

## Pakistan—Reports from the Churches



The pandemic reached Pakistan at the beginning of March. At that time, everything seemed normal when suddenly the whole country went into lockdown. By 8pm of March 21, all flights had been cancelled. By March 22, all businesses were shut down and residents were put on home quarantine, the end date of which got repeatedly pushed back due to continued rise in the number of infected cases. People were left feeling anxious and helpless as they watched the number of infected cases rising and the government posting new measures and announcements each day.

The brothers felt that this was a time to swim against the tide by looking after the material and spiritual needs of the saints. Through fellowship and much prayer, we were able to visit almost all the families of the saints prior to the lockdown to provide them with basic necessities. We also got to fellowship with them on how to practice the church life during the quarantine period, that is, to have daily prayer and pursuit with their family members and to establish all kinds of online meetings and fellowship. Thank the Lord! As we practiced these in the past few months, we indeed saw the Lord's blessings in various aspects.

### ISB

Since the government's announcement of the lockdown, we transitioned our physical church meetings to online meetings. At first it seemed such an outward circumstance would cause the church to suffer loss. But praise the Lord! He has His good intentions in all circumstances. He led us to a path that had never been taken, but it was indeed a path abounding in blessings. Initially, there were three districts with five small groups in our locality. When we started practicing the online church life, we subdivided the groups in order to take care of every brother and sister. As a result, five small groups became nine small groups and the Lord's Day Meetings were also held in nine groups. The number of attendance on Lord's Day went up from the average of 102 prior to the lockdown to 115, and the participants of the prayer meeting also increased from 39 to 57. Since we could no longer go out to preach the gospel and visit the saints, we used our evenings to pursue the Lord's word together in our respective small groups. The once-a-week small group meeting

turned into daily group meetings. Praise the Lord! We seem to be experiencing what the apostle Paul experienced: We are pressed on every side but not constricted; unable to find a way out but not utterly without a way out.

### KHI

In the midst of the pandemic, we spent 43 days bringing the brothers and sisters into an in-depth pursuit of the book of Revelation. Every day we pray-read this book chapter by chapter for two hours. The words had great impacts on us and brought forth much enlightenment and revelation. All the brothers and sisters who participated in this Bible reading experienced a great spiritual revival. We also put much focus on the global prayer watch. By helping the saints take part in this global move, our prayers were strengthened and uplifted. This nationwide lockdown also prompted us to put the internet platform into great use. We started sending our daily enjoyment not only to the brothers and sisters in the church life, but also to Christian acquaintances and their friends and relatives. The responses were very positive. We thank and look to the Lord to strengthen His testimony here continually!

### LHE

The 24-hour global prayer watch on March 31 brought us into the flow of prayer. On that day, many brothers and sisters rose up to seize the opportunity to pray. Following this, the brothers called for a 30-day global prayer watch, which we deeply felt was the present need and leading of the Lord. Therefore we sounded a call for the saints to sign up for prayer. It began with 20 saints, and by the end of April the number that prayed daily had reached 66. At present, there are 82 brothers and sisters in more than twenty different prayer groups taking part in this prayer watch. This number is double that of the average Lord's Day attendance prior to the lockdown.

Certainly the Lord heard our prayers. The number of saints participating in the Lord's Day meeting and other meetings not only did not decrease due to the lockdown, but continued to increase. In addition, we started a brothers' online prayer meeting and fellowship. The average attendance on Lord's Day went from an average of 44

people at the early part of the year to an average of 56 people in April (and 68 for the first three weeks of May). Previously, the saints broke bread at four locations, and now at eight locations. The number of small group attendance also went from 29 to 47. Moreover, 17 new ones got saved and baptized in the first three weeks of May. These are blessings we had never experienced in the many years of the church life here. Thank the Lord!

## RWL

During the pandemic, although our outward activities were very restricted, we grasped the opportunity to gather the burdened local brothers to pursue the book of Revelation and "The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit" together. A group of brothers diligently entered into the Lord's Word almost every day, which laid a good foundation of pursuing the truth. We received so much help from the Lord's Word during this time that we feel we must not only practice in this way during the time of pandemic but continue to do so until the Lord returns.

## Current Situation of the Churches in Bangladesh

During the early days of the lockdown, the brothers prayed and fellowshiped regarding the need to carve out a good portion of time to enter into God's Word. So we selected some reading materials by Brother Lee concerning training on the God-ordained way. We got into one message per day corporately on social media. Many were greatly enlightened and helped to have an uplifted view of the practice of begetting, nourishing, teaching and building. Then we put what we read into practice by reaching out also via social media to our gospel friends and saints whom we had not contacted for a long time. They were all very anxious and without peace. So we prayed with them and supplied them with the nourishing word of the Lord. This kind of practice didn't take much time and allowed us to reach more people. Our home meetings and Lord's Day Meetings were also held online. Since we increased the number of online meetings on each Lord's Day, more saints were able to attend the Lord's Day meetings.

### Entering into the Fellowship and Prayer of the Body

The lockdown was still in effect in May. We realized this was a special time arranged by God for us to pause from our busy schedules and have more hidden prayers. Following the fellowship of the Body, we led the local saints into the global prayer watch. Through participating in the global prayer watch, the saints gradually developed a burden for the move of the Body and the Lord over the whole earth. We also had a corporate online pursuit of the Memorial Day Conference messages with a number of saints, through which we saw the world situation and God's move, and fully entered into the Lord's present-day burden.

### Gospel Video Production and Promotion

To the world, this pandemic is a disaster. But according to our brothers, we should look at this as a period of travailing in birth to bring forth the overcomers. Moreover, this is an excellent time for the gospel and we must seize the opportunity. The saints responded to

## Training for the Serving Ones

Beginning in the second week of May, we started an online national training for the serving ones. Thirty-three brothers who signed up from various localities pursued the eight messages on "The Will of God" from the 2020 Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones. Then on May 16 we had an online national fellowship where all the brothers prophesied one by one. Each locality also reported on the church life statistics before and after the pandemic and gave testimonies of their experiences. At the end a serving brother encouraged the brothers to seize this rare opportunity to gain more people via internet, to rise up and pray for the carrying out of God's will and God's move, to be vital persons living a God-man living to be today's overcomers, and to practice vital groups in 2's and 3's. This is to bear our ultimate responsibility in this ultimate age.

May the Lord grant more grace to the churches that by entering into these burdens and practices, the churches would be blessed with much increase and building up.

this word and many participated in the production of gospel videos. At present, ten gospel videos have been produced and publicized on Facebook and other online media. May the Lord use these videos for those who seek Him to find Him and gain Him as their peace. May He also gain more young people.

Finally, may the God of all grace establish the saints in various ways that they may know His will and cooperate with Him to be His overcomers and the means for His move to advance. May the Lord also provide for their practical needs during this pandemic.

