young woman engaged to be married to a Christian man, who has planned her wedding in secret because her family will try to drag her back to their village and force her to marry a Hindu.

Another person, who had suffered an illness, has sold all their livestock to buy a sacrifice to Hindu gods. But that person did not find healing. Then a Christian met them on a road and shared that Jesus could provide healing – and it happened!

**Joshua 1:3** echoes a promise that God gave Moses, "I will give you every place where you set your foot."

*"... and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

– Matthew 16:18

the goodness of God, and remember the moments when God invaded our own lives.

Church dedications include many emotional moments for people whose hearts have been touched by the Holy Spirit. Some may have been sitting on a rock when they first heard about Jesus from a team passing by. Some may have received healing from Jesus. Some may have been searching for something to give them hope in a time of despair. Each one had a time in their life when they worshipped Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim gods. But now they worship the ONE TRUE God, and believe in Jesus Christ!

Planting churches establishes God's Kingdom in nations where spiritual darkness is tangible. These churches in Nepal bring hope and help to strengthen believers so they can gather in a public place and worship and encourage one another.

We often observe, "The church is being THE CHURCH!"

When believers outgrow the homes they meet in, we help them build a house of worship. Not only is this encouraging and affirming to the believers, it also makes a mark and gives a foothold for the Light in the devil's dark strongholds.

North Americans are accustomed to seeing crosses along roads and on high steeples. But in under-reached places, a cross on a new church is an inspiring symbol to the small, growing body of Christ. It serves as a new and unfamiliar beacon to curious people of peace in local areas where often, many have grown tired of following false gods that offer no hope in this life or the next. It's also a bold act of defiance, reminding the enemy and his followers of Jesus' declaration: "I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (**Revelation 1:18, NIV**).

Right now Climbing For Christ is in the process of supporting the purchase of land and the construction of a sixth church building in Nepal. Will you consider a gift to help build a physical house of worship for our persecuted Nepali brothers and sisters in Christ, even as you continue to support them spiritually through prayer? †

*Brandy Fisher is coordinator of C4C Canada. She and her husband Matthew have served in Nepal and helped Climbing For Christ support the building of churches there. You can contribute using the enclosed envelope or GIVE online at ClimbingForChrist.org.*



The church in Dapcha, 2011



The church in Korchabang, 2012



The church in Kathmandu, 2014



The church in Simkot, 2017



The church in Dharmashala, 2018

# From guerrilla fighter to God's soldier

BY GARY FALLESEN

The first time we traveled to the remote Mid-West district of Rolpa, we passed a military camp. It was home to the Maoist army. Never mind that the so-called People's War – the decade-long Maoist insurgency against Nepal's government – had been over for more than five years at the time. The camp was still active.

A few hours later we were introduced to a man named Dulsar.

Dulsar BK had fought for the Maoists. During the final three years of the civil war (waged from 1996-2006) he was a stretcher bearer, carrying the wounded from the battlefield.

Dulsar looked as if he could still be fighting for the Maoists. His chiseled features and his dark, seemingly cold eyes gave the impression that he was a man to be feared.

But there was good news here: Dulsar had converted to Christianity. This former guerrilla fighter was in the army of God now.

Dulsar had been recruited to serve the Maoist cause, as so many were in Rolpa, when he was 27 years old. Rolpa was one of the strongholds for the Maoists during a war that claimed more than 16,000 lives, displaced countless others, and left some wondering where family and friends were after they disappeared.

Some of Nepal was closed to outsiders during the civil war, although climbers continued to ascend Mount Everest and the other Himalayan giants.

Normalcy, as it is, returned to Nepal when a peace agreement was reached between the guerrillas and the government in 2006. Climbing For Christ's first Evangelic Expedition to the former Hindu kingdom occurred in 2008. We helped to build our first church there in 2011.

In January 2012, God led us to Rolpa and a fledgling house church in the village of Korchabang led by a man named Dulsar.

How did this Maoist become a man of God?

"My wife was demon-possessed," Dulsar recalled through the translation of Climbing For Christ's Nepali missionary Megh Gurung when we were last in Rolpa in April 2018. "She was healed through the prayer of Christians. She converted and then I converted later."

He rejoiced in the healing of his wife, Dulsara, but

he was not convicted by the Holy Spirit until 2009, knowing that he would face opposition in and around his mountainous home village.

"Some of those who are politicians and his parents abused him – they orally abused him," brother Megh explained.

(Ironically, Megh desired to be a Gorkha soldier. Historically, the Gurung people were part of the Gorkha Kingdom, which produced the heroic and celebrated Gorkha soldiers. But instead of serving in that Nepali army, Megh became a member of heaven's army.)

Megh remembered spending time with Dulsar when the leader of this new little church came to Kathmandu for pastor training.



Dulsar, a Maoist leader turned pastor, in the church at Korchabang. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)



The church body of believers meeting outdoors in 2012 in Korchabang, where a house of worship now stands. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

"He was a leader," said Megh, who introduced the first Korchabang believer to Christ a few years before. "When he was in Kathmandu, I took him everywhere. We went to prayer meetings. I inspired him (to head the Korchabang church). I told him, 'You have to be called.' He was, and he accepted."

When we first visited Korchabang there were a couple dozen Christ followers meeting outdoors on the side of a mountain. By the following year we had been led to help them build a house of worship in that clearing.

Today, hundreds worship there.

But Dulsar and the church at Korchabang didn't stop there. They have listened to the encouraging instruction Climbing For Christ has offered to "GO and make disciples" in villages throughout the surrounding mountains. Never mind anti-conversion laws intended by the Hindu majority to stymie the growth of the church.

In April, we dedicated our second house of worship in Rolpa, this time in the village of Dharmashala a few miles from Korchabang.

"In Dharmashala, (church) members are very happy after the church dedication," Megh said. In June, Megh reported 11 souls coming to Christ there. "This is the reason God gave them a church building. Nowadays,

every Wednesday they are having a whole night of prayer at the church."

They also worship every Saturday, the Sabbath in Nepal.

Between Korchabang and Dharmashala, in the village of Gapha, Dulsar also planted another house church. Nearly 50 believers worship there.

When we asked Dulsar during Mission: Nepal 2018 how we could pray for him and for the church he is leading, he said: "Our prayer is just to expand the kingdom of God more."

Our prayer then is that the former home of the People's War will soon be known as the home to the people of God. †

*Gary Fallesen is the founding president of Climbing For Christ. He has led 13 expeditions to Nepal, and by the grace of God overseen the construction of five churches there.*

# Thriving

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

How well are our Project 1:27 orphans in Nepal thriving? How's this:

Rajendra, age 18, was recently honored by the **president of Nepal** for having the highest grades at his secondary school!

There's more: once again, **all 33 of the children** passed their spring exams and qualified to move up to the next grade in school. Three of the students are making plans for college. Another three were baptized on Easter. Everyone is healthy and happy.

Just like the seeds that fell on good soil, Climbing For Christ's Project 1:27 kids are sprouting up and bearing amazing fruit in Nepal at the SARA (Savior Alone Redeems Asians) Children's Home outside Kathmandu. They are thriving under the care of C4C ministry partner Pastor Tej Rokka, who "takes up the cause of the fatherless" as God directs in **Isaiah 1:17**.

It's nothing short of a miracle in this Hindu-saturated nation, where Christians are persecuted and evangelizing brings the risk of jail or even death. But that doesn't deter Tej, an orphan himself, from providing a better life for as many abandoned children as possible.



Rajendra receives his award from Nepal's President, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, for outstanding academic excellence.

He makes sure these kids never experience the sleepless nights in an overcrowded orphanage he experienced for 10 years, staring up at night at the insect-swarmed ceiling in tight sleeping quarters where bodies overlapped. The children of Project 1:27 have clean sleeping quarters, clothes and supplies for school, and nutritious food on the table every day.

They are also fed the Good News of the Bread of Life. All of the children attend weekly worship where the Bible is presented. They are never forced to accept Jesus. The decision is always theirs to make. When they do, all of heaven and Project 1:27 rejoices!

Project 1:27, based on **James 1:27** - "...to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." cares for orphans in Nepal and Malawi, Africa. **Sponsors are still needed for seven Nepal orphans at SARA Home.** Can you help for \$50 a month? Simply email [info@climbingforchrist.org](mailto:info@climbingforchrist.org). †

*Elaine Fallesen is Family Ministry/ Communications Director for Climbing For Christ. C4C began Project 1:27 in 2011. We are thankful to those who have sponsored children during the past seven years.*



## Mission Statement

Members of Climbing For Christ agree that we are called to:

- Bring praise, honor and glory to God – the Creator of all things, including the mountains we love – and to our Redeemer, His beloved Son.
- Inspire believers to achieve greater spiritual and physical heights in this world.
- Introduce the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, to those living in or visiting mountainous areas who don't know Him personally in a new, exciting and everlasting way.

To join Climbing For Christ, visit [www.climbingforchrist.org/Contact/MembershipApplication.aspx](http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Contact/MembershipApplication.aspx)

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The primary purpose of Climbing For Christ is to GO and deliver the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mountains of the world, where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

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### THE CLIMBING WAY

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*"Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does."*

– 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)

## A VIEW, CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

### The 'shahada' and the sword

As we made our way to collect our luggage and find our driver, I noticed the looks of those around us. People seemed to stare more here, in Makassar, than they did in Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta. Finally, we made it through the airport and out into the city. It was there on the road that I first noticed another unwelcoming sign (one I would see again and again in the days to come). On the back window of another vehicle I saw the shahada written in Arabic. The shahada is Islam's most basic faith statement: "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

It wasn't unusual that someone had the shahada on their rear window; rather, what struck me was the sword underneath. Though it's not an uncommon image (the Saudi Arabian flag uses this image, for example), the sword seemed particularly unfriendly as I sat and stared at it for a moment.

Being a minority (Western Christian) in the world's largest Muslim nation immediately made me feel a bit vulnerable. And this sword only increased the feeling. It spoke to me of a person's desire to live in strict adherence to traditional Islam, to die for it, even to impose it by force on others; or perhaps, to kill for it. Though I wish I were

just being dramatic, in Indonesia the imposition of Islam is not at all uncommon, nor is the persecution of Christians.

### Workers and whippers

During our survey of the South Sulawesi area and our time in West Java, we met with a handful of Christian workers. These mighty men of God have counted the cost and been stirred to serve deep in hostile territory for the sake of the Gospel. They work – at great danger to themselves and their families – to see lost souls saved. Their ministry work



The 'shahada,' Islam's statement of faith: 'There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.'

must be done with the utmost care and creativity to avoid the attention of those who might cause them harm. During our meetings, all conversation would hush as strangers walked by. Our new friends spoke of various "covers" (that I won't share here) they use not only to mask their true intentions of being in the area, but also as bridges to reach out to Muslims through everyday means and natural conversations.

To that end, even our Muslim driver was told that we were tourists surveying a future climbing expedition in the mountains. After our time in the highlands, our ministry partner thought it would be wise to visit the beach – like most tourists might.

### Humans and Brothers

In spite of all that I've shared above, I was also struck anew – and repeatedly – by the fact that we're all simply people. I saw mothers and fathers caring for their little ones. People making the long, gridlocked commute to work. I saw beautiful plants and flowers along the roadsides and in front of homes that were lovingly cared for. Even the hijabs of many of the women were beautifully colored or had creatively embroidered edging. To me, all this spoke of the beauty – and bond – of humanity.

Although many would certainly wish us harm if they knew our real purpose on the island, many others would still no doubt offer a warm welcome. Our driver, for example, over the course of our time in South Sulawesi became a good friend. On our last day together, he invited us into his home, even breaking his Ramadan fast for the day, to host us and share a meal with us. We met his family, who welcomed us as their own.

Later, we learned that among his particular people, to be invited into their home is to become their brother. It was a great honor and hopefully the beginning of beautiful friendship. I pray the Lord gives us more opportunities to share the love of Jesus with him and so many others in Indonesia, where – in spite of spiritual darkness and Islamic opposition, people are people – all in need of the Savior. †

*Jordan Rowley is Climbing For Christ's spiritual coordinator. This was his second visit to Indonesia in 18 months.*



Our Muslim driver, who invited us to his house for lunch, points out a relative in a photo with a dignity. Among this people group it is considered a great honor to be welcomed into the home, meaning we were no longer strangers and now are considered family. (Photo by Jordan Rowley)



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## A VIEW

# Descending into darkness

BY JORDAN ROWLEY

### *Uneasy and unwelcome*

On our descent from beautiful sunshine into the thick and darkening clouds, an ominous feeling arose within me. Flying into Makassar – one of the five largest cities of the largest Muslim nation, Indonesia – felt very much like being dropped deep behind enemy lines. In a sense, we were. Being a follower of Jesus sent to share His Gospel with Muslims inevitably places a large target on your back. Many in this place undoubtedly viewed us not only as foreign intruders, but insurgents even, sent to upset their way of life.

*Continues on page 7.*

Landing in South Sulawesi, where 90 percent of the province's 8 million people are Muslim. (Photo by Jordan Rowley)