



## NEWS DIGEST

### Pakistani Christian murdered with ax

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – A Christian in Pakistan’s southern Punjab Province was murdered March 9 for refusing to convert to Islam. Rasheed Masih, 36, allegedly was killed with an ax by six Muslim neighbors who reportedly were business rivals.

The six men were charged with torture and murder and an investigation is underway, but the suspects have not been arrested, the Compass Direct news service reported.

Iqbal Masih of the Church of Pakistan told Compass Direct that Rasheed Masih and his brother Asi had been under constant pressure to recant their faith in Christ and become Muslims.

Their constant refusal “gradually turned into enmity,” Asi Masih said.

The police reported two of the suspects had made threats of “dire consequences and death” for six months prior to the murder.

### Pastor urges prayer for Silsby

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) – Laura Silsby, the last remaining Baptist volunteer still in a Haiti prison, has now been in jail almost 12 weeks.

One of Silsby’s team members, Paul Thompson, released a statement urging concerned citizens to pray for Silsby and also to contact their senators, the State Department and the White House and urge them to work for her release. Senators’ numbers are available through Senate.gov. The State Department switchboard number is 202-647-4000 and the White House comment line is 202-456-1111.

Silsby, Thompson and eight others were arrested Jan. 30 in Haiti on charges of child kidnapping because they allegedly did not have the proper documentation to cross into the Dominican Republic, where they were taking

about 30 children to an orphanage that was being started. The 10 contend they are innocent and were simply trying to help children and that they had the paperwork Haiti officials told them to have.

Thompson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church of Twin Falls, Idaho, and the others have been released and are back in the United States.

Silsby is a member of Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho.

### IMB student missionary dies in accident

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) – A 21-year-old student missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) was killed April 12 in a motorcycle accident in Mozambique, located in southeastern Africa.

Jeremiah Johnson, a member of Royal Palms Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz., and driver of the motorcycle, was riding with an interpreter (name withheld for security reasons) when the accident happened.

Reports from overseas personnel say Johnson was killed instantly in the accident and his passenger was injured. Details on the interpreter’s condition and how the crash happened were not available at press time.

“Our hearts are broken,” said Charles Lord, pastor of Royal Palms. “We’re very proud of Jeremiah. God had been working in his life. ... He was serving the Lord to reach people who were unreached with the gospel.”

Johnson was working with the IMB’s “Hands On” initiative among an unreached people group. The program enables college students to work on the mission field for a semester. Johnson was a student at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Ariz.

Johnson is survived by his parents, Diana and David Johnson. David is director of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary’s Arizona campus. Jeremiah also is survived by sisters, Rachel and Talitha; and brother, Merritt.

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## Missions education

First Church of Lead Hill uses RA, GA programs as outreach

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### Connect outreach

Students participate in weekend mission trip in northeast Arkansas.

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### Passion Play

A Berryville pastor and his sons portray biblical characters in The New Great Passion Play.

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