

ANATOMY OF A PROJECT

(Country Name Omitted and Names Changed For Security Reasons)

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We had a plan. By most accounts, it was a simple enough plan, but, since the plan would be implemented 8,000 miles away in South Asia, we needed a partner. **Enter partner #1: Silas**, the national pastor of a small church located near our target would fit the bill. Our target? One-thousand unreached refugee families desperate for outside intervention. **Lightbearers** came in contact with Silas last April on a Discovery Trip, and we sensed the Lord's leadership to work with him in getting the Gospel and life-saving food, supplies, and blankets into the refugee camp. As the project began to develop and a budget was

credibility with Lightbearers. The Stevens would travel to the distribution site, purchase the goods (arranged in advance by Pastor Silas), and capture the event in photo & video. The Stevens were in regular contact with Lightbearers and, as the event grew nearer, the plan seemed nearly flawless.

We had a plan. This plan involved sharing the Gospel as clearly as possible so that no one would wonder what motivated our actions. Christ, and salvation in Him alone, had to be clearly presented with no cultural misunderstandings. **Enter partner**

#4: Paul, a national pastor with broad experience in church-planting and felt-needs ministry would do perfectly. Paul would provide the indigenous element we needed to ensure the success of our plan. With our partnership complete, the date was set, and the ball was set in motion.

We had a plan. By most accounts, it was simple enough. But, this is mis-

sions. We also had a few highjackers. Don't worry, no one stole a vehicle or took our team hostage. Our highjackers were interested in taking our plans captive and using our provisions for their own gain. But, we hadn't factored these guys into our plan!

Enter highjacker #1: Pastor Silas! (A double agent?!) As the event grew near, Pastor Silas decided that instead of holding the event discreetly in the refugee camp he would rent

an outdoor hall, hire a professional music team, and blast the preaching through a sound system that would register on a seismograph! Our team discovered this change while driving to the event! So much for traveling "under the radar."

Enter highjacker #2: The Politicians. Although these impoverished migrants had no political power, the magnitude of the event (thanks to Pastor Silas' change) drew the attention of the local vote-getters. Even the highest-ranking official in the state came and was given mic-time where he praised the work of the Christians and endorsed our event. (Note: It's illegal to proselytize; yet he was publicly endorsing the sharing of the Gospel!)

Enter highjacker #3: The Blanket Swiper. Most of the blankets departed in the hands of the poor, but about 400 were unaccounted for. The "swiper" was actually a believing man who assisted the local church in making arrangements. Where did the 400 blankets go? Who knew for certain?

Enter highjacker #4: Pastor Silas!! (Didn't we mention him already?) As Paul and the Stevens



set another partner emerged. **Enter partner #2: The Wilson family** clearly felt the Lord's call to donate the funds necessary to complete the project. With the funds and a local church in place, our plan was beginning to sprout wings.

We had a plan. This plan included the distribution of goods from local vendors, but, for the plan to work effectively we needed a local partner to handle the funds and provide over-all accountability. **Enter partner #3: The Stevens** were an American couple living in the region who had already established





POWER POINT



PIONEERING PRAYER for one of 28 priority people groups

The 6 million Kashmiri Muslims live in a breathtaking region of India. Ninety percent of the region is covered with mountains and snow. It is home to K2, the second highest peak in the world. Sheep, goats, and yaks are tended in these elevations and harvested for cashmere, the wool for which the Kashmir state gets its name.

When India and Pakistan divided, the Kashmir state was allowed to choose which country to join. The rulers, being Hindu, chose India. However the majority of the people, being Muslim, felt aligned with Pakistan. Today, most of this Sunni Muslim majority has heard of Jesus Christ, but they know him only as prophet and teacher—not hope of the world.

• Pray that the Kashmiri Muslims would lift their eyes to the mountains and know that their help comes from the Lord (Psalm 121).

• Ask God to call out laborers who could communicate this truth to them.

KASHMIRI



before, let alone allowed to share the Gospel message! (Remember, the government officially bans conversion; yet, now the politicians were the ones responsible for the broadcast. Instant amnesty!!) Our political fame-seekers also mandated a large show of military and police protection, answering a specific prayer that the Lord would provide safety to our team and protect our supplies from looters!

What of the other hijackers? Pastor Silas was found to be a good brother who fell into temptation, persuaded by worldly men to believe taking a commission was acceptable. When Biblically confronted by Pastor Paul, Silas broke, weeping and crying out Scriptures of repentance to God. The scene had to be reminiscent of King David as he compared the vileness of his adulterous sin to the holiness of God. Pastor Silas returned the money and was fully restored by our on-site partners. The greatest work of God is always in the human heart!

As for the Blanket Swiper, God used his dastardly deed and the generosity of the “American Christians” to motivate Pastor Silas and his congregation to raise the money needed to purchase an additional 500 blankets for the migrant workers and to begin working directly with them. Their young people caught a vision for the young migrants during the distribution, and their adults realized that they, too, have the ability to give of themselves to reach the camp. An amazing result at the expense of “losing” 400 blankets!

In missions, like in life, we must never lose sight of God’s Sovereignty in all things. His path always direct us to His work for His glory. May we never be so locked on our plan that we miss Him; and, don’t be surprised if He uses a few “highjackers” along the way to keep us on the right path!



with the selfish ambitions of man, has a way of breaking the test-tube of simple theories. Scripture is clear that even though man plans his ways, it’s the Lord that “directs his path.” And, at the end of our well-planned / well-highjacked distribution, the direction of HIS path was strewn with bushels of eternal fruit.

Here’s how our story comes to a close. Paul, Silas and Mr. Stevens preached at the high-profile event, clearly presenting the Gospel. Over 2000 attended the event personally and countless others could hear the message over the powerful speakers. Many of the migrants (our plan) and hundreds of the poor from 10 surrounding villages (not our plan) received critical food supplies and blankets. Also, since the event had been “highjacked” by a couple of politicians, the regional media was present; and, our event was broadcast live to over 1 million viewers!! No one could remember any Christian being broadcast in that region

began pouring over the receipts and visiting with locals they felt that things were not as they should be. After two-days of investigations and a couple of intense (yelling...) confrontations with shop-keepers, church members, politicians, etc., our detectives discovered that Pastor Silas had made arrangements with a blanket vendor to pocket some of our funds as a “commission” for giving that vendor the business. Needless to say, our team was shocked.

HE had a plan. Plans always sound simple when you talk about them, but the real world, riddled