



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

Jeff is in Pakistan, participating in the earthquake relief effort. This is the second newsletter from there.

In my last report, I told about a mountain village leader who was very much opposed to us and our faith until now, and who thought that all westerners were "koffers" (godless people). We treated his injuries and changed his mind, because his people didn't help him, his government didn't help him, but we were there. Another mountain village man said that if a calamity had hit some other village, his people would have laughed at their plight. But now, when they themselves were hit by calamity, these strangers of a different religion came all the way from the other side of the



There are thousands of scenes like this throughout the quake zone.

We asked one woman, like we do with many people, if we could pray for her. She frankly asked, "Who will you pr to – Allah did this to me!"

world, all

the way up to their remote mountain village, to help them! He said, you are not like us – we are not good people.

One mountain village, Bagar, many kilometers off the road, had 1450 people living in 230 houses before the quake. There are now 1150 people living in no houses. Three hundred died when the houses fell. Many more were seriously injured. There are no houses any more. Winter is close, and therefore so is death.

The magnitude 7.6 earthquake on October 8th is now believed to have killed at least 81,000 people, mostly in the Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province and Pakistan's portion of Kashmir. More than three million people have been made homeless. At least 800,000 people in Kashmir have no shelter. Winter snow has begun to fall in higher elevations.

A United Nations chief said, "We have never had this kind of logistical nightmare ever. We thought the tsunami was the worst we could get. This is worse."



Waiting for help



This house is gone. But families whose homes still stand sleep outside also, so that they won't die in an aftershock.

Perhaps the most poignant sight I have seen, among many, was in Balakot, which is one of the largest towns that was almost completely flattened. I have been there twice. The market/bazaar strip of one-story buildings, most with cement roofs, collapsed straight down on people. What used to be a neighborhood now hosts a temporary Pakistan army base; I stood in the middle of it, and saw all around me – all 360 degrees, both near my feet and stretching away into the distance, in all

directions – homes that had collapsed straight down. But, in all of this obliterated town, the most poignant sight of all was a man with a ragged straw hand-broom, squatting on a 4-meter square slab of concrete that was perched askew atop the rubble of the flattened town bazaar and sweeping the dust off this slab. It was a piece of nothing in the middle of nothing. But it was *his* slab. It was *his* space – probably his *only* space. What in the world he planned to *do* with this slab, I have no idea...



These boys are sitting on top of what used to be their home. In this town, Balakot, near the epicenter, most buildings are rubble. We drove by several hundred meters of the central market, whose cement slab roof had collapsed straight down – hundreds of meters of concrete smashed everything underneath it, including people. There remains will probably never be found.

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