## 2024 Impact Report





## A Word from our Executive Director

"We have witnessed God's hand at work, and this would not have been possible without your generosity and commitment to His Kingdom." —Pastor Manu\*, Andaman Islands

2024 was a year of growth, experimentation, and training! Due to a large gift received at the end of 2023, along with your continued generous giving, we were in a position to invest in projects and programs that our leaders have had vision for, but often are more difficult to raise funds for. This is because we may not get many designated funds for that category of project. Or it's an experimental program and we want to test it before scaling up. Or it's for a great leader who simply isn't gifted in creating a compelling proposal or report, which in turn makes it harder to raise funds for their work. By investing in more of the ministry that our leaders are most adept at, as well as supporting projects meant to self-sustain them, we look forward to much fruit in years to come!

Working towards leaders and ministries becoming selfsustained has been an ongoing goal. As you'll see in the following pages, persecution is rapidly increasing, leading to difficulties for organizations like Harvest Bridge to send funds to some countries. Additionally, in recent months, following a sudden shutdown of one of the largest humanitarian aid organizations in the world, there have been ripple effects on our work, especially in Myanmar. With the loss of funding for existing refugee camps, disease prevention, clean water programs, and more, many new people are in dire need. And organizations that have supported us in the past have had their own funding cut, which in turn will likely mean less support available to Harvest Bridge. So, the urgency for our Asian partners to be more selfsufficient has increased.

In 2024 we supported 37 economic development projects for our pastors and missionaries. In the Andaman Islands, we increased spending on children's ministry and church building projects. In Bangladesh, we invested more in disaster relief projects. In Bhutan, we were able to invest in a business project by our leaders which will help them support their Bible college on their own. In India, we increased support to persecuted believers, supported more Bible trainings, and came alongside more disaster responses. In Myanmar, in addition to supporting even more wartime relief, we were also able to fund Bible training projects. In 2025, we want to continue to build into unique ministries, as well as helping our leaders work towards selfsustainability.

Another of our goals has always been to be a two-way bridge—not only connecting resources and prayer, but also providing you with spiritual encouragement and new perspectives from the church in South Asia and Myanmar. So this year, on our website, you'll find devotional/Bible study prompts to correspond with each region's report. If you listen to our podcast, you'll also be able to hear more stories and spiritual insights directly from our leaders that we couldn't fit into the report!

As Pastor Manu's quote above conveys, your prayer and financial support has made this possible. Thank you, thank you!

#### In Christ, **Kate Therese**, *Executive Director*



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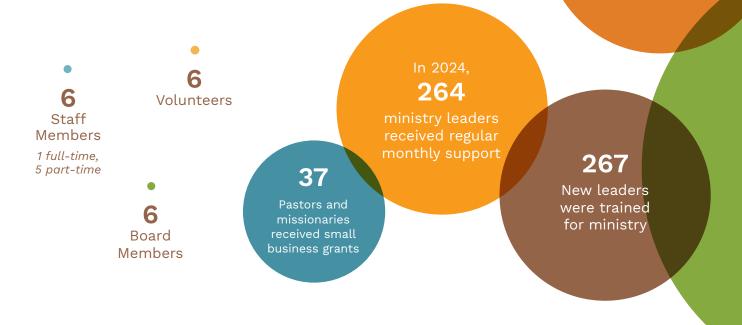
\*Partner names changed for safety.

## Who We Are

DOING MUCH WITH LITTLE

## 302

New churches and house churches were planted



In 2024, our direct and indirect

expenditures were \$965,660.

#### WHAT WE DO

We have one goal: To come alongside local ministries in South Asia and Myanmar. Harvest Bridge does not create local ministries, but equips those that already have proven themselves to be effective. We join our brothers and sisters who have done much with little. Local country leaders identify those who are doing the hard, often thankless, unpublicized work of reaching their villages and cities with the love of Jesus. This happens through ministry like disaster relief, women's empowerment programs, educational opportunities, poverty alleviation, and by the power of sharing the Gospel. In many ways, we act as a bridge between South Asian ministries and the Western church, including other nonprofits and individual supporters.

### 1,956

People attended multi-day Bible conferences and training programs

24,868

People received disaster relief in the form of 2-4 weeks of food and/or blankets, clothing, and other necessities following floods, earthquakes, and extreme cold

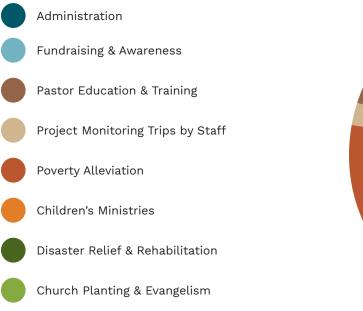
**1,711** Men and women began a relationship with Jesus

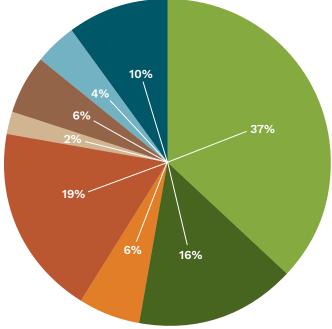
This bridge is needed because wise, effective, experienced missionaries often do not receive needed support or training simply because they don't speak English, or because they serve too small a demographic, or because they are not equipped to articulate the importance of their work. We believe that local ministries should and can be self-sufficient. We also recognize that some missionaries operate under extremely adverse conditions and can accomplish much more with some help. These men and women know their communities best. They also know what it means to give up everything to follow Jesus, and they can affirm that He is worth it. We help them accomplish their goals.

Read more highlights in the following pages!

## 2024 Expenditures

#### Total Direct and Indirect Expenditures: **\$965,659.58**\*





\*Expenditures by country/region in the following pages do not include HB's support of an additional South Asian country, where our work is more limited. Nor do they include certain program expenses. Therefore, the total expenditure across all countries/regions in the following pages is less than the total figure reflected here.

Key Partner Organizations:







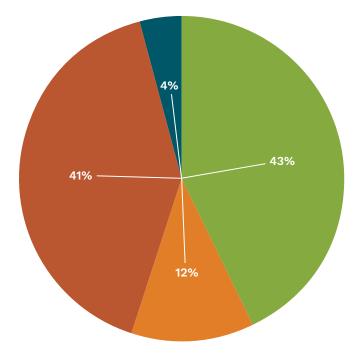
# 2024 Sources of Support

## Total Direct and Indirect Support: **\$749,495.92**\*\*

Foundations and Other
 Individuals
 Churches
 Christian Nonprofits

\*\*Minor adjustments may occur in the course of our annual financial review. Financial data includes HB-facilitated grants ("indirect funds"), which are sent from grantors directly to our Asian partner ministries but depend on HB's guidance in project planning, implementation, and reporting.

\*\*\*Expenditures significantly exceeded income in 2024 due to the receipt of a large gift at the end of 2023, enabling HB to safely spend more than it took in over the course of the year.











# Bangladesh



## Bangladesh at a Glance

## Political, Societal, and Environmental Context

2024 was a tumultuous year in Bangladesh, the world's eighth most populous nation. The disaster-prone country was battered by Cyclone Remal in May, and in July, student-led protests advocating for reform of the nation's civil service quota system were violently repressed by the government. This only led to wider protests expressing frustration over 15 years of increasingly authoritarian rule from then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party. On August 5th, with protestors having nearly stormed her official residence, Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled to India. An interim government was then created, with Nobel Laureate and creator of microfinance Muhammad Yunus being named as its leader. While the overthrow of Hasina's government was largely supported by Bangladesh's people, there were cases of violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities by extremist groups; Hasina's government was a promoter of secularism, and Islamist elements saw her ousting as a chance to persecute minorities with impunity. Thankfully, these incidents largely subsided as the situation stabilized, and from late 2024 onward Christians in Bangladesh (who compose just 0.3% of the population) found themselves in a new, largely more hopeful context in which to love and serve their Muslim, Hindu, and tribal/animist neighbors.





## 2024 Impact

#### Funds Dispatched: \$109,502.37

Regular Support: 53 monthly supported leaders, 22 monthly supported children and their families

#### CHURCH PLANTING AND DISCIPLESHIP

242 New believers baptized3 New church plants

16 New house churches started5 New missionaries trained







**Cyclone & Flood Relief** 

**980** Families (~3,940 people)

given emergency relief packets lasting for at least 10 days

RELIEF

#### Medical Relief

**23** People helped with emergency medical costs

**Cold Weather Relief 1,300** Families (~5,200 people) received blankets







23	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<b>6</b> Leaders supported with small business grants	<b>17</b> Leaders provided with supplemental support to help with daily needs for 7 months
	MINISTRY TOOLS	<b>2</b> Leaders given motorcycles	
	PERSECUTION RESPONSE	<b>Relief</b> <b>1</b> Persecuted missionary family provided economic support	<b>Rescue</b> <b>3</b> Missionaries rescued after being detained by extremists for two days
$\oslash$	ANTI-TRAFFICKING	229 People rescued	<b>3</b> Workers supported
		114 Girls 115 Women	

## Bangladesh

## He Blessed Us to Overcome

By Pastor Darpan\*, Country Director



Greetings to you all from the core of our hearts, believing that our church planting ministry still has been running in Bangladesh only by your loving care. The whole year of 2024 Bangladesh observed the highest inflation of commodity prices for the past 10 years. We faced natural disasters. The political crisis was so bad and the worst since our independence in 1971. Pastor Rahul\*, who is 75, explains,

"I want to thank God Almighty for His love and grace in our lives. After the defeat of the previous government of Bangladesh on August 5th, 2024. my family and I had to flee our home to a different district due to threats from some locals who said they would burn our house if we stayed. We left in fear, and during our absence, our home was looted and fish were stolen from our pond, causing significant financial loss. After three weeks we returned, but we still live in fear of sudden attacks. On our way to church or work, we often face hurtful remarks. Some people tell us that we must become Hindu again to live peacefully in the village, or leave if we continue preaching Christianity. Despite these challenges, we are holding onto our faith

and trusting in God's protection. Please pray that I may continue my work with courage and that God's love will touch the hearts of those who oppose our faith."

Still today, the country is going through unrest. Doubt and unhappiness has been observed everywhere. The inflation, political unrest, natural disasters, persecution, everything were fully unfavorable for serving in His ministry. But we rejoice in His merciful Jesus' name that still we—all missionaries/pastors—are alive and also He cares for our ministry. That's why we are very much thankful, and we are very much excited for His love and care. He is my reason. He blessed us to overcome all the bad situations.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

It was totally bad that our country has passed through natural disasters which occurred in the south and north and the whole east sides of Bangladesh, being hit by high waves and rains that badly affected our country. People became unemployed, lost crops, fishing ponds were overflowing and breaking the embankments, and the social system was inactive and life became "'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.'" Jeremiah 29:11-14

so serious. The storms badly broke a lot of houses, social welfare institutions flew away and lives were stopped. There was nothing to eat. But HB stands beside us. They provided a lot of livelihood materials and God helped us to rescue the lives. It was very praise worthy and glorious to all because our ministry has distributed the relief goods among the victims in May, August, and September. Almost 4,000 people received 10 days of commodities. And earlier in the year, during the extreme cold, we could distribute blankets to 1.300 families. Kashinath is a man with four family members. He ran his family by doing his vegetable selling business in the village grocery market. But he lost his home which blew away from his own place. All he could collect

were a few tins and broken bamboo, which is not sufficient to prepare a new house. So he was staying on his neighbor's broken veranda. At the same time, there was nothing to start his vegetable selling trade due to his capital losses. He expressed his heartfelt crisis and wondered what he will do for the future. But he became thankful to get the commodities from us. By this food he could run his family for 12 days at least, giving him time to start again. So, he is happy and thankful to the Lord with tears.

The Remal Cyclone has taken a lot of things from the coastal areas damaged the crops, cattle, a number of lives. But it gave a sign of Christianity because we were able to share Jesus' name, saying we are Christian and these materials are here only by the blessing of Lord Jesus.

#### A DAY IN THE LIFE

Though there is not a big baptism program this year because of the political crisis, our work is continuing. The new believers' worship is continuing, and side by side, our missionaries are taking the Good News daily. I told all my missionaries that they should continue to share the Gospel, but also save themselves from danger. Bibek\* shares about a community that has begun following Jesus, but has not been able to be baptized yet:

"In June, I had the opportunity to preach in a village where, to my joy,

"The new believers' worship is continuing, and side by side, our missionaries are taking the Good News daily."







"We invite nonbeliever women to our Bible study group and share with them from the Scripture. I am in a continuous endeavor to reach more souls for the Lord."



the people expressed a genuine interest in knowing more about Jesus Christ. I have been praying for them for quite some time. Recently, I went there again and some of them expressed their interest in accepting Jesus as their Savior. I am preparing to baptize them soon and begin a new house church with this group of believers. God has answered my prayers by touching their hearts and transforming them."

Sister Saavi\* gave a report in October that shares many of the common praises, struggles, and daily ministry of the missionaries in 2024:

"During these months, I have had the privilege to visit multiple places for outreach activities. I went to [one] area to sit with a group of women and conduct Bible Study and discussion there. I am sitting together every week with six women. Spending time with the ladies in discussions and prayers gives me more strength. I distributed the New Testament to women, as they wanted to read it. If they express further interest in knowing about Jesus. I give them each a whole Bible. I also visited some houses around [a] Muslim area and talked

to the ladies of each house, hearing their prayer requests and praying for them. Sometimes, people came to my house as well to have fellowships.

Some of my sisters [in Christ] and I have arranged clay banks, and we save money there every week as per our capability. There have been times when some of the sisters needed financial help, and we handed the clay banks over to them and they used that money as they needed. This gesture has encouraged us all to grow a saving nature so that others may receive help when needed.

Above all this, I love my church and the people. I never skip a single service. I love to lead the worship. No new house church or church was started in the last few months, but we started two Bible study groups. We are nurturing each other through understanding the word of God together, providing prayer support to each other, spending time in devotions, and watching videos related to the Scriptures together. We invite non-believer women to our Bible study group and share with them from the Scripture. I am in a continuous endeavor to reach more souls for the Lord.

#### BANGLADESH

"I often hear remarks or hurtful statements about us, Jesus and Christianity, but I don't feel much bothered by this. Because I know we must face them if we want to be fishers of men."

"I found that if we depend on the His Word—He is Almighty to provide and give shelter."





Loften hear remarks or hurtful statements about us. Jesus and Christianity, but I don't feel much bothered by this. Because I know we must face them if we want to be fishers of men. Whenever I hear such statements while sharing the Gospel, I pray for that place and the people. One of the sisters, Sara, is a convert from Islam, and she often helps me in my activities. She endured so much persecution and still she is not fully out of it. Her daughter and grandkid still live with Sara as they confessed their faith in Jesus, and thus Sara's son-in-law won't take them back home. Please continue praying for her family. May God's protection and love always surround them."

#### HE IS ALMIGHTY

Looking to 2025, Saavi shares this final prayer request:

"Pray so that my family and I can contribute to the Kingdom of God as much as possible with our respective callings. Pray for the national security concerns. Pray so that our omnipresent Father keeps His mighty hand on this country and gives wisdom to the lawmakers and the interim government. May the children of our community enrich themselves in proper education, and knowledge which they can use for the glory of our Lord. Many people from different parts of Bangladesh have lost their homes and belongings, cattle, crops, and even relatives during the recent floods. May their troubled time go away as soon as possible. Pray for the homeless and financially struggling people. May God provide for them."

As an ethnic or indigenous ministry leader leading a church ministry in a Muslim country, strong and powerful leadership is needed, otherwise it is so tough to run. But, by the grace of God, it has been continuing. We are implementing the vision and mission to earn the new souls for the Lord by Gospel sharing to those who never ever heard this good news before. We are depending on the Lord and His powerful Word peacefully, because our ministry believes on His Word as Jeremiah 29:11-14 says. I found that if we depend on His Word—He is Almighty to provide and give the shelter.

# Bhutan



## Bhutan at a Glance

## Political, Societal, and Environmental Context

The small Himalayan nation of Bhutan was one of the last countries in the world to lift its Covid-19 restrictions. As such, 2024 was a year of continuing to grapple with recovery and the pandemic's effects. Cost of living increases resulting from pandemic-induced inflation continued to be an issue, and the situation for the country's small Christian minority remained similar to previous years. Bhutan is officially Buddhist and no churches are legally recognized, contributing to a situation where Christians are frequently treated as second-class citizens. Followers of Jesus routinely face pressure from family members, their communities, and the government. Yet, God continued to work to draw Bhutanese people to Himself in 2024.



## 2024 Impact

#### Funds Dispatched: \$72,553.67

Regular Support: 27 monthly supported leaders

## (**CHURCH PLANTING AND DISCIPLESHIP** \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 13 New house churches 80 New believers baptized 23 New leaders trained + + + + + $^{+}$



#### FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING

**45** Students attended monthly Bible school training

**55** Couples attended a marriage enrichment conference

**55** Women attended a one day job training and home repair class

**450** Children and young adults attended discipleship and outreach programs



#### DISASTER RELIEF

**~125** Families (~688 people) provided two-week long emergency relief packages

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**5** Leaders supported with small business grants

**1** Bible school supported to purchase land to start a business to generate funds for the school

MINISTRY TOOLS

**1,650** Bibles given to believers and seekers

**1** Motorcycle provided for pastor

## Bhutan

# Patience, Perseverance, and Flexibility

By Pastor Jagan\*, Country Director



To our precious supporters, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful prayers and generous and continuous financial support. Your partnership has been instrumental in advancing the Gospel in Bhutan, and we're honoured to have you as part of our ministry family.

Harvest Bridge's support enabled our missionaries to focus on ministry. They were able to engage in evangelism efforts, sharing the Gospel with unreached communities and establishing new fellowships. Harvest Bridge provided Bibles, ministry tools, and resources, equipping leaders to effectively share the Gospel and disciple new believers. Our ministry leaders could receive training, enhancing their capacity to lead and disciple others, and were able to serve in Bhutan diligently. Here is an example of ministry from this past year from one of our leaders, Shoipa\*. She is 27 and teaches at our Bible school at the India-Bhutan border:

"I've led worship during college gatherings, chapel services, and Sunday services. These times of worship have been essential in fostering spiritual growth and deeper

connection with God within our community. As part of our ongoing music and media ministry, we've composed and translated worship songs into local languages. At present, there are two songs in different stages of production. In line with our mission to reach different language groups, I've worked on translating important materials, including sermons and educational resources, into local languages. This effort has made our message more accessible and helped connect with a broader audience. I've remained focused on teaching leadership skills and Biblical knowledge. Alongside that, I've mentored young girls as the matron, guiding them spiritually and personally, and helping them grow in their faith and navigate life's challenges. Sunday School has been key to nurturing the spiritual lives of children. We've focused on teaching Biblical principles and Christian values, helping shape the next generation in their faith journey. Through the college's programs, we've continued to equip students with strategies and skills for church planting. This initiative is crucial in preparing and sending out future leaders to establish and lead churches in their communities."

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-5

#### **PEOPLE STARTED ADAPTING**

This year, it was a pressure cooker situation. A lot of new rules from the government. And the cost of living is really shooting up like anything. Trade was shut down. I was very much initially scared, actually, because this could make people backslide because of seeing the situation. And it was one of our prayers that God would really make people strong out of all the sufferings. And you know? More than our expectation, despite it all, people persevered. There never came a situation where people complained; rather, people started adapting. For example, the government came out with a new rule: beyond 30

people should not gather in any place. If so, then they need to take the government permission. It's applicable for even Buddhists and all religions. So they made it very strict. The government is saying that and we need to obey because it's a small country—you cannot run into trouble. So we had an emergency meeting with all our leaders, and we made a point that we should try to develop lean groups. We were trying to encourage all our leaders, all our missionaries, to develop secondary level leadership to carry out the work. In a country like Bhutan, a pastor alone cannot do ministry. We are developing the lay leaders for when the situation comes where we cannot worship

in one place. Leadership must be ready to divide into small underground house groups, like in China.

Leaders also recognized the need to develop self-sustenance. Everyone cannot be supported—we want as many ministers to become self-sustaining as is possible. That is the key, because many are totally depending on foreign funding, and that can fail. So we need to focus more on the self-sustenance so that we can become a stronger church from scratch. So, the economic development projects that HB supported are a great blessing for them.

A positive change this year was the growing availability of internet and



"More than our expectation, despite it all, people persevered. There never came a situation where people complained; rather, people started adapting."



mobile devices in Bhutan. Ministries began leveraging digital platforms to share their message, connect with communities, and provide resources. In Bhutan, the channels are very limited, and it is being always scrutinized. But now because of the Smart TV and the WiFi, people connect to YouTube and other networks. So whatever they like, people can watch—even a Christian program. So that is a development that's wonderful, that's encouraging.

#### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEMINAR

In April we had a marriage and family seminar. This is one of the best seminars we have had. Why I have very much emphasized on that is because Bhutan is unlike other countries. Bhutan does not really have an institution called marriage. They don't get married-they practice polygamy. Technically, only the Christians get married. So in many people's mind it is in their culture that they can live with anyone, run away with someone, love anyone. So, because of that, a lot of children do not have a father, do not have a mother. So they grow up in a very hurt way because they could not receive the love from their parents. So it is a big challenge that we need to address. Spiritual parenting, that is one of the key points. This, and the relationship between the spouses was the focus of the seminar. The Spirit of God was moving.

One couple, months after, came to me and they said, "Thank you pastor for inviting us for that meeting." They were looking at each other, and you know, it was like with one voice, they said, "If we would have not attended this. we would have separated. But now we could understand the values and what a Christian family is." They were saying, "We always try to pray, but we also tried to keep priority to our culture and caste," because casteism is very strong. "But through this seminar, we understood how to practice the Bible's culture. It is not just a pastor's job. As a family we need to teach this to our children so that the legacy will be carried out. We never used to bother about the children in our decisions. Now, every time we involve them, we try to listen to them, and it's a happy family now. So our bonds have become very close."





"We always try to pray, but we also tried to keep priority to our culture and caste,' because casteism is very strong. 'But through this seminar, we understood how to practice the Bible's culture.'"

"Convicted, Raju now passionately shares God's love with friends and acquaintances.

Formerly a harasser, Raju has become a powerful witness, demonstrating God's transformative power."



#### WAITING ON GOD'S TIMING

We learnt to wait on God's timing. We could experience God's faithfulness in the midst of challenges and uncertainties, and being reminded that He is always working things out for our good (Romans 8:28). Some of our leaders struggled to maintain their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being amidst demanding ministry responsibilities. Romans 5:3-5 reminded them that perseverance is essential for spiritual growth and that hope is the outcome. So we can press on, whatever comes our way. Missionary Tashi\* has a recent example:

"Raju\*, 45, from a radical Buddhist background, vehemently opposed me sharing God's love with others, including himself. Our conversations often ended in arguments, with him insisting Buddha was the ultimate leader. I prayed consistently for Raju's transformation, claiming II Corinthians 4:4-6. Miraculously, God answered prayers! Raju's heart opened, and he voluntarily approached me, eager to hear about God's love. He shared a life-changing dream he had that God revealed Himself, dispelling Raju's doubts. Convicted, Raju now passionately

shares God's love with friends and acquaintances. Formerly a harasser, Raju has become a powerful witness, demonstrating God's transformative power."

As we look to 2025, we're excited to expand God's work through evangelism activities to reach more unreached communities, establish new house churches and fellowships in strategic locations, and provide training and resources for more leaders, empowering them to disciple others. We pray for wisdom and guidance as we navigate the complexities of ministry in Bhutan.

As we reflect on our journey, we're reminded that ministry in Bhutan requires patience, perseverance, and flexibility. In this year 2025, we'll continue to prioritize building strong relationships with local leaders and communities. Empowering local churches and believers to take ownership of ministry initiatives. Fostering a culture of prayer, worship, and discipleship. We are so, so grateful for your continued support and partnership in the Gospel. Together, we can make a lasting impact in Bhutan and beyond.

# India

## India at a Glance

## Political, Societal, and Environmental Context

The situation in India, now the world's most populous country, remained difficult in 2024 for religious minorities living under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindunationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. The BJP tacitly supports far-rightwing groups that seek to expunge the influence of Islam and Christianity, which they view as "foreign" religions, and make India into a wholly Hindu state. Over the past decade of BJP rule, including in 2024, violent incidents against Christians and attempts to "reconvert" them to Hinduism increased in frequency. The country's general elections in mid-2024 gave some cause for hope, as the BJP lost parliamentary seats and did not win outright, forcing Modi to form a governing coalition with other parties. Despite this, violence against religious minorities continued and more states adopted laws prohibiting conversion from one faith to another. These laws are often weaponized to punish Christians for sharing their faith. Inflation was also a major issue in 2024, as the economy continued to experience a sluggish recovery from the pandemic. Flooding and landslides occurred in various states, while ethnic violence that erupted in 2023 in the northeastern state of Manipur continued to flare up at times. Amid these challenges, our Indian partners found many open doors for ministry, as the following pages show.





## 2024 Impact

#### Funds Dispatched: \$233,010.26

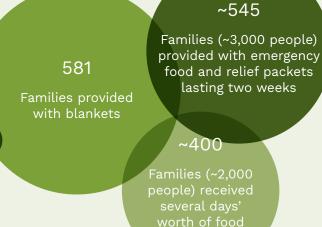
### Regular Support: 79 monthly supported leaders

(.)	H PLANTING Scipleship	<b>459</b> New believers baptized <b>123</b> new churches and house churches started	<b>91</b> New leaders trained in ministry
ት МINIST	RY TRAINING	<ul> <li>60 Pastors received monthly training in church planting</li> <li>60 Students educated in church planting through seminary in Delhi</li> </ul>	<b>230</b> Church leaders attended multi-day pastor and Bible trainings
Vo HEALTI	H & NUTRITION	Clean Water	Medical
		<b>2</b> Wells dug in impoverished communities	<b>600</b> People received treatment through medical camps
		Nutrition	<b>300</b> People received Yellow
		<b>46</b> Mothers and their babies	Fever vaccines
		provided with nutritious food during pregnancy and nursing	<b>100</b> people received eye check ups and treatment
		<b>15</b> Children received weekly nutritious meals	<b>1</b> Pastor's wife provided with emergency medical funds
		<b>80</b> Toddlers provided weekly with regular milk packets to supplement diet	
ECONO	MIC DEVELOPMENT	<b>15</b> Leaders supported with small business grants	









MINISTRY TOOLS

#### Vehicles

- **1** Motorcycle for a pastor
- 1 Car repaired for pastor's use

#### Technology

**1** Smartphone for leader, to help with administrative work

#### **Bibles**

1,730 Bibles distributed

## 2024 Impact



#### PERSECUTION RESPONSE & ADVOCACY

#### **Persecution Response**

**1** Pastor's medical bills paid after he was beaten

**1** Pastor's legal and family needs provided for after persecution and imprisonment

**3** Men's legal fees covered after being imprisoned due to their caste and faith

#### Advocacy

**~800** Gypsy and tribal people who are discriminated against because of their caste received key citizenship and ID rights/ certifications through advocacy of HB-supported leader

**~240** Gypsy and tribal families received the right to live on their land through advocacy of HB-supported leader

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

#### **VBS Programs**

556 Children

**After-School Tutoring Programs** 

550 Children

#### Preschool

**2** teachers supported in teaching 20 children





#### **Children's Home**

**53** Children cared for temporarily until their families can care for them again

#### **Education Stipends**

**6** Pastors' children received funds for school fees





#### FELLOWSHIP



#### **Church Buildings**

**1** Church rebuilt after the government allowed it to be destroyed

**2** Church shelters built to allow for a safer place to worship

#### Athletic Ministry

1 Cricket match supported players were brought together as part of an addiction recovery program, and attendees of the match also heard the Gospel

**50** Children participated in athletic outreach and sports ministry

#### **Christmas Celebrations**

**450** Prisoners and 50 staff provided with food and fellowship

**450** Prisoners received blankets

**181** Widows and impoverished women received new saris (traditional South Asian women's clothing)

**132** Children received new clothes

**70** Elderly men and women received new bedsheets and sleeping mats

**20** Pastors and missionaries gathered for Christmas celebration and gifts

#### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



**11** Women received bicycles, allowing them to better carry out their jobs and businesses

**11** Women received small business grants

**20** Women trained as makeup artists

**50** Women and their children attended seminar on health, hygiene, and education

**70** Women attended vocational training and empowerment workshops

## India

## I Will Not Leave You Nor Forsake You

By Pastors Jairaj\* (Country Director, India), Thomas\* (State Director), Joshua\* (State Director), and Priya\* (GATE Director)



In the year 2024, the most encouraging thing for me (Jairaj) and my ministry is that God protected me from great danger. The most difficult times in 2024 were the persecutions faced all over India. Many of our leaders' church lands were occupied and taken by the non-believers, including ours. This year the difficulties were strong and direct. Groups of people attacked - not like previous years - usually individual people came and attacked in the past. But this time groups of people came. This is the most difficult part of 2024. Also, inflation is very high. Prices went up with no assurance of them coming down. Families are suffering. In some parts of India, because of heavy rainfall, people died in the hundreds.

In 2024, many times God spoke with me (Thomas) through the word of God. From all of these Scriptures— Romans 8:28, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 28:20—we have received encouragement. Romans 8 and Isaiah 41 are an encouragement to us because it reminds us that whenever there are challenges or troubles, that is the area that God wants to do something new. In Matthew 28, it is written about going into all the world, and telling everyone about the Good News, so that is our Great Commission. We are to go! So, we have told our people, that "you are to go and share the Good News; you have received salvation, so it is up to you to take this message to others." This is ours and everyone's responsibility. This is why these verses are a great blessing for us.

My (Joshua's) team increased our prayer time during the last year. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This word inspired us to spend more time in prayer. Many a time I questioned, "What will happen in the future?", or "How will I face the challenges and needs of my family?", or "How will I go forward in the ministry? What are the situations I must face?" But God spoke, "I will not leave you nor forsake you." This word of God made me realize I am not alone. God is always with me. Sometimes we felt it is very difficult to continue the ministry. God spoke to us through Jeremiah 32:17 nothing is too hard for God.

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17

#### MINISTERING WHERE IT IS ILLEGAL

The BJP government is working in great opposition to the Christian people; in my (Thomas') state they have brought the anti-conversion law. If anyone conducts baptism, they could be put in jail for 3-10 years. They have made a very strict law. Due to this, we are needing to keep going in a very safe manner. For any meeting, we are required to receive permission to do it. If anyone wants to become a Christian. then they have to receive permission from [the local government] two months prior, by telling them. "I want to become a Christian." And then the BJP government is not

going to give them permission. But they are doing this so that those that have filed a case in order to receive baptism—the BJP will then give them troubles. They will say, "why are you doing this and that with changing your religion?" Then for the [person] that gives baptism, the government will come against them saying, "Why are you giving this baptism?" That is why at this time, with all the safety concerns within [my state], there is a lot of affliction. So, I have changed the way that I have been doing things.... Now we cannot give baptisms publicly. If we give them now, our risk would be so great. If we need to give to 2-3 people, then we will need to give them silently. We

cannot share the photos. Because if the photo is sent to the media, the government can also receive it. I have given baptism to 100 people. There was no one else who gave baptism [in my network]; people have been more afraid to give it.

Pastor Rohit\* shares how persecution has actually brought unity in his area: "In 2024 all the pastors and leaders thought to reunite. Actually in the past years there was loss of unity among the pastors and spiritual leaders because everybody was interested to develop their own ministry and their own families. Nowadays, the political situation is changing and a lot of persecution is taking place in and around our







"Without this assistance, they would have struggled to minister in their churches regularly."





state, as well as different parts of India. So Christians are feeling insecure due to fear. So in our old pastor association we thought to unite, because only when we unite can we stand boldly during any persecution or political unrest. Now, by God's grace we come together every month to pray, share testimonies, and share problems and difficulties. So we are excited by our pastors and leaders reuniting."

### (SOME OF) WHAT YOUR GIVING MADE POSSIBLE

I (Jairaj) am thankful that in 2024, some missionaries were supported with payments to help sustain their churches and homes. This support was used to cover essential expenses like electricity bills and school fees. Without this assistance, they would have struggled to minister in their churches regularly. Some missionaries received financial aid to maintain their households and churches, which are often located in small buildings. Their congregations are very poor, and tithes and offerings are insufficient to meet the missionaries' basic needs. They face challenges in covering school fees for their children. The support provided was a great help to them.

Funds provided by HB were also used for church repair, church mats, chairs, mic sets, etc. And funds covered medical support for the pastors' families.

Brother Saadar\*, who received an economic development grant, shared. "This kind of business is very new to me. Customers' expectations are very high. But slowly, I am able to learn the techniques of attracting the customers and selling the garments. This project changed a lot of things in my life—how to maintain the time for my family, business, and ministry, how to be patient, to do hard labour, how to save money, etc. I thank all the HB team for this initiative in my lifemy financial situation has changed. I am able to save some money and also at the same time look after my family quite comfortably. I hope by this project I will be able to sustain my family and do ministry well."

Previously, I (Thomas) was providing training in many villages, but since having the resources from HB to bring more people for training to a central location, there are more leaders coming. We gather 200 leaders together at one time. The number of leaders coming for "I am able to save some money and also at the same time look after my family quite comfortably. I hope by this project I will be able to sustain my family and do ministry well."

"Our winter relief project went well and I wholeheartedly thank Harvest Bridge for opening doors for the poor and needy people of [our state] to provide relief in the form of warm blankets during the severe cold waves." training has doubled. The leaders and believers are gaining a lot from this and are especially growing spiritually. There is new work growing in the villages after we provide a training. There are new people becoming ready for ministry, and also others are responding to the Good News of the Gospel.

"Our winter relief project went well and I wholeheartedly thank Harvest Bridge for opening doors for the poor and needy people of [our state] to provide relief in the form of warm blankets during the severe cold waves. Kapil\* is from one of 525 families we could help. He is a young man from a poor Hindu family living in [a] village. It was difficult to reach his interior village due to there being no solid road. But we walked and reached there. The volunteers helped in carrying the blankets. The distribution took place inside of a house amidst a dirty and remote village beside a river. Kapil is handicapped—his back and hip bent, and also he could not grow to his full size. He walks by limping. He had no sweater to wear in this cold, and so he became very happy and thankful to get this blanket." —Pastor Suraj\*

"Distributing quilts to needy people was not only a practical way to meet their physical needs but also had deep spiritual implications, allowing [leaders] to express their faith through love, service, and





"By God's grace I shared the Gospel to more than three villages. Now those village people are confessing that they accept Jesus as Savior."

obedience to Biblical teachings. Serving the needs of others provides us an opportunity to share our faith with those who got helped. It has opened the doors for conversations about the love of God and the message of salvation." —Lydia\*

Pastor Rohit, who receives monthly support, shares: "In 2024 God enabled me to give evening classes (tutoring) for primary and high school students, charging minimum tuition fees according to their family financial situation. My wife is working as a teaching staff in a private school for a low salary. My elder brother and my old mother are physically very sick and weak, and they are dependent upon us. So they need medicine from time to time. Without your support for us to meet our family requirements, it would be quite difficult. So we always give thanks to God and pray and bless your team for your great financial support every month without fail.

I give ten children free tuition orphans, underprivileged and school dropouts. Along with worldly knowledge, I am guiding them spiritually also. Every year God is enabling us to distribute saris for women and warm clothes for needy people around our church. By God's grace I shared the Gospel to more than three villages. Now those village people are confessing that they accept Jesus as Savior. Please pray so they may come to Christ without delay. Last year, by God's grace, one brother, Suresh\*, voluntarily came forward whole heartedly for full time ministry. So we helped him financially to join Bible school. This year, three sisters—Moti\*, Modna\* and Janki\* are showing interest for ministry. We know with much burden and challenges you supported our ministry through prayer and finance. We pray for you also."

#### GYPSY AND TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT (GATE)

I (Priya) really want to thank everybody who is really praying for me and my ministry. Some of the time it was an awesome year, and part of the time it was like flood







"The political people say they are trying to pull me out, to close my ministry. That was their aim. But God stands with me. And I win."



time—natural disasters were bad and a bad new virus came. But, mostly, I say it was a beautiful year. Because we got ID certificates for so many people! It's done only because of Harvest Bridge. Without you—I don't know the words—but we are very happy and feeling embraced by you. It is like a very big, big, big help for us, really.

Gypsies are treated very badly. I'm the one working very hard for the legal certification for them-giving them citizenship and proof of identity, and access to government benefits. I am going and approaching the very big government offices. The political people are getting angry on me and recently I got abused by the local political people-I got punched on my face by one of them. Many times when I was walking, I felt somebody is following me. The way people were looking at me was not good. And then they are saying in front of me, "Oh, she's going to spread the Gospel. I know she's introducing the foreign gods to these people." So, many difficult times. The political people say they are trying to pull me out, to close my ministry. That was their aim. But God stands with me. And I win.

Because I am working to get the gypsies Indian citizenship, people say, "Gypsies are like animals. Why are you increasing the level of the gypsies like that? Like a human? How can a woman do so many things for people? Where does the power come from in her?" God is in me so I can do many good things for people to save their life. Spiritually and in this world too. Our Lord cares for these gypsy people.

In 2023, it was like the happiest moment when I applied for the certificate and they suddenly said, "Oh, you are going to get that certificate soon." That made me so surprised, because we are knocking at the door for years and years. In 2023, we got citizenship and IDs for 516 people. In 2024, we got it for 800 more people. It's not very easy, actually. God gave to me this surprise—like a gift to me, for our people, so they are recognized as Indian citizens now. So many people are praying for this for a long time. Then God also gave agreement. It's like He's saying to the gypsies—"So this is your world. You can live freely in the people's sight." You know? That was so awesome.



"So, that happiness— I want to bring it for others. I want to see everyone's face show that we are free because God gave freedom to us." So please continuously pray for me. I want to do more here, and I want to bring Heaven down here inside the gypsy colonies. I'm so excited. I want to give more teaching to my people about how to be closer to God. I want to train them to teach other people to bring them closer to God. And another thing is, I don't want them to be like slaves. I want them to be like a free person! They are also human beings. They are also having a heart. They can also do whatever they want. They are free now. I want them to be like the gypsy woman who was driving the bicycle we gave her for her work. She was singing a song: "I am free now! I am free now!" So, that happiness—I want to bring it for others. I want to see everyone's

face show that we are free because God gave freedom to us. If you worship God, God will give you freedom from Satan.

And Satan is in this world really. The local political people would go to the gypsy homes and talk to them using very bad words. They are threatening them saying, "If you accept Jesus Christ we will send you out from this colony." But gypsy people—once they have accepted Jesus Christ's name, they never turn back to the Hindu culture. That makes me so happy! They are very strong. And they are worshiping. They don't know how to read and write, but they are believing God very strongly.





"Whatever you have given—it was not wasted. It was used to do God's work. God's Kingdom is growing."

It's not me, really. I know that I am a servant of God, but it's also God's angels, who are with me. He is giving so much braveness in my heart when I am talking to the government people. There were so many enemies out there. I am one person, I am not very rich, I am not a very big person, but I know my God is very much bigger than them. So I boldly talk to them. Then they give approval. So, when you start, God will come and push you to go forward: "Don't worry, I'm here. Walk." It's like the parting of the Red Sea. He says, "Don't worry, I will open the way to you. You walk. Go, happily. Walk. Don't turn back. Go, go." I don't want to turn back. That is what God was teaching me in 2024. Praise God!

#### WE HAVE TAKEN UP A BURDEN, BUT WE ARE NOT DISCOURAGED

We have so much thankfulness for all those who have helped us, prayed for us, and given in other ways, so that we have gone to new people. Because of you and the funds that came, we have been able to do the work. If you had not given, then we would not have been able to accomplish this much. This is why I (Thomas) am grateful. May God bless you richly. You are praying for us and you share to others about us, so you are deserving of thanks. Thank you, very much.

Whatever you have given—it was not wasted. It was used to do God's work. God's Kingdom is growing. New people are learning about God's Kingdom, about His Word, and they are receiving much benefit from this. The gifts and prayers have been multiplied, and in our ministry the multiplication and growth has happened. We have the vision; we have the ministry. You are a part of fulfilling our vision. This has strengthened our ministry. This gives us guidance. What you cannot see. God can see. We will not be rewarded here, but we will be rewarded in Heaven. We have taken up a burden, but we are not discouraged. Even in the midst of difficulties, we are not sitting in our troubles, we are growing.





## Andaman & Nicobar Islands



# at a Glance

## Andaman & Political, Societal, and Nicobar Islands Environmental Context

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a territory of India, are small in population (about 410,000) and geographically isolated from the Indian mainland. Many people haven't heard of them and major news events are rare, aside from the occasional disaster like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. In 2024, key events and trends in these ethnically and linguistically diverse islands mostly mirrored those of mainland India. Like the mainland, the Andamans grappled with rising Hindu nationalist ideology, climate vulnerabilities and floods, inflation and ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and various

social ills facilitated by the islands' isolation from the outside world. In this context, as our local leader Pastor Ram\* shares, 2024 was marked by many fruitful opportunities to advance the Gospel both in word and deed.









## 2024 Impact

## Funds Dispatched: \$30,668.33

## Regular Support: 20 monthly supported leaders



CHURCH PLANTING AND DISCIPLESHIP

- 45 Followers of Jesus baptized20 New house churches
- 25 New leaders trained



Ŷ	FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING	<b>650</b> People attended Christmas programs	<b>30</b> Students attended monthly Bible school training
¢	RELIEF	<b>10</b> Pastors' families impacted by inflation and other hardships helped with supplemental support	<b>1</b> Church supported in rebuilding and additions following flooding
			<b>1</b> Pastor's family helped after his death due to illness
**	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<b>4</b> Pastors supported with small business grants	<b>1</b> Church supported for small business grant



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Q



**600** Children attended VBS programs



**15** Children received after-school tutoring





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## Andaman & Nicobar Islands

## Answered Prayers, New Ministry, and Motivation for the Future

By Pastor Ram\*, Regional Director



"I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support, both financially and in prayer. Your partnership has been a tremendous blessing to our ministry here in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Despite the challenges and persecution we face, your continued encouragement has allowed us to remain steadfast and faithful in sharing the Gospel and serving the community.

Your prayers have been a source of strength, and the financial support you have provided has enabled us to conduct medical outreach, house visits, and evangelism efforts, impacting many lives both spiritually and physically. We have witnessed God's hand at work, and this would not have been possible without your generosity and commitment to His Kingdom.

Please know that we are also praying for you and the important work you are doing globally. We ask God to continue to bless and prosper your ministry, guide you in every decision, and provide for all your needs. Together, we trust in God's timing and believe He will bring a great harvest for His Kingdom." —Pastor Manu\*

The monthly support received from HB was so much useful in meeting our daily needs and also in travelling for visiting the houses, vehicle fuel, etc. Support provided by HB was so useful in conducting the VBS programmes in our churches. Economic development projects for pastors gave them great enthusiasm for doing ministry, and also through this some new contacts were received. Personally, the help provided for flood relief for our church was unforgettable and so helpful in buying the things which were lost and damaged. And part of the money has been kept for building purposes and buying the land for a church in a remote place.

#### **CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES**

Psalm 2:8 was the verse we received during our monthly meeting in the month of January 2024, and accordingly we fulfilled it in our ministry: "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

God encouraged us to do the ministry. According to this verse, we claim, "Lord, you told us to "But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty." Haggai 2:4

'ask of me, and I shall give to you.' Give these people groups here in Andaman–Bengali people, Ranchi people, Muslim people, etc. And according to this verse, we claim, Lord, let these people be saved and come into Christ." Like that. we'll pray. This has given me the motivation when I was prayingit's a promise. And I told to all the missionaries also, claim the places and people groups. And pray for the people living in that area, especially to untangle the problems created by Satan in those areas, with all this idol worship and witchcraft. Pray to break the bondages of that place. We will go to these places once monthly. We'll go to each spot

and there we stop our vehicle, and we pray, and we'll break all the barriers like that. This we are doing continuously.

God further strengthened and encouraged me through His word written from Haggai 2:4. God confirmed our service and encouraged me to go forward in the ministry to reach the unreached people. To reach the unreached people in Andaman Islands, we gave a task to each believer to write down the names of their contacts who are not having faith in Christ and pray every day and share/send the Gospel through WhatsApp and other digital ways. By using the digital media, we were able to reach new people very easily.

I'll tell you one thing more. Even myself, when I started the ministry back in 2007. I wrote down all the names who were not yet believing in Christ. And every day I used to pray for them. Until now I am having that paper in my Bible. And on that list, many of them God saved for God's Glory! So I told to all, even our missionaries, to motivate them to give a task like that to the believers. See, in that list, it's not immediate. But continuously they have to pray, and they have to reach them with the Gospel. And in the last year, through this prayer, during the





"God confirmed our service and encouraged me to go forward in the ministry to reach the unreached people."



Christmas celebration programs and VBS programs all who came to visit were on these prayer lists.

#### IMPACT OF NEWLY SUPPORTED MINISTRY

In view of inflation, which hiked essential commodity prices, for the pastors who have school age children it was challenging. And the income from church is very meagre, because in the pioneering stage of church planting, we face challenges in meeting needs. The pastors who received economic development support managed their needs with the income earned from their projects. Pastor Josiah\*, whose wife started a tailoring business with the funds, shared, "Earlier we were suffering a lot for daily needs. After starting the project, our daily needs are met easily and also we are getting new contacts from the customers and meeting them and sharing the good news."

During the summer vacation, VBS programme for the children and youth was an encouraging one. In those, many new children of Hindus and Muslims attended. All the pastors were so blessed in conducting the VBS through the special support from HB, and all of them said that many Hindu and Muslim children heard the Gospel of Christ. Pastor Jitu\* shared. "Even in much rain non-believers' children have attended. They were so much happy, and they enjoyed the time and they confessed faith. We asked them to come every Sunday to our Sunday school, and they said that we will attend the Sunday class and that they wanted to know more about Jesus."





#### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

"In the midst of inflation and natural disasters, God met our needs in an unimagined manner and also protected us from natural calamities such as flood and earthquakes."

"All the pastors were so blessed in conducting the VBS through the special support from HB, and all of them said that many Hindu and Muslim children heard the Gospel of Christ."



Pastor Manu explains one of his ministry focuses: "The medical ministry has been a significant component of the outreach program, focusing on the holistic well-being of the community. I and my team have actively prayed for the sick, offering spiritual and emotional comfort to those suffering from illness. Alongside medical assistance, the ministry distributed edible items such as rice, pulses, and cooking oil to sick families, ensuring their basic needs were met during recovery. This practical care has touched the lives of many, helping both physically and spiritually. Building on the success of the medical outreach, I hope to increase the frequency and reach of medical camps. Alongside medical help, I plan to continue providing practical support such as food and supplies to those in need, showing Christ's love in action."

#### **DOUBLE PORTIONS**

In the midst of inflation and natural disasters, God met our needs in an unimagined manner and also protected us from natural calamities such as flood and earthquakes. Most of the pastors say that Jehovah Jireh, our God, met our needs in the midst of difficult situations and taught us the lesson to depend on Him always. Time and again God gave revelations through the Bible and encouraged us in the times of trouble and difficulty.

We are expecting more in this year, 2025, and we are starting with one goal. This year, we want to see at least the number of believers to be doubled. According to Zechariah 9:12, we expect double portions: "Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you." Double portions, that's what we want. For example, in our church we have 40 members. This year, at least another 40. "Each one reach one, teach one." Teach about Jesus Christ and bring them to a church. Not a very big task - achievable only. But if sincerely the believers do, they can achieve it. That goal we gave them. Just imagine if each person did that in just one year? So we are motivating the believers to become disciples.

# Myanmar



## Myanmar at a Glance

## Political, Societal, and Environmental Context

2024 was the fourth year in Myanmar (also known as Burma) since the military coup of 2021, the latest stage in the country's more than half-century long civil war. Unwilling to return to the repression of life under military dictatorship, the people of Myanmar rose up en masse in protest, and have resiliently fought to overthrow the brutal junta and forge a brighter future. A complex patchwork of longstanding armed organizations from the country's many ethnic minority groups, alongside numerous post-2021 People's Defence Forces (PDFs) largely operating in townships and regions inhabited by the country's majority Bamar ethnic group, made significant progress in 2024 in driving the junta out of many places. They achieved this despite having virtually no international support, and despite the military being far better-armed and backed by China and Russia. The increasingly desperate junta, ever more confined to the country's major cities, instituted a forced conscription law in response, which in turn has prompted tens of thousands of young people to flee the country to escape forced military service. Through unimaginable circumstances, the church has sought to respond to new doors the Holy Spirit has opened, to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel.

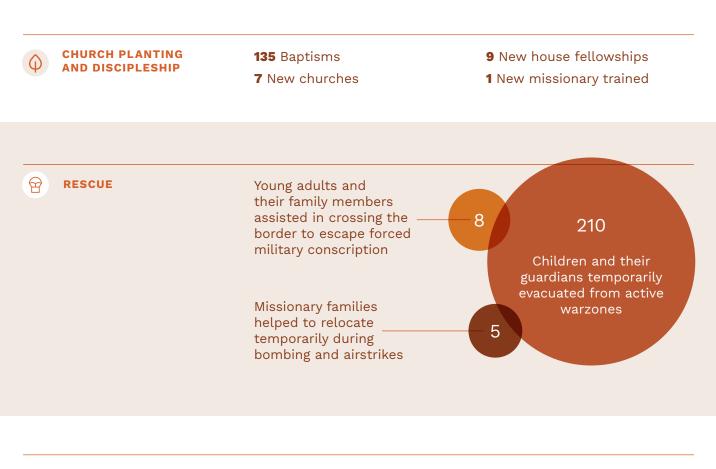




## 2024 Impact

## Funds Dispatched: \$158,225.11

Regular Support: 27 monthly supported leaders, 70 monthly supported children and their families





FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING **5** Bible students' tuition fees covered for six months

**126** IDPs (internally displaced people) attended multi-day Bible conferences

**1** Pastor's international travel for seminary study fully covered



### FOOD AND MEDICAL RELIEF



### Food Relief

**~160** Families (~800 people) received meals for 1-7 days

**~680** Families (~3,428 people) received food for up to a month

### **Medical Relief**

- 6 People helped with emergency medical relief
- **54** Children vaccinated against dengue
- **132** Children received medical treatment for fever and dysentery

## DEVELOPMENT

## **Economic Development**

**6** Pastors received small business grants

**2** Displaced women trained and equipped for weaving work and business

**2** Church planters received three months of house rent

## **Transportation**

**6** Motorbikes provided to pastors and missionaries

## Technology

**1** Orphanage partially equipped with solar panels to provide electricity and internet during daily blackouts

**1** Pastor given laptop for ministry





## Myanmar

## Be Strong and Courageous

By Pastor Pan\* and Pastor Thang\*, Country Co-Directors

"The junta's jet fighters dropped a 500-pound bomb three times in our area in the last six months, but the Lord protected us and the bombs hit outside of our village. But one man who was at work was hit and five oxen were killed. The sound was so great and our village was shaking like anything. We were in great danger many times, but we are safe today by His grace.

Many times, we moved to the jungle and when the situation calmed down, we went back to our home. Though things are tough, we experience the presence of God in our daily living. Without your support our ministry may not be possible. I have conducted some home cells and Bible studies and encouraged the believers. We learned the word of God and prayed together. We enjoy such a privilege in our gatherings. The Lord blessed us and the believers are also growing in their faith in Jesus Christ.

I also had a chance to share the love of God among the unbelievers who came for Bible study. I went and prayed in the hospital for the sick and they were greatly encouraged and recovered from their sicknesses. I praise the Lord for the privilege of serving in the midst of hardships." —Pastor Lwin\*

#### **GOD'S PROVISION**

Most leaders in my ministry network were forced to move at least once or twice a month for safety. It affects the ministry and work, fleeing very often, place to place. We have difficulties in shepherding, teaching and preaching.

Despite these hardships, we remain steadfast in our faith, trusting that God will continue to provide and sustain us. It may seem that God has delayed in answering our prayers for change and safety, but I (Thang) still believe in His faithfulness. We take courage in the Lord from 1 Peter 5:7. God does not care for us only when we pray, but He cares even when we are not praying.

I am greatly encouraged by the prayers and support from Harvest Bridge, which reminds us that God sees us and provides for our daily needs. He has sustained us—we have enough meals each day and are able to help not only our missionaries and partners but also those who do not yet know Christ. We are deeply grateful for

## "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"It may seem that God has delayed in answering our prayers for change and safety, but I still believe in His faithfulness." His provision and for the love and prayers of those who stand with us.

I (Pan) thank the Lord for this opportunity to share the year-end report. God has done so many wonderful things in our lives. In the midst of many challenges, the Lord still blessed our ministry beyond our expectation.

It was encouraging to see when souls are saved, new leaders are trained and churches are planted. We were amazed by what He has done through our lives throughout the past year. The Lord said in Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." We acknowledge that the success that we bring, the fruits that we see throughout the year, they are not by our might but the power of the Holy Spirit alone. So, I thank God for His wonderful leading and granting us another year to serve Him.

#### LIVING AND SERVING IN WAR

Our country is badly affected by the ongoing civil war, and it is corrupted politically and exploited economically. There is a hyper-inflation and the people of Myanmar are suffering. According to the UN, as of the end of 2024, more than 25 million people are under the poverty line. I am afraid to see such things happening as it is nearly half of the population in Myanmar. There are







"To avoid the conscription law, some of our teens were transported to freedom with the help of the many donations through Harvest Bridge."



about 3.5 million displaced people in our country and about 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries (including the Rohingya who mostly left before the coup). Our missionaries and their communities are also badly affected. Some families are separated because of the war and many church members are scattering here and there after their villages were burned and bombed. Some of them don't have a place to worship the Lord as their churches are burned. and we heard the crv and saw their tears which really made us so sad.

#### **CONSCRIPTION LAWS**

Because of the conscription law, our families and communities are greatly affected. Some young people in our churches were conscripted and they were sent to the battlefield, and their lives are in great danger. Now, the law is worse and the young teens (men and women) are targeted—the junta arrests them openly and sends them for training. In the past you could pay some money to avoid conscription, but now they say there's no option. And if you flee, your family will suffer the consequences. So I (Thang) think that caused our mental pain.

People have no idea what to do. They are making phone calls to one another saying, "what should we do?" We have not the answer, but we support one another, mentally and spiritually.

#### **RELIEF AND SUPPORT**

Without HB's support, we couldn't accomplish what the Lord has called us to do. With your help and generosity, many people were benefited and it made a great difference in the lives of our people here. Through the help, orphan children are supported regularly throughout the year and because of you, they have their better future. Also, to avoid the conscription law, some of our teens were transported to freedom with the help of the many donations through Harvest Bridge. Now, they have jobs in India and they send some money to help their families.

The food relief and emergency works are very effective and saved many lives. With the help of Harvest Bridge, many families who lost their houses and properties received help from us. Orphan children were helped in two states after they fled from their homes. Their smiling "Some of our partners were sick or injured due to the war, and some died. I am so happy to say that HB was able to provide funds toward their medical expenses."

faces reminded me (Pan) that God smiles because of your donations to the needy in Myanmar.

Some of our partners were sick or injured due to the war, and some died. I am so happy to say that HB was able to provide funds toward their medical expenses. Also, sadly, one of our precious children in our orphanage was hospitalized for five days and lastly, she went to glory.

At that time, HB stood with us in our sadness and provided the needed medical expenses for her and also provided funds toward the funeral expenses. It was a great encouragement for the rest of the family and for our ministry here.

#### SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

We were able to help two women to begin their business through women's empowerment projects, and by the grace of God they are doing very well till today. Of course there were some challenges in their businesses, but the Lord helped them to overcome such hardships. In addition to the women supported this year, some women supported in past years have trained others this year:

"The Lord blessed my business more and more. I am in good health and I can run very well by the grace of God. Because of this business, we have enough food to eat and are able to pay for our rent cost and sometimes, we can give some little help to the needy. With no charge, I trained one of my friends how to do this business of weaving and she is so interested and very quick in learning it. Thank you all for your prayers and support." —Mawi\*

Another remarkable project is economic support for the ministry leaders to start their businesses so that someday, they will become a self-sustaining ministry. Six leaders have received economic support in the past year, and they are developing their economic plans and they are growing slowly by slowly. One day they will be able to stand by themselves by developing their





"We are ready to sacrifice to help the most affected people in our community and beyond. So, please, please pray for more funds so that we can share the Gospel."



economic plans in the future. Missionary Na\* said:

"As I am a trained nurse, the project you helped me start (a medical supply shop) was a great blessing for me and my people. The project is making me more effective in my ministry. Many people were greatly benefited and more and more people came to me for treatment. So I can share the good news with more people. We also had regular income for our family and our ministry as well. I also could give some little help to co-workers in the ministry. Thank you for the support. Amen!"

## THE WORD OF GOD GIVES STRENGTH

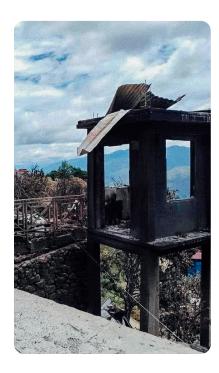
As I (Thang) say, 2024 is much harder in everything. Pastors cannot stay in one place for more than one month, two months. They try to settle. They have to flee. When they use bombs from above, you know, so it's hard for them to hide. You can imagine day and night. We get what we call "chicken sleep." We wake up very often and do not get deep rest. So we need your fervent prayer this year. And then courage. Remember when Moses died, you know, Joshua had to take the position? And then God said, "be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:9). God repeated very often, you know, "be strong and courageous. As I was with Moses, I'll be with you". So I think we need the words of God, saying, "be strong and courageous", to be our challenge and trust in God. We are expecting change very soon, but the junta has been rooted very deeply for many years. It will not be easy.

I (Pan) personally asked God, "Why do you allow such suffering and struggling in our lives?" When I questioned God, He gave me the answers through two Bible verses. My favourite Bible verses for the past year were Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." And Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

When things don't work well as planned because of the civil war, it really affected our thoughts and we are disappointed many times. We are so sad many times, we fear many times and we feel unsafe for



"I know that I am not alone because I am so clear that you all are standing with us in this difficult time."



our lives. But in such times, the word of God encouraged us and strengthened our faith in Jesus Christ through these Bible verses, and I am always reminded by His word when we are in such difficult times, we have the living God who cares and guides us according to His purpose.

#### **NOT ALONE**

We feel that this is the right time for the Christian to stand and take up the responsibility, to care and provide food for the needy that are struggling and suffering because of the civil war. Villages are bombed and houses are burned and more and more innocent civilians are suffering. We are ready to sacrifice to help the most affected people in our community and beyond. So, please, please pray for more funds so that we can share the Gospel and meet the physical needs of our people here. As a whole in our mission network, it is our prayer to help at least 1,000 refugee families in this year 2025.

As we enter this new year, we are ready to conduct more Bible training for the leaders of the church. According to our experience we

learned that because of lack of training, the progress of the Gospel work is delayed in our nation. Please join us in prayer for this need to conduct at least seven Bible trainings in different townships where our partners are serving. Just now, who knows because of the fighting, the church may be scattering here and there. In the time of those difficulties, what I (Pan) want is to have more Bible training before we are scattered, so that the people will follow God's will in their lives, and the people we train will train others wherever they reach. So this is one of the main purposes for this year.

Lastly, I know that I am not alone because I am so clear that you all are standing with us in this difficult time. Though the trials and the difficulties are increasing, I know for sure that God chooses me to take responsibility to meet the many needs of my people here. So, I do hope that partnering with HB, we can do more for God's Kingdom and for my people as we enter another year. Amen!

# Nepal & Tibet

Nepal



## **Nepal & Tibet** Political, Societal, and **at a Glance** Environmental Context

In 2024, the Himalayan nation of Nepal continued to grapple with a range of connected issues that have impacted the country for years widespread poverty, ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, and the need to navigate complex relations with its much larger neighbors, China and India. While officially a secular country, Nepal is overwhelmingly Hindu with significant Buddhist influence. Christians—a rapidly growing minority—face much scrutiny and persecution. The constitution prohibits converting a person from one religion to another, in effect banning evangelism and opening the door for false accusations of forced conversions. Hindu nationalism, which seeks to stamp out the influence of "foreign" religions and fashion Nepal into a fully Hindu nation, is on the rise. Land borders between Nepal and Tibet, where many of our local partners serve, also remained mostly shut in 2024. Despite these challenges, the church in Nepal continues to grow as Christians serve their nation with selflessness and love.





## 2024 Impact

## Funds Dispatched: \$157,922.36

## Regular Support: 58 monthly supported leaders

¢	CHURCH PLANTING AND DISCIPLESHIP	<b>750</b> New believers baptized <b>26</b> New churches planted	<b>85</b> New house churches launched <b>120</b> New church leaders raised
Ŷ	LEADERSHIP TRAINING	<b>30</b> Students attended monthly Bible school training at Nepal- Tibet border	<b>100</b> Women trained in counseling in the areas of family health and hygiene
ų,	HEALTH	Surgery	Other Medical Care
		<b>22</b> Women with critical health issues received uterine surgery	<b>25</b> Pastor and missionary families received funds for emergency medical care
	MINISTRY TOOLS	<b>250</b> Christians received study Bibles	<b>1</b> Leader received a motorcycle







## **RELIEF**



## **500 Families**

(~2,500 people) Received month-long relief packets of food and water purification tablets



## 250 Children

Received warm clothes, education materials lost in the flood, and food packets for their families



## 25 Education Sponsorships

For pastor and missionary children



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**47** Churches trained in church-based community savings groups ministry

**23** New church-based savings groups started

## Nepal & Tibet

## Disciples Making Disciples

By Pastor Shalva\* and Jandi\*, Country Directors



Acts 20:24 teaches us to denv ourselves for the sake of the Gospel and follow Christ Jesus at any cost, as well as testify of the Gospel of God's grace to the people around us. Becoming His disciple and making disciples and helping others to make disciples whatever it may cost. We are committed to using the gifts we received from the Holy Spirit for the extension of His Kingdom. As a team of pastors and missionaries we are highly committed to live this inspiration, revelation, and message for the extension of His Kingdom of God in Nepal. We realized at the end of the year that it was wonderful. The Lord has done mighty things in our midst.

There are many encouraging, exciting and surprising parts in the ministry because God Almighty is working through us for His glory beyond our expectations. I want to list them in brief: thousands of people are hearing the Gospel and hundreds of them have committed their lives to follow Christ Jesus our Lord. We have been encouraged that with little resources in the remote villages, people in acute poverty are serving the Lord. We are very much excited by seeing the zeal for the Gospel in the lives of newcomers to Christ. They have been leading hundreds of their friends, relatives, co-workers and neighboring people to Christ. We see God's provision through Harvest Bridge, prayer partners, and unseen sources in the time of acute crises in the country as well as among the lives of the people. We now see the progress in savings group ministry beyond our expectations. We have seen people delivered from satanic bondage, sick people healed, people delivered from depression; God has been doing wonders with signs. Juhi\*, a young woman who ministers at the Tibet border, shares one such story:

"Sashi\*, a 52-year-old widow from a mountainous Tibetan village, had lived a life marked by resilience and quiet endurance. Since her husband's passing years ago, she had supported herself by weaving traditional rugs. However, age and years of labor had taken their toll, and arthritis began to painfully seize her hands, leaving her unable to weave. Weaving had not only been her livelihood but her last connection to her late husband, who had taught her the craft. Without it, she felt purposeless and defeated. During one of my visits to her village, I

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:24

"We have been encouraged that with little resources in the remote villages, people in acute poverty are serving the Lord. We are very much excited by seeing the zeal for the Gospel in the lives of newcomers to Christ."

heard about Sashi's condition and went to see her. She shared her story with me, visibly discouraged and in deep pain. I told her about the peace and renewal I'd found in Jesus, and, with her permission, I prayed for healing for her hands, asking God to restore her strength and hope. Over the following weeks, Sashi experienced a remarkable change. The pain in her hands began to fade, and the strength returned to her fingers. Gradually, she was able to weave again, her hands moving more freely than they had in years. Now, Sashi's rugs carry new patterns inspired by her faith, and she shares her story with others, grateful for the healing and purpose she found through Jesus. She has accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Saviour and is now happy in the Lord."

#### STANDING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

In the Lord's ministry we see blessing and hardships, but we have travelled to complete the year 2024 with many hardships, shortages, persecution and natural calamity. Nepal is always having political instability/unrest; people have lost their hope in the government, and the government is unable to provide employment to the skilled, unskilled, educated or uneducated citizens. There are no iobs in the country—people hardly make their livelihood. Every day 1,500-2,500 young people are leaving the country in search of unskilled jobs in foreign countries. Nepal is always in the political peril of China and India, and Nepal's government is not able to balance her relation with









the neighboring countries. Nepal is always hit by unexpected natural calamities such as earthquake, flood, landslide, wildfire, and the number of avalanches in the Himalayas is increasing and it is washing away some villages in the hills. We also experience seasonal epidemics like dengue, flu, fever and many other unknown health attacks, which have taken away hundreds of lives every year. We always face shortages of fuel, 5-10% market inflation every year, and political unrest i.e. strikes, riots, and unexpected lockdowns/ shutdowns—everything you can name.

The situation we face in the country is the same for everyone, but for missionaries and pastors it is something more because they have to take care of the Lord's flock. After every natural disaster people will be dispersed to different areas so missionaries/pastors need to provide fellowship to them, visit them, and spiritually educate them. Pastors/ missionaries need regularly to travel by walking, motorbike, or public bus to follow up and help them. One missionary on average will oversee five house churches and two churches. Apart from that, they have a challenge to find the common safe

shelter for regular Church meetings. Hindus do not want to rent their facilities to Christians. Actually, doing ministry in Nepal is risking your life for the sake of the Gospel and Christ. Your neighbor will complain to police and try to disturb your fellowship and sometimes police will be influenced by money and will arrest you. Many times there are threats from Hindu radicals that they will burn our churches. The situation in Nepal is becoming very serious day by day.

Consistency in ministry is crucial whatever may be the challenge or insufficiency. We have noticed that with every challenge we are standing in the name of the Lord our God and He is faithful to lead us, guide us, protect us and save us in every unexpected, unknown and unseen challenge and struggle. Amrita\*, another woman serving at the Tibet border, shares from her experience:

"The past months have been a journey of both trials and blessings here in Tibet. Despite the challenges and risks of sharing the Gospel, I continue to meet with small groups of women, offering Bible study, prayer, and support. My heart is with the women here, empowering them to







"Though the opposition is strong, I'm grateful to see these women's faith grow, and I trust God to guide and protect our mission here."

find strength in faith amidst difficult circumstances. Beyond ministry, I've helped local families deal with landslides and soil erosion, assisting with repairs and providing encouragement. Though the opposition is strong, I'm grateful to see these women's faith grow, and I trust God to guide and protect our mission here."

#### SAVINGS GROUPS

The nature of the ministry we do in Nepal is strategic in terms of sharing the Gospel to the people. We are using ministry methods like community savings groups. In our now 70+ savings groups they have been able to share the Gospel to more than 1,000 people and led about 250 people to Christ. Those 250 newly baptized Christians are deeply rooted in Christ as well as doing great and remarkable business through the money they loan from their saving group.

23 new church-based savings groups were started this year. Jandi explains the economic impact: "They meet mostly every month. Some groups meet two times in a month, and they talk, they pray, they share, they visit. It's really good. The people in savings groups, they started keeping turkeys and ducks and they are buying some other animals. They are creating new ideas for business. They sell their goods, and they make profit out of that. They are paying their children's school fees, and they are providing food. The people who were unable to even offer a cup of tea, now they are feeding their [guests] with chicken and rice."

#### GOALS AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR 2025

Our commitment to ministry in 2025 is to serve in the Church for the glory of the Lord irrespective of caste, color, class, social strata, finances, denomination, etc. The utmost priority is to lead people to the Lord so that they may enjoy the salvation freely given to us by the Almighty God. Making disciples is another highest priority. I am strongly convinced that for sustaining the Church, there needs to always be ongoing discipleship training in the Church.

As you pray for us, we want you to pray for the following matters: we would like to support at least 45 more missionaries. We are also in need of reliable means of transportation. In Nepal 80% of the land is hills, so reliable transportation is very urgent for the ministry. Please pray for 15-20 motorbikes for the year 2025. Also pray for the education needs of the pastors'/missionaries' children. We are planning to build at least 10 church buildings in this year. Please pray for this matter. Please pray for safety and health of pastors and missionaries. Please pray for the discipleship and Gospel activities of the pastors and missionaries.

We salute you from Nepal with heartfelt gratitude. May Almighty God bless, guide and provide you with good health to support the ministries around the world who are unable to do ministry without someone's assistance.



## Supporter Comments



## Todd & Tanya · Supporters

"We heard that Harvest Bridge was looking for donors to help buy sewing machines and looms (manual, not electric) for rural women in Asia. These sewing machines were being sought to help women in abject poverty, who were the primary providers for their families, to help earn a sustainable/livable income. Other local women always seemed ready to teach them how to operate and use these tools, and to help develop their skills to make sellable products. We were excited to hear how eager and excited these women were to learn new skills, and how they desperately needed to be able to support their families. We were inspired back then, and continue to be inspired by the stories we hear... how these women learn new skills, sell their products, support their families, create community and most of all, use their precious time to share Jesus with other women in need. Not only are we inspired by them, we are humbled by them for how hard they work and their willingness to share their learned skills and faith with one another."









## Austin · Board Member

"The vision that Harvest Bridge has for a) stewardship, and b) the global church is remarkable. Their commitment to that vision animates everything they do. I am blessed to see how Harvest Bridge a) "does much with little", and b) strengthens and supports native and local Christian leaders in South Asia. It is joyfully humbling to play a small part in that great work. Praise God."

## Steve & Sarah · Supporters

"Why Harvest Bridge? We are amazed at the work, trials, and resilience of our brothers and sisters in South Asia. We are honored to be one with them in Christ and to support the global mission of reaching others for Jesus, providing for those in need, and stewarding our agency and resources for the kingdom of God. We give to Harvest Bridge because they are doing these things well, supporting those who are truly living for the Lord in difficult and challenging circumstances and empowering people to live meaningful, productive, and free lives in Jesus Christ. Thank you for doing it right, Harvest Bridge!"

## Becoming a Supporter

Come alongside our partners in impacting their nations! Be the Bridge between the church in the States and South Asia.



## Pray

Pray daily for Harvest Bridge: Lift up the daily prayer requests sent from Harvest Bridge leaders using the monthly prayer calendar. You can receive a printed copy in the mail and/or email, view the entire month on our website, or follow daily on our Instagram story. Email us at info@ harvestbridge.org to receive the prayer calendar next month!

## Share

Help us spread the word about Harvest Bridge! Pass on this impact report to a friend, click share on our emails and social media posts, or simply tell a friend about Harvest Bridge. We even have a short scripted presentation, including slides you can share with a group, that we can provide to you.

## Learn

Follow us on social media: @HarvestBridgeOrg
@Harvest\_Bridge
@HarvestBridge

### LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

Listen directly to our leaders sharing their wisdom and learn about the impact of your support each month. You can find us on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or YouTube by searching for Harvest Bridge.

#### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL

Go to our website to subscribe to our email and receive Harvest Bridge updates including the prayer calendar, newsletter, and podcast directly to your inbox!

#### STUDY OUR IMPACT REPORT DEVOTIONAL (NEW!)

Visit harvestbridge.org/news to use this year's impact report as a devotional for your personal or group study.



## Where to Support

Where Needed Most	The most effective type of financial support is <i>Where Needed Most</i> . It enables us to be prepared as needs arise, and it equips our partners to do ministry based on the priorities in their regions.
Support a Specific Region	If you feel called to support a specific country or region, you can give toward our country or regional funds: Myanmar general, Bangladesh general, etc.
Support a Specific Project	If you are passionate about specific projects or types of work like emergency relief, ministry tools, pastor training, children & family support, income generating projects, etc., you can support these directly.
How to Give	Visit https://harvestbridge.org/give/ to make one-time or recurring contribu- tions online. If you would like to pay via check, please mail to Harvest Bridge, P.O. Box 284, Grove City, PA 16127.
	Harvest Bridge also accepts donations of stock, mutual funds, real estate and other assets. To donate, simply visit the National Christian Foundation. Our Fund Name is <i>The Harvest Bridge Single Charity Fund</i> , and the Fund Number is <i>1505833</i> . For charitable gift annuities, we have a separate fund: <i>The Harvest</i> <i>Bridge CGA Single Charity Fund</i> .

Harvest Bridge's support comes entirely from individuals, churches, organizations, foundations and businesses who entrust us with resources so that we can fulfill our mission. All contributions are tax-deductible and are made with the understanding that Harvest Bridge has full discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. For more information, email: info@harvestbridge.org

We have one goal: To come alongside local ministries in South Asia and Myanmar. Harvest Bridge does not create local ministries, but equips those that already have proven themselves to be effective. Harvest

"Your prayers have been a source of strength, and the financial support you have provided has enabled us to conduct medical outreach, house visits, and evangelism efforts, impacting many lives both spiritually and physically. We have witnessed God's hand at work, and this would not have been possible without your generosity and commitment to His Kingdom." — Manu\*, Andaman Islands Pastor

"The junta's jet fighters dropped a 500-pound bomb three times in our area in the last six months, but the Lord protected us and the bombs hit outside of our village. But one man who was at work was hit and five oxen were killed. The sound was so great and our village was shaking like anything. Many times, we moved to the jungle and when the situation calmed down, we went back to our home. Though things are tough, we experience the presence of God in our daily living. Without your support our ministry may not be possible." —Lwin\*, Myanmar Pastor

"Harvest Bridge's support enabled our missionaries to focus on ministry. They were able to engage in evangelism efforts, sharing the Gospel with unreached communities and establishing new fellowships. Harvest Bridge provided Bibles, ministry tools, and resources, equipping leaders to effectively share the Gospel and disciple new believers." —Jagan\*, Bhutan Country Director

"Whatever you have given—it was not wasted. It was used to do God's work. God's Kingdom is growing. New people are learning about God's Kingdom, about His Word, and they are receiving much benefit from this. The gifts and prayers have been multiplied ... We have the vision; we have the ministry. You are a part of fulfilling our vision." —**Thomas\***, **India State Director** 

Flip through to read testimonies, stories, and lessons from local church leaders in South Asia and Myanmar, in our 2024 Impact Report!

