

## **Bikes and Books for Pastors**

### **Your Opportunity to Help Pastors around the World**

Jump onboard a ferryboat and travel ten to twelve hours overnight from Sumatra, in Indonesia, and you can reach the small, isolated island of Nias (nē'ās). Nias is mostly lowland, but it also has green hills, mountains, rivers, and thick jungle areas. Palm trees grow along beautiful beaches—both rocky beaches and white sandy beaches with sea turtles and huge breakers. Great for surfing!

Many of the people of Nias are fishermen and live near the coast. The thirty-foot-high Indian Ocean tsunami killed or injured many people in Nias. Only three months later an 8.7 earthquake, one of the most powerful ever recorded, toppled buildings. Many people of Nias were poor before, but after the tsunami and the earthquake, life was even harder for them.

God called Jois Effendi (Joys Ef-fen'-di) to be His servant and to tell the people of Nias about Jesus and His love for them. Pastor Effendi knew that the choice was his. Would he obey God, or turn away? He chose to respond to God and obey. He knows that the people of Nias need to believe that Jesus died to take the punishment for their sins. He is grateful for the opportunity God has given him on the island of Nias.

When Pastor Effendi first started his ministry, the lumber boat he was taking to the island sank. His friend drowned, but God saved Pastor Effendi's life. Since that time he surrendered totally to the will of God for his life, and God has blessed Pastor Effendi with a wife and son.

Pastor Effendi says that his new way of life is totally different from his old life. His ministry is really beyond his strength. He finds that he needs to totally rely on God, Who makes everything possible. Pastor Effendi began Sunday church services and Sunday School in the two main cities, Telek Dalam and Gunung Sitoli. To reach the children, he also opened a preschool with thirty-five students.

Nias is known for one more thing—its nearly impassible roads. The trip of a little over seventy miles between the two cities can take six very bumpy hours. During the wet season, mudslides and washed-out bridges can make even paved roads nearly impassible.

One problem with ministry in an isolated area is the need for more resources. Pastor Effendi would greatly appreciate books to teach him how he can better teach the people of Nias about God and God's Word. Since he started the ministry with kids, he also feels the need to learn more about working with and teaching children.

Will you help Pastor Effendi? Your gift to **Bikes and Books for Pastors** will help Pastor Effendi and other pastors around the world.

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On the island of Mindanao in the Philippines a faithful Filipino pastor is working hard to tell his people about Jesus. Over 18 million people live on Mindanao. Some are Muslims. Some people are animists who believe that if they do not satisfy the spirits, they will have problems like sickness, bad harvests, and even death. People offer pigs and chickens as sacrifices to make the spirits happy. These people need to know that Jesus came to earth and died to pay the penalty for our sin. The pastor teaches people from the Bible that the only way to have their sins forgiven and to have a right relationship with God is to believe in Jesus.

For many years this faithful pastor planted churches near the large city of Davao. Every weekend he takes a bus to a remote mountainous area. Then he walks for hours to reach the villages where God has called him to tell the people about Jesus. Then he has to walk back to the highway and take the bus home. He also spends several days each week ministering to the police officers in Davao.

The churches he is planting are still small and they cannot pay him very much. A church in Davao gives him some support, but not enough to buy a bicycle. The church planter's wife has cancer and he has to buy medicine for her.

Your offering to **Bikes and Books for Pastors** could help this pastor purchase a motorbike. With the motorbike he could reach more villages and more people for Jesus.

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Would you like to live in a place where there are elephants, tigers, leopards, and monkeys? Pastor Solomon Hulikavi and his wife, Punkaj, live near the west coast of India, in a beautiful area full of interesting animals—and full of people who need to know about Jesus. Pastor and Mrs. Hulikavi love the Lord Jesus and want to build churches of people who love and worship God and obey God's Word.

As a young person, Solomon Hulikavi began to seek the way to find eternal life. After reading the New Testament and attending a Sunday School, he became afraid. If he were to die, would he go to Heaven? When he was fourteen years old, he attended evangelistic meetings. He believed that Jesus is God the Son, and that He had come to earth and lived the perfect life, never doing anything wrong. He believed that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for his sin, and that Jesus rose from the dead. Solomon no longer needed to worry about where he would go after he died. He *knew* that He was a Christian and would go to Heaven to be with Jesus forever.

Pastor Hulikavi is now the pastor of five house churches in five different cities. Some of those cities are more than thirty miles apart. He is also involved in a church planting ministry under Beacon Baptist Ministries.

Pastor Hulikavi writes, "I have great need of commentaries and study books to help me prepare sermons and lessons for Bible studies. I would appreciate your prayer and your help in obtaining study books." Please help Pastor Hulikavi by giving to **Bikes and Books for Pastors**.

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Along the coast of the Bay of Bengal is a part of India called Orissa. Orissa is known for its beautiful beaches, forests, hills, and mountains. Orissa is also known for its Hindu temples. Most of the people who live in this part of India are Hindus.

For the last three years, some Hindu militants have tried to keep any Hindus from becoming Christians. Many believers were killed and their Bibles burned. Tens of thousands of Christian believers fled their homes and hid in the forests and jungles. Thousands of homes were burned. Some Hindu militants even offered money to people who would kill Christians and burn their homes, shops, and churches, and especially for killing a pastor. They tried to make Christians say that they would be Hindus and not Christians.

Pastor Prakash is a pastor with the New Testament Baptist Churches Association, under H.C. Stephen. Pastor Prakash lives in Orissa, telling the people about Jesus and working with a small group of believers to start a new church. He had to flee from his home and go to live in a refugee camp set up by the government for Christians who had lost their homes and could not go back to their villages.

You can help pastors like Pastor Prakash. Please pray for him and for the Christians who live in Orissa state in India. Your missions offering for **Bikes and Books for Pastors** can help and encourage pastors like Pastor Prakash.

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Very few Christians live in the city of Kathmandu in Nepal. Most of the people are either Hindu or Buddhist. Over 2,000 temples and shrines to Buddha or to false Hindu gods and goddesses can be found in just in that one city.

The government of Nepal does not allow any foreign missionaries into Nepal. But there are a few brave pastors who are telling people in Nepal about Jesus. Pastor Tamang grew up in Nepal. He graduated from Berean Baptist College in India and then returned to serve God in Nepal.

Very early each morning Pastor Tamang can see hundreds of Buddhists and Hindus walking to the Monkey Temple on a hill just outside the city. As people approach the gate to the temple, they pass hundreds of prayer wheels—copper cylinders holding thousands of written Buddhist prayers. It takes people an hour to walk all the way around the hill, spinning each prayer wheel as they come to it. Every time they spin a prayer wheel, they believe that all those prayers inside are credited to their account. To receive a better place in their next life, people believe they need to make as many prayers as possible. If you enter the gate, people can be seen bowing before statues of Buddha and then climbing more than three hundred steps up to the temple.

Pastor Tamang and his wife love the Lord Jesus very much. They want their people to know that people can have a relationship with God, not on the basis of religious things we do, but because Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin and then rose from the dead. They want their people to know that prayer is talking to God. Pastor Tamang planted a small church in Kathmandu and then trained three men to work with him. Then he started two more churches on the outskirts of the city.

Kathmandu is an exciting, rapidly growing city. The streets are crowded, with traffic jams and lots of bicycle and car horns blowing. Whole families ride past on motorbikes. Pastor Tamang really needs a bike to help him more effectively carry on his ministry. Please help by bringing your offering for **Bikes and Books for Pastors**.

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A boy named Jonathan Whyman grew up in Gbozon, a village in Liberia in West Africa. In his village people worshiped spirits. Every year people would sacrifice a young girl in the belief that doing this would bring bountiful blessings on their village and community. Jonathan's father was the chief priest at the shrine where the sacrifice was made, and the boy was involved in all the activities at the shrine.

Jonathan grew up and got married. He had two sons, Chester and Garkpa, and a little daughter named Irene.

On October 13, 1987, a Liberian pastor and evangelist named Joseph Garkpalor visited the village of Gbozon. He preached on John 14:6, and Jonathan learned that Jesus is the only way to God. At the end of the sermon Jonathan raised his hand and asked if he could receive Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Pastor Garkpalor happily showed Jonathan how he could have his sins forgiven and have a right relationship with God.

Because of his decision to believe in Jesus, Jonathan was thrown out of the village. He was told that he would be killed if he ever came back. He had no choice but to leave behind his dear wife, Marpue, and his three little children.

Jonathan began studying in a Bible school. Two years later he graduated. He believed that God was leading him to go back to his village—so he went back. He was reunited with his wife and three children. God protected Pastor Jonathan Whyman. He preached the gospel and taught his people. He planted five churches in and near his village. His father and mother were saved and became members of his Faith Baptist Church.

Here is Pastor Whyman's prayer list:

- The Bible and other teaching materials in the Bassa language, so his people can better understand the Word of God
- A bicycle or other means of transportation so he can reach other villages for Jesus in the shortest possible amount of time
- Money for a roof for three of his churches: Faith Baptist Church, Salvation Baptist Church, and Duozone Baptist Church.

Please help Pastor Whyman by bringing your offering for **Bikes and Books for Pastors**.