

Ahmed: SHINING THE LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS

The predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir, India, where Ahmed lived was in utter turmoil. And so was he.

Militant groups and soldiers clashed on the streets. Violence disturbed communities and families. Innocent civilians became casualties. Ahmed watched as many of his friends and neighbors were ruthlessly killed by militant “freedom fighters.”

Because he didn't want to fight or choose sides, Ahmed became a target. He was forced to flee his home in Kashmir. In his new city, Ahmed met a pastor who prayed for him and told him about Jesus. Ahmed found great comfort in God's Word and the kindness of the pastor. Soon, he left Islam to follow Christ.

When Ahmed's family and friends learned of his decision, they rejected him. “Though I was treated harshly,” he said, “I did not give up my faith but wished to win my people for Christ.”

Ahmed started studying the Bible and joined a small house church with only four believers. **He felt called to share the love of Christ.** When Ahmed heard a visiting pastor read Isaiah 6:8 — in which the Lord asks Isaiah, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” — Ahmed and three

other men raised their hands, offering the same response as Isaiah: “Here I am! Send me.” Ahmed and the other evangelists shared the gospel throughout their city for the next several years, eventually planting seven churches before Ahmed returned to Kashmir to evangelize in his hometown. Ahmed's bold witness has led many Kashmiris to place their trust in Christ. It has also brought persecution and struggle to Ahmed and his family. In 19 years of spreading the gospel, Ahmed has been forced to move with his wife and children 185 times due to threats on their lives, but he does not give in to fear.

“I wanted to preach the gospel. The pastor said I was living in a Hindu country where there is total darkness and in a city in total darkness, so I should take the light.”
—Ahmed

“My work is not yet accomplished,” he said. “God has a greater plan and purpose in my life. Nobody can wipe me out from this earth until his plans are accomplished through me.”

Ahmed's goal is to plant house churches in each of Kashmir's 10 districts and to train leaders throughout the region. Today, there are churches in four districts.

Ahmed expects his ministry to continue growing, no matter the cost. “If there is persecution, I can face it,” he said. “I wish to see great transformation among the Kashmiri people. If I am killed, I will have fought a good fight. I will have run a good race.”

