



Jeff & Diane Brown ..... working to lengthen the list of tribes, peoples, and languages that worship God

*Jeff is in Pakistan, participating in the relief effort. This is a first newsletter from there.*

A young woman sustained a spinal injury in the earthquake. People from her village carried her 40 kilometers through the mountains to a town hospital run by Pakistani Christians. Somehow, somewhere, she had been catheterized days before. Her legs were paralyzed. We are hosting a team of medical volunteers from the states. I met them at the airport and took them to this hospital, where the neurosurgeon on the team treated her. She is recovering.

The magnitude 7.6 earthquake is believed to have killed at least 79,000 people, mostly in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir. More than three million people have been made homeless. At least 800,000 people in Kashmir have no shelter.

## AFTERSHOCKS

I was in a small two-story clinic riddled with cracked walls one afternoon, in a town a few kilometers from the epicenter, when the building shook violently for about 5 seconds. But it stood.

The BBC reports over 2000 aftershocks in the past couple days alone. One of our teams, sleeping on a mountainside, between days of delivering emergency medical care and helicoptering serious cases out, spoke of aftershocks every 15 minutes through the night. In one location, days after the quake, our team and another team pulled out of an area because the ground just wouldn't stop shaking.

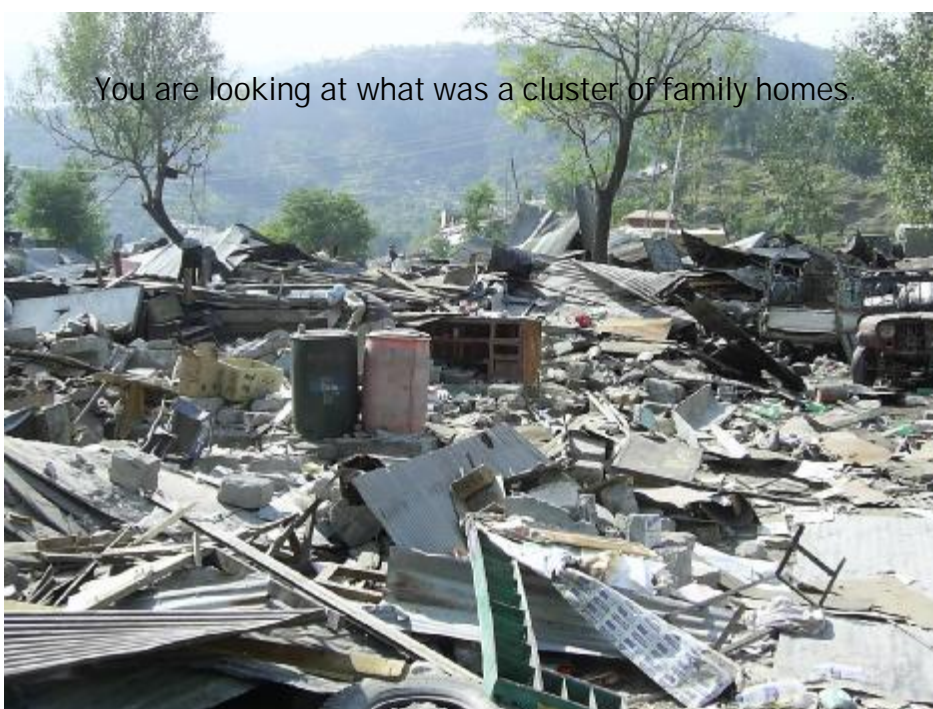


This was part of the town market in Balakot.

And let me tell you, it is cold! Winter snow has begun to fall in higher elevations.

The UN says the shortfall in aid for victims of the South Asian quake has made the relief situation worse than after last December's tsunami. I can tell you that this is true. The tsunami was a horrible disaster; hundreds of thousands of people died. In this earthquake, less than 100,000 dead have been counted. But this disaster is not over yet. And I'm not talking about the period of rebuilding and getting lives back to normal. I'm talking about deaths. The 800,000 people

mentioned above are still in an ongoing disaster, just as real as if the ground were still shaking. Winter won't end until some time in March. Until then, all 800,000 of these people are in danger.



You are looking at what was a cluster of family homes.

The UN emergency relief chief said the organisation had never seen such a "logistical nightmare". He said, "We have never had this kind of logistical nightmare ever. We thought the tsunami was the worst we could get. This is worse."

The UN has warned there may not be enough winterized tents in the world to meet the needs of the earthquake victims. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, "That means a second, massive wave of death will happen if we do not step up our efforts now," he said.

This same medical team I mentioned above, being at this hospital, freed up the doctor who runs it to finally attend to some other things. One of those things was digging a well. But not just any well. A mosque in town had tried to get the government to shut down this hospital. This doctor wants to reach out to the Muslim majority community. Because of this disaster, religious barriers are coming down. On behalf of the hospital, a couple days ago he and his friends arranged to provide a very-much-needed well for this mosque and its people.



There are reports from our people of Muslims' assumptions about us, and about our faith, being challenged by our love. One Muslim village leader, very opposed to us and our faith, after one of our people treated his injuries from the collapse of his house, said that up till now he thought we (westerners) were all "koffers", meaning godless people. But we were THE ONLY ONES TO RESPOND. The UN wasn't there. Their own Muslim people weren't there. Their government wasn't there. But we were there – with aid and with our faith.

**WE NEED WINTERIZED TENTS AND MONEY TO BUY TENTS**

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***News from Jeff & Diane***

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