

“And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.”

Genesis 1:24

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BUILDING AND LAUNCHING THE GOAT PROJECT IN PAKISTAN

Abid and Saleem waited outside the worn-down double gate made of two bark-thin wood panels. A small chain that looked flimsy enough for a child to snap with a slight push cinched the panels together.

Both men squinted in the sun's midday rays as they waited for someone to welcome them into the home of Shahid Bashir.

Eventually, Shahid and his father, Bashir, welcomed them into the courtyard of the rented residence. The four men took seats on a low *charpoy*, a Pakistani all-purpose homemade furniture piece that resembles a hand-woven bedframe.

Shahid and Bashir sat on another charpoy directly in front of them. A nearby stand fan provided a slight breeze, a welcome relief from the around 100-degree Fahrenheit temperatures.

A white goat with chocolate brown spots perched on a cement block in the corner of the courtyard. The goat stared into the corner somewhat comically while the men discussed God's provision and love for His people.

Shahid and his family are the only Christian family in their

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Abid and Saleem arrive at Shahid's home in Pakistan.



One goat stares at the wall while Abid and Saleem discuss God's provision with Shahid and Bashir.



Abid asks for a discount from a goat vendor, who turns him down.



Abid wrangles a goat through the mud to the waiting truck.



A member of Abid's team, Yousef, in the truck used to transport the goats home from the market.



Unloading the goats catches the interest of Abid's neighbors.



In the waning light of the day, some men from the community gather in Abid's courtyard.

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impoverished village of about 100 families. Bashir's full name is Bashir Masih, which means "Messiah" or "Christ" and is commonly adopted as a surname in Pakistan and sometimes India when someone decides to follow Jesus.

"Both [Shahid and Bashir] are believers and light for the entire village," Abid explains.

When Shahid was 8 years old, the roof of their house collapsed on him, breaking his leg and disabling him. When he was 12, his mother died of tuberculosis and cancer; they couldn't afford treatment.

Bashir worked on Muslim farms until he was too old to do so. Now, one of their Muslim neighbors allows Bashir to use his gardening skills to grow vegetables. In return for his labor, Bashir's family receives a very small percentage of the crop.

"They spend a miserable life," Abid describes. In Pakistan, believers often live in groups for protection from the cultural practice of blaming Christians for any and everything. Living in close proximity allows them to vouch for one another. Shahid and Bashir are at risk as the only Christians in their village.

Abid selected Shahid and Bashir to be recipients of a pair of goats as part of ITMI's Goat Project.

The ITMI staff worked closely with Abid to design and implement this project to maximize the opportunity to make disciples.

Earlier this year, Abid selected a team of believers to help him implement the project. Over several months, he equipped them with formal discipleship training.

Abid used the Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT) material to teach his team the Biblical principles

that guide how a believer uses resources. Armed with this understanding of God's Word, Abid's team members were prepared to meet with goat recipients regularly and guide them through implementing the principles.

Abid selected the recipients of the goats based on project criteria, provided them with the same SALT training, and introduced them to the Biblical principles of the project.

They discussed how they could bring glory to God by reflecting who He is. As goat caretakers, they would do this by mirroring the Lord's "bringing forth" of all things as their care for the goats "brings forth" new resources.

They learned what it looks like to be faithful to the Lord with their physical strength, sound mind, the ability to reason, items in their possession, and the natural resources around them. The SALT material teaches that believers can honor the Lord by earning honestly, giving generously, spending wisely, and investing carefully.

Earning honestly, giving generously, and spending wisely were all built into the project. Goat recipients learned they were honoring the Lord by caring for the goats, which produces income honestly.

Before receiving the goats, they agreed that they would generously give the firstborn brought forth by the goat pair to another needy family and teach them the Biblical principles they'd implemented. The Biblical doctrine of using their income to provide for the needs of their family was the first way they would practice spending wisely.

A Muddy Day at the Market

Once Abid was satisfied that the recipients understood the Biblical

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Bashir Masih
takes the newly
received pair of
goats home!



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principles, he was ready to purchase the goats!

Abid and his team spent an entire day at the market. Through a drizzle of rain, they spoke with many vendors searching for the best price for the type of goat they needed. Abid explained his project to many of them, asking for the best prices, though most weren't interested in offering a discount.

Finally, the wet and muddy team loaded the goats into a truck bed and brought them home. Unloading the goats caught the attention of Abid's neighbors, and some of the men from the community spent the evening in Abid's courtyard.

The night before Shahid and Bashir were presented with their goats, the anticipation made it difficult to sleep.

"Last night we were unable to sleep," Shahid said, "Imagine how much we were excited!"

The following day, the goat recipients showed up to sign their contract outlining all the principles for participating in the program, be presented with their pair of goats, and take them home!

When Abid asked them how it felt to be part of this program, Shahid said, "We are thankful for those brothers and sisters in Christ who have a heart for poor believers. Our Jesus can do miracles. We feel His love through His people.

Abid and Saleem were in Shahid's courtyard for the first "check-in" or follow-up visit with Shahid and Bashir two weeks after receiving the pair of goats. This would be a regularly occurring event going forward. Abid or one of the Project Agents he'd trained would visit with the recipients every few weeks to discuss their goats' health and provide Biblical guidance as the families encountered new ways to implement what they'd learned.

When Abid asked Shahid how things were going, Shahid said he was very excited about the goats.

Then Shahid shared something exciting.

He'd had the opportunity to talk about the Lord with his Muslim neighbors!

The two newest editions to his household had caught the attention of his neighbors, who asked Shahid if Abid would include them in the goat project. That gave Shahid the opportunity to share one of the Biblical principles taught and demonstrated by this project - that all provision comes from the Lord - in his reply.

ITMI family, the Lord used your support of several ITMI projects to get this discipleship process underway. Supporters of the ITMI General Fund, your gifts provide for the labor hours put in by the ITMI staff on this project. Donors who provided a monthly income for Abid, so that his family is provided for while he ministers full-time made him available to implement this project. Those of you who funded [the translation of the SALT material](#) into Urdu made it available to be used to set this project up for effective discipleship. ITMI supporters who gave toward the [Goats for a Family in Pakistan](#) item from our 2022 Christmas Catalog funded the purchase of the goat pairs.

The Lord beautifully united His people in this partnership to make disciples for His glory, and it's our great honor to serve beside such dedicated servants of the Lord in this way.

And friends, we're having a hard time finding the words to share how much it has meant - and will continue to mean - to these families in Pakistan.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



Bashir and Shahid just after signing their contract and being presented with a pair of goats.



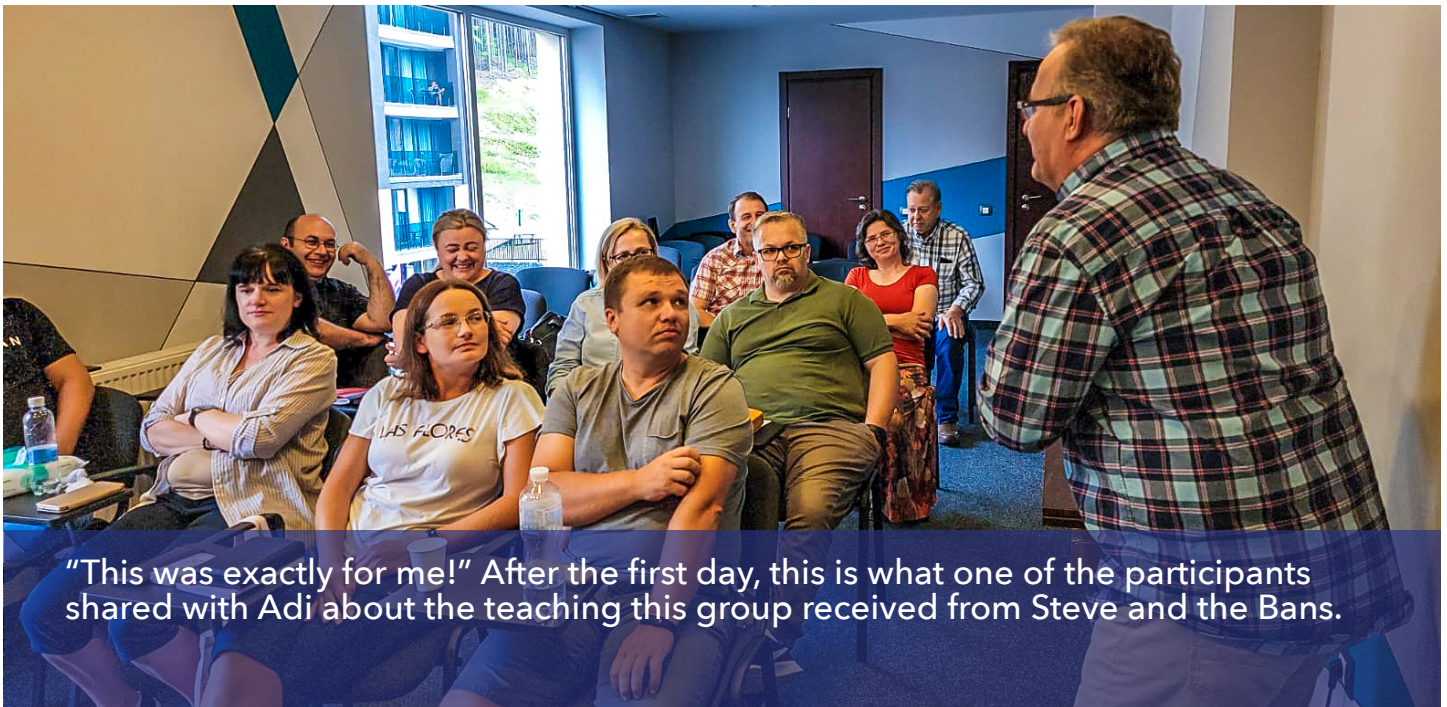
Bashir tells Abid about his conversation with his neighbors.



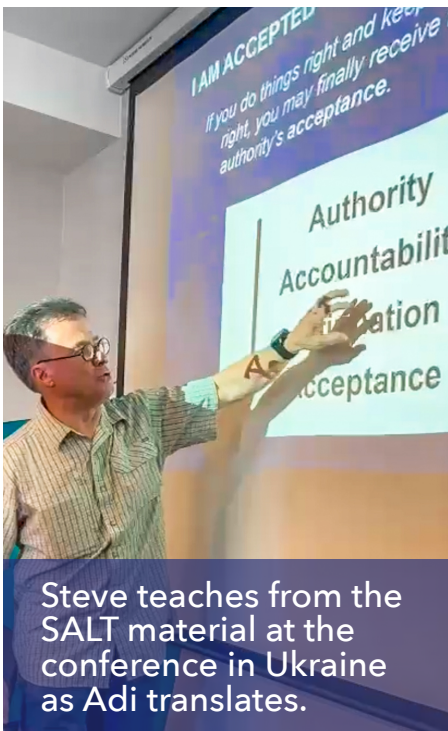
Shahid with one of the goats on the day of the check in.

FROM OUR TEAM IN UKRAINE

In mid-August, ITMI sent a team to Ukraine to provide Biblical encouragement and discipleship for believing ministry workers. The team included ITMI's [Steve Evers](#), [Mark Burritt](#) and Victorious Christian Living's [Stuart Watkins](#) from the States as well as ITMI's [Adi and Ema Ban](#) from Romania. Steve and Stuart taught from the Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT) material published by Victorious Christian Living. The Bans shared on Biblical implications for modern family life, a topic they've been invited to teach all over Europe.



"This was exactly for me!" After the first day, this is what one of the participants shared with Adi about the teaching this group received from Steve and the Bans.



Steve teaches from the SALT material at the conference in Ukraine as Adi translates.



ITMI's Adi Ban teaching.



Steve, Mark, and Stuart fellowship over a meal.

When God Provides...

When **Ionel Iovescu**, the Director of ITMI's **Casa Dorca Children's Home** (pictured right), received word that the home's urgent need for firewood was met by the quick and generous response of ITMI supporters, he was blown away.

"It blew my mind," he said, "what God had done in such a short period of time."

The demonstration of God's faithfulness that you were part of in providing for Casa Dorca's urgent need for firewood meant a great deal. The Casa Dorca staff's immediate reaction was praising Him.

"Seeing God at work fills us with joy and gives us a sense of relief. We are reminded

that He is right beside us. Sometimes we forget and we wrongly feel alone, but that's not true. He is with us."

The reminder of His faithfulness came at just the right time to provide encouragement as Casa Dorca faces a new challenge.

The Romanian government recently decided to require a slew of additional inspections for all group homes in Romania, which includes Casa Dorca. It has been very encouraging for the staff to know the Lord is with them and for them as they face the challenges of these new demands.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



FOR PRAISE

1. Pakistan - Evers, Abid - God's people getting to gift a pair of goats to Pakistani brothers and sisters in Christ!
2. Romania - Casa Dorca - God continues to use ITMI to provide for the needs of orphaned children, including the sponsored opportunity for many of the kids to attend Bible camps this summer.
3. Poland - LaRose - The Lord worked allowing Jim to build a relationship with an at-risk young man during summer camp.

FOR PRAYER

1. Romania - Pop - Viorel's continued recovery from spinal surgery.
2. South Sudan - Lazarus - Continued health challenges, this time with a tooth.
3. Poland - Evers - Prayer for opportunities to equip God's people to faithfully follow Him during time in Poland.
4. Ukraine - Evers, Ban - Conference attendees' continued implementation of what the Lord taught them.
5. USA - Continued faithfulness of God's provision so ITMI is able to continue to meet real needs of God's people.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100
intouchmission@intouchmission.org | fb.com/intouchmission
@intouchmission | instagram.com/intouchmissioninternational



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