



The Baptist Herald

PAKISTAN: Mullah Requests Murder

On Dec. 3, 2010, a mullah in Pakistan offered more than \$6,000 (U.S.) to anyone who kills Asia Bibi, according to The Voice of the Martyrs contacts.

VOM contacts are concerned for Asia's safety. In the past, Christian have been killed in jail, on their way to court, and even after being released from jail. "There is threat that she can be killed even after her releasing from the jail," VOM contacts said. "It's not just a statement by mulana, but we have examples of previous blasphemy cases."

Following the mullah's statement, Muslims, including representatives from extremist groups, protested against Asia and a proposed amendment of the blasphemy law. Protests were

held in many major cities in Pakistan.

Asia was arrested by police in June 2009 following an intense discussion between her and her co-workers about their faith. Asia told the Muslim women about her faith in Christ, explaining that he had died on the cross for our sins. Then she asked them what Mohammed had done for them, according to VOM sources. She told them Jesus is alive, but Mohammed is dead. "Our Christ is the true prophet of God," she reportedly told them, "and yours is not true."

Upon hearing this, the Muslim women became angry and began to beat Asia. Then some men took her and locked her in a room. They announced from mosque loudspeakers

that she would be punished by having her face blackened and being paraded through the village on a donkey. Local Christians informed the police, who took Asia into custody before the Muslims could carry out their plan.

Asia was charged with blasphemy, and on Nov. 8, 2010, she was sentenced to death. Pray for Asia's protection during this tense time. Pray for Asia's release from prison and for her safety after her release. Ask God to minister to her family, especially her children



I got a card this past week that addressed me as *Dear Isaac Zull*. The card went on to say that I was one of Kroger's very best customers and that they wanted to wish me the very best this holiday season. The card was personally signed by Bob Moeder; *the President of Kroger Central*. I was blown away. I had no idea that my patronage meant so much to them. That President Bob himself would take time out of his busy schedule to send me a personal Christmas greeting along with all those exclusive money saving coupons; it was an honor. He also included a couple of recipes; and some photos of people enjoying or cooking those very dishes. I assume that the photos were of his family, which I thought was a very nice touch (apparently his family is very racially diverse). I read the card to my wife and was shocked at her ability to hide her admiration. It is not every day that I get a Christmas card from the president of a major corporation; and I was a bit embarrassed that I do not know Bob nearly as much as he seems to know me. I had no intention of sending him anything and now I am in a flurry of activity trying to decide what to send to someone who has everything. I am

leaning toward a Kroger Brand fruitcake; everyone loves fruitcake. It was only a few days later that I realized that there was no return address, so replying to Bob's kind greeting will be difficult. My wife tried to relieve some of my pressure by hinting that maybe I was not the only one to have gotten a card from Bob, which is ridiculous and just the jealousy talking.

Sometimes leprosy makes your arm red and white and other times your nose falls off; different symptoms, same disease. That is why you can follow Shaq or Brittney Spears on Twitter watch Dr. Phil or read a magazine filled with photos and quotes of intensely personal material. Some people have a webcam filming their living room 24 hours a day so you can watch how boring their lives are. Our culture is obsessed with intimate details; we love to hear secrets or personal anecdotes from people we wish we knew. Friendship is sick; maybe terminal. The symptoms are evident; people you don't know at all pretending to have a relationship with you. The phone operator in India who wants to call you by your first name; the smiling robot girl who only exists as a picture in the U-Scan machine; all reminders of the fake relationship opportunities that are all around you. The "personal" notes and mes-

sages sent out to millions of fans or customers; all demonstrating the same shallow falsehood.

Paul knew all about fake and real friends and in his last letter he gets very personal; although it is still to long to go on Twitter. Demas was a false friend who deserted Paul in his hour of need (Col 4:14; Phm 24). Mark was a failed friend who Paul was willing to give a second chance (Acts 12:25; 15:37-39; Col 4:10; Philemon 24). Paul is old, cold, lonely and in need of a friend. Even though *everyone deserted him* he is able to maintain that *the Lord stood by my side and gave me strength; and will bring me safe into his heavenly kingdom*. My encouragement would be to first lean and depend on the only friend who will never be untrue; Jesus Christ. In dark, cold and lonely days it is this friendship that sustains. I would also call you to true Christian friendship. Seek to grow deeper in friendship with brothers and sisters in Christ; with whom you are united in the Spirit. A true friend is loyal, sticking closer than an brother, seeks to build up, bears burdens, and speaks the truth in love. In a world of false friendships the true friendships stand out; and point to our great relationship with God in Christ through the Spirit. *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grieves to*

Pastor Isaac continued . . .

bear, what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer! – Joseph Scriven Hymn 182

II Timothy 4: 9-18

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is

with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense, no one came to my

support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Meet - Jason & Megan Harshbarger

Since we arrived in college in the late 1990's, life has never been the same. While many were experimenting and exploring their new-found "freedom" as college students, God was teaching us that the greatest knowledge, joy and fulfillment were found in Him. Jesus opened my eyes to His glory while a freshman at Indiana State University in 1998. A year later, He called my girlfriend (now my wife!) and I to full-time ministry. Life has never been the same.

After graduating Bible college, Jesus called us to pastor in South Dakota. We served nearly seven years as youth pastors and associate pastors, but primarily as college pastors to South Dakota State University. We have seen so many students lives transformed by the life and hope that is Jesus Christ. The lost have been found, students have become disciples of the Kingdom of God.

Now, we are hungry for more. There are 400,000 college students in Indiana, over 25,000 of which are on our Terre Haute campuses. More eyes must be opened to the Gospel, more lives must be transformed by the Spirit.

We not only want every student to hear the Gospel, but to raise up disciples who become leaders and influencers of both the campus and our culture. Now is the time.

Credentials

Megan: B.S. from Indiana Wesleyan University in Intercultural Studies

Jason: B.S. from Indiana Wesleyan University in Christian Ministries and Sports Management. Ordained with the Assemblies of God in 2006

Ministry Experience: Three and a half years as Youth Pastor at Brookings First Assembly of God in Brookings, South Dakota. Six years at Col-

lege Pastor and three years as Associate Pastor of Adult Discipleship and Small Groups at Brookings First Assembly of God. Chi Alpha internship at Florida State University.

Hobbies: Hanging out with family, scrapbooking, sports

Vision: To impact our Terre Haute campuses with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to make disciples through Biblical study, mentoring and leadership development. Then, to send these students out to transform culture by the power of the Spirit for the glory and renown of Christ.

Birthdays

Jason - November 28

Megan - July 28

Madison - February 4

Gabriella - June 15

E-mail

jason.xa.indiana@gmail.com

PART ONE

Here's the deal: I think our understanding of the church and especially our application of that understanding is quite flawed. Some of us think it's merely a building, others see it as merely any group of Christians (similar to say a pride of lions), there are those that think it's just a bunch of hypocrites, some who say it might be helpful though not necessary, and still others who believe it to be an event that one views or takes part in every so often. You might have guessed, or were well aware, that all of these ideas concerning the church are either wrong or desperately insufficient. The church as the Bible describes it, is something far greater and far more significant than most of even begin to realize. My goal here is not to provide some grand, robust theology of all things church, but rather to pick and choose some areas that are specifically difficult/troubling for me and I believe many others. Now, the truth is that what follows may indeed seem like a bit of rant (and that term might be justified), but I pray that it will not be one that is delivered from a soapbox or podium with fingers pointing everywhere and to everyone, as if I somehow have it all figured out. I don't and so really I am merely passing on what is currently challenging me.

I realize that we live in a fast food world, where slogans such as "Have it your way" are commonplace and the norm, but as Christians we cannot and must not view our local church as our own personal, "spiritual Walmart." It's almost as if we think, "Well, FBC has been getting some really good preaching lately, but Crawfordsville Church has great prices on their kids ministry, and Montgomery Church seems to be the only one who has that new music in stock. Not to mention the new layout at FBC, the old layout was just fine...I can't find anything anymore." Or maybe we think a little differently, "Let's see, this week I really need some uplifting music, a funny sermon that will speak to my husband, a little time away from the kids, a thought-provoking S.S. lesson, and then I need to get out of there as quickly as possible." Obviously, the previous is a bit over-the-top, but the temptation to be a consumer at church, rather than actually be the church is a prominent one. As I was reading *Disciplines of a Godly Man* by Kent Hughes, I ran into this illustration that really stuck in my mind and challenged me.

"The hitchhiker's thumb says, 'You buy the car, pay for repairs and upkeep and insurance, fill the car with gas—and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, you are on your own! And I'll probably sue.' So it is with the credo of so many of today's church attendees: 'You go to the meetings and serve on the boards and committees, you grapple with the issues and do the work of the church and pay the bills—and I'll come along for the ride. But if things do not suit me, I'll criticize and complain and probably bail out—my thumb is always out for a better ride.'" (Hughes, 169-170)

Isn't that how we sometimes view church? As long as I'm enjoying it, all is good, but if they don't fix such and such or if something happens that I don't like, then I'm moving on to the next church down the road. A lot of folks today are referring to this attitude about the church as "dating the church," which is absolutely contrary to what the New Testament teaches. The church is a family, and you don't just get up one morning and decide to leave your family. What if we really viewed the church as our family and not as a place we shop at or a ride we hop on?

❖ Take a look at your own heart:

- Do you think, talk, and act as if the church should cater to you?
- Do you view yourself as a consumer, a hitchhiker on Sunday mornings or as part of a family?
- What would it take for you to leave FBC? Do your reasons match up with God's Word?

(If you just can't wait for next month's newsletter—check out the rest @ seeingeverythingbyhim.wordpress.com)

From the Keys of Linda Wilson

Right now as another Christmas is in the books and we are packing up the tinsel and looking for after-Christmas bargains, I would like to take a moment and reflect on one of my favorite carols, which I feel we can keep in mind all year long.

This is a portion of an article from [The Theology of Christmas Carols](#) by Robert A. Pyne of Probe Ministries at www.probe.org

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Most radio stations play some type of Christmas music during the holiday season, but many of the songs have become so familiar to us that we no longer consider their content. In between the secular songs like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Rein-

deer" and "Up on a Housetop," you may hear the strains of an old hymn by Charles Wesley called "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus." It was written in 1744.

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" is a little heavier than most of the music we are used to hearing today, and if we are not careful we will miss much of the meaning. The first verse focuses on the fact that the coming of Jesus Christ fulfilled Israel's longing for the Messiah. As the one whose coming was prophesied in the Old Testament, He is the "long-expected Jesus."

Although He fulfilled Israel's prophecies, Jesus came to bring salvation to the entire world, which is what Wesley was referring to when he described Christ

as the "hope of all the earth" and the "dear desire of every nation." More than that, He is the "joy of every longing heart." He alone is the one who can satisfy every soul.

The second verse tells us why Jesus can meet our expectations: He was "born a child and yet a King." As the One who is both God and man, Jesus was able to satisfy God's wrath completely by dying on the cross for our sins. When Wesley wrote about Jesus' "all sufficient merit," he was referring to Christ's ability to bring us to salvation.

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" is a great song for Christmas, focusing on the "long-expected Jesus" who was born to set us free from sin and to bring us salvation by His death.

Note From Julie

Happy New Year from all of us at Guiding Light! Our financial situation has greatly improved this past year. We Made consistent church payments all year and the debt is slowing decreasing. Thank you for being so patient with us this past year. We have raised tuition again this year and are still receiving food voucher payments as well.

We are still having chapel with Linda and Kids Club with Isaac this year. The kids really enjoy spending time with the staff.

We are looking for people who want to donate their time this next year to be a substitute teacher for us. I need a list of people that I can call that could fill in for one day. If you would be willing to do that, please call

me. 364-0656

Continuing to Serve,

Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



Christmas Aglow

Our "Family Christmas" was a special night of celebrating the birth of Christ and being a part of "The Family of God". What a joy to serve the Lord with so many wonderful people willing to serve. We had 30 "hostesses" lined up to serve the dinner "family style" - there were even more. Ladies of all ages willingly served others; they came early and stayed for clean up.

To those faithful ladies who worked

so hard on decorations—it was beautiful. Our corsages were made from "vintage" flowers in the flower room and they were so pretty. I count it a privilege to serve the Lord with each of you.

Carpenter's Tools, you made our evening a delight. As you entertained us, I remembered many "Family Christmases" here.

Please feel free to pick up your family

picture on the Welcome Center that were used to decorate the tables.

Thank You, everyone
Pat Snow & Committee
Women's Fellowship

Thank You from the Congregation

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank the church for all the prayers, cards, & flowers. They have meant a great deal for us. Phil is still in a daze over all of this and we hope he will come out of it soon. I am just afraid that when he does he will break down hard.

We want to especially thank the Thankful Hearts class for the beautiful gift with the Footprints story on it.

Phil & Denise Cochren

Dear Christian Friends,

As a member of Volunteers for Mental Health of Montgomery county. I want to thank you for helping to

meet the needs of some of the citizens of our County by providing such a large number of socks this year. We were able to give those that request socks 4-6 pairs each. Each year we help over 200 individuals of our County with items that will help throughout the year. Citizens like you will help them have a Merry Christmas.

Thanks again. Tom Gourley

To My First Baptist Church Family.

The reception for me on December 12th was truly a cherished event. The outpouring of love and appreciation was really more than I deserved. The cards and gifts

were overwhelming.

I have known and enjoyed the friendship of many FBC people over the years. This was the crowning event for my tenure in service here.

Many thanks to all who participated in this joyous occasion.

CJ Brooks

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to all who said a prayer for me and to those who sent cards, visited or called during the 5 weeks I was in the Lane House for therapy. It was so very much appreciated.

Lucy Moore

CONGRADULATIONS TO:

Zach & Stephanie Akers
on the birth of
Leliana Lynn

born November 15th at 3:31 pm
weighing 8.12 pounds and 21" long

Jay & Kristi Strickland
on the birth of
Cole John

born December 1st at 1:21 pm
weighing 8.3 pounds and 20 3/4 "
long

Christopher Blickenstaff—pneumonia
Libbie Blickenstaff—chemo

Fred Davis—stage 4 starting chemo

Jeff Haines—torn aorta not surgery

Mary Bray—seizure, at Seton in Lafayette

Aaron Kincaid—recovering from surgery

Jeff Overpeck—recovering from surgery

Austin Carey—auto accident

Nick Sutherlin—auto accident

Ed Barclay—tumor and mass found on bladder

Don Ratcliff—eye problems

Barbara Craig—fell

Jim Bob Brann—strokes, swelling of brain

Clark Holt—hospitalized
St. Elizabeth Lafayette
Clazon Warner—sinus surgery

Extended prayer needed:

Don Nevitt—cancer

Jim Conger—cancer

Margaret Plank—health

Bill Couch—cancer

Don Miles—hospice

Prayer Quilt Recipient:

Joshua Powers Kinslow

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Dalford Gouge

Lewis W Terry

Jay Jackson

January Birthdays

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Mary Deckard | 11 Robert Arthur | 18 Kathryn Brown |
| Bill Henderson | 12 Devin Kincaid | Trevor Cruz |
| Charlotte Carver | Corvin Pitcock | 23 Rusty Coffing |
| 2 Don Frederick Sr | Sharon Dellinger | Tommy Edwards |
| 3 Julie Randles | C Paul Calder | 24 Barbara VanArsdel |
| 4 Michael Dellinger | 14 Juanita McCauley | Edlawn Warner |
| Michael Tobias | Dave Leonard | Juan Cruz |
| 5 Deb Hampel | Joseph Gerold | Emily Warner |
| 6 Jim Remley | 15 Elinor Dolph | 27 Autumn Stanbary |
| Vance Pyle | Ralph Anderson | Cathleen Robbins |
| Debbie Schavietello | Linda Newnum | 29 Frank Moore |
| Rhonda Smith | 16 Debbie Manges | 30 Rich Clouse |
| 7 Chris Cox | 17 Brittany Furr | 31 Larry McCance |
| 8 Jerry Harshbarger | Mahlon Nevitt | Misha Anderson |
| Bradly Clouse | Ricky Myers | |

- 3 Marcus & Jennifer Hutson
- 4 Don & Florence Gobel
- 17 Ralph & Susie Anderson
- 19 Todd & Julie Randles
- 29 Rex & Margaret Plank