



# The Great Commission Fund

FRUIT THAT ABOUNDS TO YOUR ACCOUNT—PHILIPPINES 4:17

February 2025

## THE MINISTRIES OF THOMAS MAHER

A CHURCH PLANTER IN INDIA, AND MANY CLOSED COUNTRIES

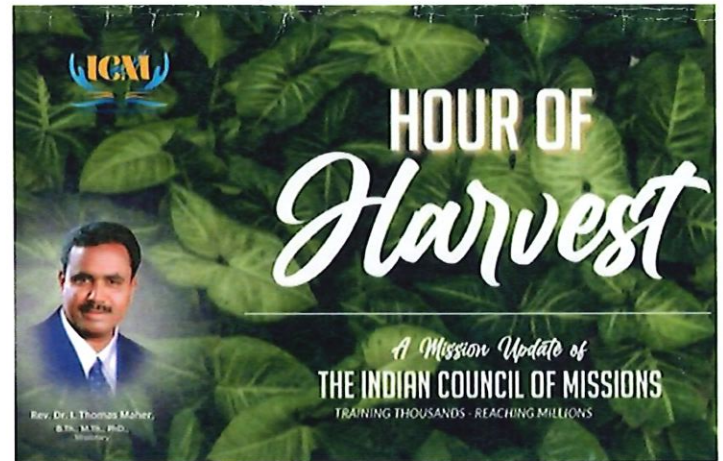
By Jon Nelms

This month, we are doing something a little different. Rather than collecting data and writing you a comprehensive report on a specific man or ministry supported by the Great Commission Fund (from the funds you give), I want to send you an entire report from one such group.

Why? Because it is so well written and filled with great news, I thought he did a better job talking about their work than I could do reporting on it second-hand. So, I will copy it here for you without editorial comments.

If you have been with us for a while, you know the name Thomas Maher. I have visited him numerous times, and we have helped them finance their Bible College, feeding centers, and church planters. Brother Eddie Wilson also fully finances a daily television program in his state of Tamil Nadu that is reaping a great harvest. Souls are saved and provided freely with a bible course, and Thomas' network of 19,000 Baptist pastors provides follow-up.

Enjoy what you read, and be blessed as you see the fruit of your contributions—treasures laid up for you in Heaven. And help us do more by sharing this report with your family and friends. Let's do more together.



**Acts 13:47...For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.**

This Bible verse highlights a significant directive from the Lord, emphasizing the role of the faithful as a guiding light to the Gentiles. This verse underscores the mission of spreading salvation beyond traditional boundaries, extending the message of hope and redemption to all nations and peoples. The phrase "to be a light of the Gentiles" signifies not only the responsibility of believers to share their faith but also the inclusive nature of God's salvation, which is intended for everyone, reaching to the very ends of the earth. This passage invites reflection on the importance of outreach and the universal call to embrace and share the transformative power of faith with all humanity.



## A portion of their 2024 Results

Dear Friend,

I am absolutely thrilled to share with you a brief yet uplifting update about our ministry in India and Asia. We are blessed to have one hundred and six dedicated missionaries, all trained through our Bible College, passionately reaching out to the unreached with the gospel. These remarkable pastors have successfully planted approximately 428 house churches in remote villages across India in the year 2024, igniting a spiritual movement that has seen **over 18,927 individuals attending weekly Bible studies**. Their commitment continues as they diligently follow up with new converts, providing them with weekly Bible lessons to nurture their faith. It brings me immense joy to report that in **41 mission fields, 367 individuals have taken the step of faith to be baptized**. This is truly a testament to the transformative power of God's love and the tireless efforts of our devoted team!

It is with great joy that we share the remarkable achievements of **our missionaries in Bangladesh**, a predominantly Muslim country where approximately 99% of the population identifies as Muslim.

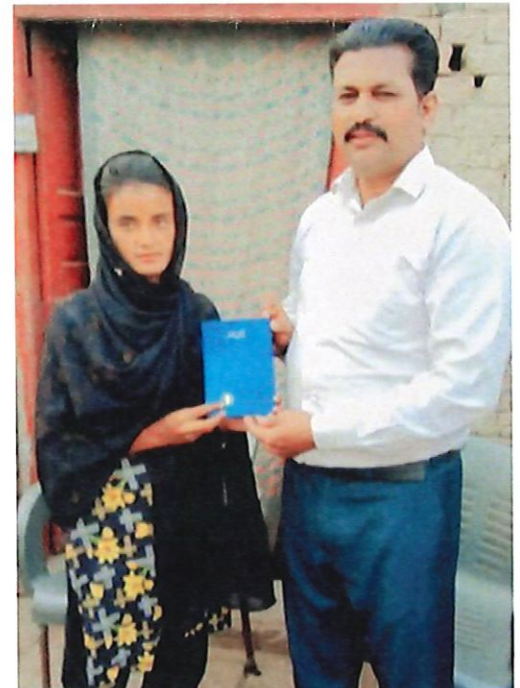
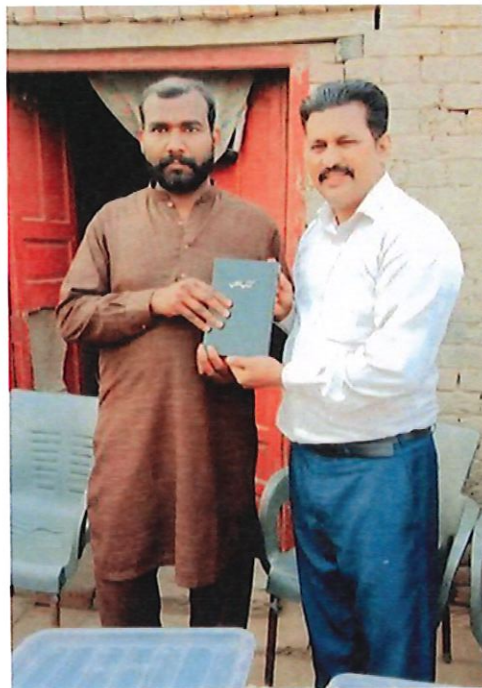




Missionary Abdul Rahim, who accepted Jesus at the age of 26, graduated from our Bible college in 2017 and has since returned to his homeland to spread the Gospel and establish churches. Together with his wife, he has dedicated himself to full-time mission-

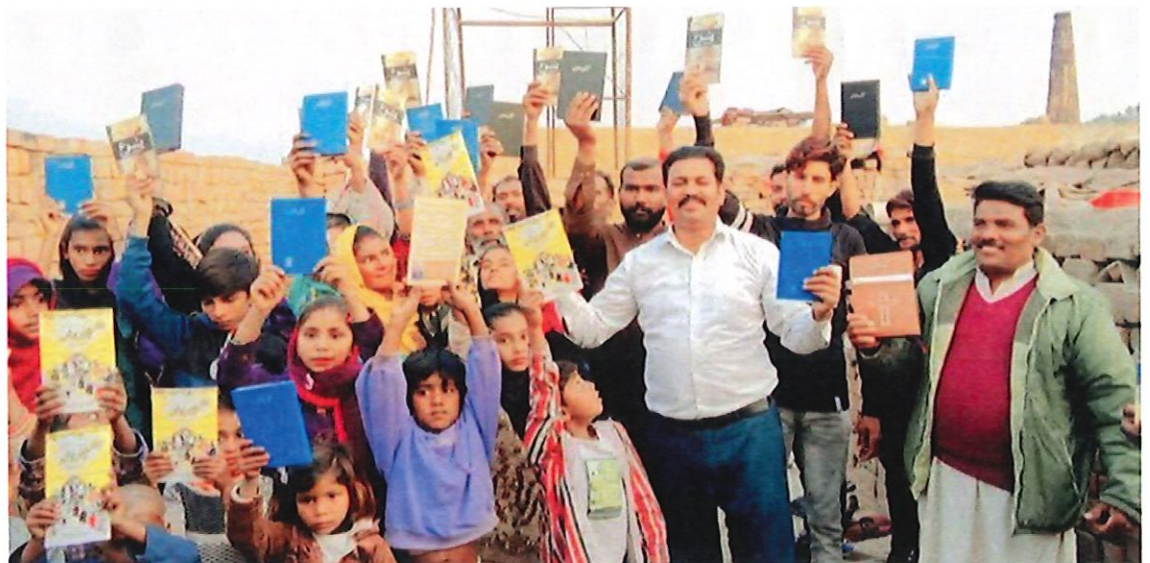


ary work, successfully planting eight house churches in small towns despite facing continuous persecution from Muslim extremists. Their unwavering commitment to their faith is evident as they serve boldly, empowered by the Holy Spirit. **In January 2025 alone, Missionary Abdul Rahim distributed 211 Bibles to new believers,** demonstrating his dedication to sharing the message of hope and salvation in a challenging environment.



## Touch a Life

The Feeding Children Project (FCP) plays a significant role in enhancing the lives of **175 children** by ensuring they receive adequate nutrition and educational support. With a commitment to providing **5,250 meals each month,** FCP has effec-





tively eliminated hunger for these children, allowing them to attend school daily with the necessary supplies and uniforms that FCP provides. In addition to addressing their nutritional needs, the project also facilitates weekly Bible classes for the children, fostering spiritual growth and community engagement. Furthermore, the initiative has encouraged older community members to participate in weekly Bible study



sessions, demonstrating its broader impact on the community. Through its comprehensive approach, FCP not only nourishes these children physically but also supports their educational and spiritual development, thereby paving the way for a brighter future.

In January 2025, significant strides were made in the outreach and community support efforts across **India and Bangladesh**. A total of 106 pastors dedicated their efforts to preaching the gospel, **reaching an impressive audience of 6,719 individuals across 424 villages in India**. In addition to spiritual nourishment, humanitarian initiatives were also a focus, with **175 children receiving daily meals through four dedicated feeding centres**. The **establishment of 428 active House Churches** reflects a growing commitment to fostering faith-based communities. In India, the impact of these efforts was further evidenced by **367 individuals who took the step of baptism**. In the Bangladesh distribution of **211 Bibles**, highlighting a concerted effort to spread both spiritual and educational resources in the region.

## Results from 2024

- In 2024, we experienced the incredible grace of God in our ministry across 26 states in **India**, as well as in **Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka**.
- The television program "**Hour of Harvest**," which features a remarkable total of **313 episodes**. Airing from Monday to Saturday, each episode is designed to captivate audiences with its engaging content, filling a dedicated half-hour slot.
- In 2024, a delightful treasure trove of knowledge, affectionately **booklet called the "Fruit That Remains,"** was shared with a remarkable **31,857 new believers!** This enlightening booklet not only featured the inspiring books of John and Romans but also included 13 essential Christian doctrines to help nurture their faith.
- In our heartfelt humanitarian initiative in 2024, we are proud to share that we successfully distributed more than **68,000 food packets** to those



in need, including hungry children, elderly individuals, the sick, and widows.

- In 2024, we celebrated the remarkable achievement of **84 students** who successfully graduated and stepped into full-time evangelistic careers. This milestone is particularly inspiring as many of these graduates have taken on essential roles as pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and Bible college professors. **Their influence extends beyond India, reaching into five other countries across Asia.**
- Our ministry is truly blessed to have **106 devoted full-time pastors** who are on a mission to plant churches throughout the beautiful regions of Tamil Nadu, India. With their steadfast commitment and the grace of God lighting their path, they've successfully **nurtured 428 house churches in remote villages**, transforming them into vibrant hubs of worship and community spirit. It's heartwarming to see around 18,927 individuals coming together in these sacred spaces to celebrate and honor our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We've hit a holy milestone by **distributing around 19,263 Bibles in six vibrant languages—Tamil, Hindi, Bengali, Burmese, Nepali, and Bhutanese!** This remarkable achievement wouldn't have

been possible without the tireless **dedication of our 138 pastors**, who are truly the shepherds of their **communities across India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan**

#### **Prayer Requests for this group:**

We are earnestly praying for the provision of 12,000 Bibles or more for the year 2025. Bibles cost about \$6 each.

#### **Note:**

What you have read is a summary of their accomplishments in 2024, while some stats were related to January only. Imagine the work that could be done if we could help all 19,000 of the preachers in his network being added to the 29,000 already in the Final Frontiers network.

The only hinderance is funding. Yes, they are serving now but imagine what they could do if they were full time. For these village pastors, monthly support of \$10-\$35, along with the stipend they get from their poor church members, would allow them to become full time.

**Your next Great Commission Fund report will be included in the upcoming Progress Report.**