

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

Daniel 3:18-19

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RETIRED ARIZONA COUPLE HONORS RIOT VICTIMS IN INDIA



David and Taru watched in horror as thousands of angry rioters stormed their local police precinct.

INDIA

[David Raj Kumar](#) turned to look at his wife, [Taru](#), as the video call with ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#), concluded and his face disappeared from the screen of their phone.

“Are we really going to do this?” her raised eyebrows said.

During the call they'd related to Steve that they had watched in horror as their TV news station broadcasted thousands of angry rioters burning buildings, vehicles and personal property of police personnel. When they recognized the precinct building in question as the one they pass near

each day on their way to minister at Deepam Center, they were shaken. Many of the rioters were from their ministry area, a slum referred to as “Little Pakistan” by the locals because of its 95% Muslim population.

Because of the rising tensions, David and Taru had been prevented from getting to the slum where before the COVID-19 lockdowns, they ministered daily. At their ministry site, [Deepam Center](#), they share Jesus with Muslim families through their primary school and women's classes.

When Steve heard about the riots, the Lord immediately nudged him to encourage the Kumars to consider reaching out with some sort of

demonstration of Jesus' love for the people who work at the precinct.

In general, we are told and have observed that many Indians are deeply fearful of the police, who are known to maintain control through intimidation and fear of their brutality.

Naturally, David and Taru were fearful of Steve's idea. Would they get caught in another riot? Would visiting the precinct attract unwanted attention and abuse? Would they be seen by people they know from Modi Road and alienate them? A Google search performed by their son showed the neighborhood around the precinct building was the darkest possible shade of red, indicating a high concentration of COVID-19. Would their visit lead to them contracting the infection?

What the Lord led them to do next was something they wouldn't have anticipated.

“We never would have thought to do this,” David reflected afterward, a statement that was later repeated by Taru. But after praying about it, they felt it was what the Lord wanted them to do. They didn't wait around hoping He'd change His mind. They went quickly to the precinct - though it was with “trembling hearts.”

“Lord, give me grace to talk with them,” David prayed as they rode public transportation to the precinct. The precinct building was a large, three-story building. It was covered with well-kept, forest-green paint that made the white trim of *(continued on p.2)*

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the many caged windows stand out. A wide, curved driveway of I-shaped pavers led to a covered main entrance. Across the street, the shell of a bus was blackened by a riot fire. To the side, the impound lot still bore the leftover char marks from the riot. The parking lot was smeared with the singed carnage of precinct employees' personal bicycles and motorbikes -

the brainstorming phase with Steve, David had thought there would be 15-20 people in the precinct - certainly no more than 30. The funding for a small gift for 20 hadn't seemed like it would be problematic. But the list he held stated in plain black and white that the original estimate was expanded by almost five times!

place a shawl over their shoulders.

On Saturday, August 29, David and Taru again found themselves striding across the cobblestones that led to the green and white building with 92 shawls and cloth packages in tow.

David and Taru were stunned at what happened next.

They thought they'd only be allowed to leave the gifts with a high ranking officer who would distribute them.

Like most police precincts, the building was humming with activity when they stepped inside. The tension in the air was palpable. Radio messages blared from the hips of officers as they hustled through the building, delivering messages or supporting operations, like the prisoner transport happening that day. Officers were bringing in a steady stream of arrested perpetrators. The rooms were peppered with the accused, waiting for various steps in the processing of their arrest. The offenders leaned against walls or sat wherever there was space.

To David and Taru's astonishment, they were led into a long room with white walls and several windows. The room was already occupied by quite a few people awaiting the processing of their arrests.

The officer ranking second-in-command gathered as many of the officers and staff as were available in the long room. He was a distinguished looking man, with an air of authority. On his forehead was a small, red dot or *bindi* often worn by people of the Hindu faith. He asked David and Taru to sit, while the rest of the officers

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The initial contact had gone better than expected, but a new dilemma had presented itself.

their means of transportation to and from work.

David and Taru approached the main entrance with a borrowed boldness - a courage that comes only when you know you are in the will of the Lord - masking their inner impulses to get far away from there.

"Do you have someone inside?" the gate keeper asked them roughly, her face rigid. She was used to being accosted daily by a constant stream of people pleading the innocence of their arrested loved ones, so she assumed this was the reason for their visit.

"No, no, we saw the riot on TV and we want to see if we can honor you in some small way. We want to do something good," David explained.

That's when David and Taru witnessed the first of several small miracles surrounding this outreach.

The guard's face softened. David's proposition touched a deep need in her to be recognized, and she permitted them to enter. David and Taru were taken to one of the higher-ranking officers. They explained to him what they wanted to do, and asked if they could have a list of everyone working at the precinct. Miraculously, he printed a docket for them on the spot!

David held the list of 92 names as they left the building. The initial contact had gone better than expected, but a new dilemma had presented itself. In

"I didn't know what to do," David said. Now that they'd approached the officers and taken a list, it was an unspoken cultural requirement. They had to follow through, but they hadn't planned on this many people.

"Maybe I can take it out of my support," David told Steve when they called him later on to report on the visit's success. Steve responded, "We will both do that if we have to, and trust the Lord."

But the Lord had other plans to accomplish His purpose with this outreach. He had some other people He wanted to get involved. The following day, a retired couple that has volunteered at ITMI for over 25 years felt God's leading. They followed obediently and provided funding for all 92 of the precinct members to receive a shawl and a brightly wrapped package with gender-specific cloth they could take to a local tailor to craft into a new outfit! In Indian culture, if you want to honor someone, you publicly

David and Taru present officers with a gift of honor.



From the Director



DEAR TEAM: How the Lord Used Donors Like You to Provide in the Nick of Time



God's provision through partners like you has allowed us to feed thousands if not tens of thousands!

We have not yet seen the end of 2020, but most can agree that 2020 is a year like no other.

Is it possible to cram one more “event” into what we call 2020? Can we agree that a pandemic, a world-wide lockdown, demonstrations, riots, contentious national elections, mandatory in-person church closures, pastors being threatened with jail time, and the loss of financial stability is enough for this year?

We in the Phoenix area have also experienced some firsts. Imagine 50+ days of searing 110+ degree days. Well into October, we are forecasted to still experience 105 degree days.

Everything seems to be turned upside down. Many seem to be wringing their hands, verbally, or at least mentally and emotionally. Challenges are not really an unusual situation. Sin and its master continue to “...steal, kill and destroy.”

Max Lucado writes in his new book, *You are Never Alone*, about what it must have been like for the Apostle John in his waning years. He had seen and experienced much in his life. John was at one time “the youngest of the twelve that toured the countryside with Jesus.” John surely remembered in his old age the “sinking feeling he felt when...he learned his brother [Jesus] has been put to death. ...The others in the band had soon followed. Peter. Andrew. Thomas. Philip. Matthew. Even the apostle Paul was gone. They had all left this earth and entered into their eternal reward. Only he remained. John . . . the last of the twelve. Perhaps you can relate to this feeling of being alone.”

Yet, all is not lost. God was with John and God is with us. God is showing and has shown that He is not limited by fears and concerns of this world. He is still in control. ITMI was led into [Project Joseph](#), feeding the needy, at the beginning of this pandemic. Through our partners like you, God's provision has allowed us to feed thousands if not tens of thousands, in Eastern Europe, [Africa](#) and [India](#). Our national partners have “store-housed” food and distributed it in Jesus' name, with government approval, and even government help, during the pandemic. Even with all this hands-on ministry during this difficult time, only one ITMI partner contracted the COVID-19 virus and he was on furlough in the U.S., and has since recovered. God is so good and He is still in control.

ITMI's [Casa Dorca Children's Home](#) in Romania was down to half a month's needed funds and they still had to pay the previous month's electric bill. God provided through two generous donors financial help to carry this wonderful loving home for another couple of months. When he heard the fantastic news, **Ionel Iovescu**, Casa Dorca's Director, shared with great emotion in his voice, “...I knew it, but God *really* is real!”

Max Lucado gently warns us, “...we need to be careful to see them [the miracles chronicled in the Book of John] as John intended—not as entries in a history book but as samples from God's playbook. John wrote down these miracles not to impress us but to urge us to believe in the presence of Christ. As he stated, ‘These [stories] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.’”

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” When we do this, we stand the test of faith, we don't buckle, we don't blame God before His plan is half through. Paul wanted to be named with the faithful Old Testament champions when he said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...”

We have mentally known that for “those who love God...and who are called according to His purpose”, all things work together for their good. We are seeing this daily during these trying times. We thank you for your willingness to be used by God and your faithfulness in helping us help our national partners help the afraid, hungry and hopeless know that there is a Savior who loves them and who proved it by giving the greatest gift that overshadows all of the past, present and future consequences of a fallen world. May we be known with the champions of old!

In His Service,

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stood - a way to show honor in Indian culture. When all who were going to gather, about 46 officers, had quieted, the high-ranking officer raised his voice, "I've known these people a long time," he said, "They do good in the community. They have come here to show Christ's love to us."

"He's saying what I'm supposed to say!" David thought to himself in amazement.

"Nobody thinks about the police," continued the deputy, "but you have honored us." He said that the shawls were appreciated, but what "goes deep into our hearts" was the expression of honor and kindness from the Kumars.

When he was finished speaking, David noticed several of the listeners had tears in their eyes. The officer asked David to say a few words, then David laid a shawl over the shoulders of the second-in-command officer, and the room was filled with applause. David draped the brightly colored cloth over the men's shoulders while Taru graced the women's shoulders with these symbols of honor. Later, the second-in-command officer pulled David aside and with deep appreciation in his voice, said, "If you ever have any trouble or need anything, call me

directly and I will help."

Previously, one of the ranking officers had firmly warned David and Taru not to take photos. "If you want photos," David had been warned, "you can just leave." David had assured the warning officer that their desire wasn't to take pictures, or have any media attention of any kind. They were only there to stand in solidarity with the officers who risk their lives daily to keep the peace.

But the honorees had different ideas. They insisted on having their picture taken with David and Taru. "Madam, you'll please come with us," some of the women said to Taru, as they whisked her away for a group photo. Some of the men, seeing this, jumped in, "Is this just for women? We want photos too!"

"By the time we were done, we felt like we'd known them forever!" Taru rejoiced, describing the change in the officers' attitude and demeanor.

"Now that we know them," David said, "we are praying for them." For David and Taru, that means real chunks of time will be spent on their knees for their new friends. And they're considering other ways they can be a blessing to this group of people in the future, including ways they can appropriately share the Gospel. David and Taru's unwavering obedience, combined with the generosity and faith of Project Joseph donors has built an important bridge and opened another door for Jesus to be shared in India. Please pray with us, that we are sensitive to what God's next step is in the unique sharing of His love and care.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

Women police officers requested photos with David and Taru after receiving tokens of honor.



FOR PRAISE

1. Kumars - India - God's provision for another round of food and the Gospel to be shared with families in need!
2. Casa Dorca Children's Home - Romania - Positive changes in the lives of 3 younger teenagers living at the home.
3. Johan Leach - Zambia - Two villages report there have been no cases of dehydration or diarrhea since they received a water well about a year ago!
4. Vicky Waraka - S. Sudan - The opportunity to teach from God's Word on a local radio broadcast last month.

FOR PRAYER

1. Casa Dorca Children's Home - Romania - Safety during the children's return to attending school in-person.
2. Lazarus Yezinai - S. Sudan - People suffering from flooding, tribal violence and high prices of commodities.
3. Parris, van Wyk - S. Africa - Provision of boreholes that would enable the church to share Jesus with the hungry.
4. Kumars - India - Additional opportunities to bless and share Jesus with police officers.



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