

## **Terrorism and Christian Missions**

## Part 3 of 3

In 2005, 10 years ago now, I led a team on a mission trip to North India, the state of Punjab. There we held four open-air evangelism meetings and 693 new commitments to Christ resulted. One of our team members was Sonela, a lovely young woman who had the call of God on her life. She was from Manipur, a state of India at the Burma border where



people are smaller in size. When people saw Sonela they thought that she was from China instead of India!

When we returned to Delhi after completing our meetings in Punjab I decided I would buy her a dress. Along with some of the other team members we went from one store to another, but even the smallest suit in the store was too big for tiny Sonela. We entered a second store where we had the same problem – the smallest size they had was too big for Sonela!

I asked Sonela if she would like to try the dress on. She stared at it for a few seconds to decide, and then said, "No, I don't think it's going to fit."

So I told Sonela, "Just wait until you're home in Manipur where sizes run smaller. I'll give you the money to buy a dress there."

She said, "Okay, that would be better."

As we left the store we were all finished shopping and walked toward the parking lot to our car. Suddenly we heard a large BOOM and behind us rose a pillar of smoke to the sky. At first we didn't know what to think. We thought a boiler might have exploded. In the car we began to hear the news reports that there had been a terrorist bomb. Then we heard that the bomb was planted in the very last store where we were shopping for a dress for Sonela!

If Sonela had tried on the dress, it is likely would we would have all been dead!



20 Minutes After I Took This Photo of Sonela, This Enter Store Exploded!

In the car I received a phone call from my wife, Julie, in Missouri. Within those few minutes she had seen the breaking news report on CNN and she wondered if I were anywhere near that bomb in Delhi. I told her, "As a matter of fact..."

How small the world is that within minutes my wife calls me from the other side of the world!

As we returned to the home of our associate Simon Haqq, we saw news reports that 25 people had died instantly and many others were injured. We missed the deadly explosion by 15 minutes.

We were so thankful for God's protection!



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