

# True story!

This is the true story of 12-year-old Shahzad Bashir. His 2 older brothers worked at a factory; and not long ago the owner, Shah, detained the 2 older boys over a debt their father owed him. He forced them to work during the day and chained them in the factory at night. The original debt was \$53 U.S., but Shah recorded it as \$140 U.S. as he knew the family are Christians. Both boys managed to escape and their



family sent them to live with relatives in another city. Soon afterwards, the owner and 2 other men came to the Bashir home while Shahzad was playing cricket with some friends. They mistreated his mother and kidnapped Shahzad.

The 12-year-old Christian boy was beaten and badly cut up by a razor sharp, metal carpet comb. He needed special medical treatment because of the nature and severity of his wounds, but his family was too poor to take him to the right doctors. As a result, he was moved to numerous hospitals during a 4-month period. On June 1<sup>st</sup> Shahzad was moved to Lahore General Hospital where he underwent 2 surgeries. In spite of getting treatment, sadly little Shahzad died just 2 days later, when an infection overwhelmed his battered body.

It is so sad to learn that even children are suffering around the world, just because they are Christians and know Jesus. We should remember to pray for them and do our part to learn more about life in other countries and find ways in which WE can each do something to help. Do you receive the Voice of the Martyrs children's newsletter called "Link"? You can contact them and ask for it to be sent to you so that YOU can help!

'Til next time,

love,

Shirley.

Here is the answer to the puzzle - (Proverbs 2:6 (NIV) For the Lord gives wisdom; and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding)


Facts and testimonies used with kind permission from Voice of the Martyrs Inc.  
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For more info check their website at [www.linkingup.com](http://www.linkingup.com)

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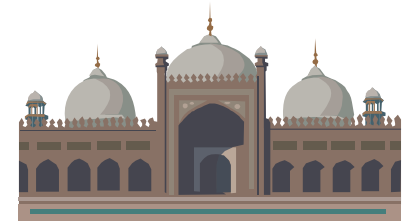
World Kids

Fun facts for kids!  True stories!

# PAL Page

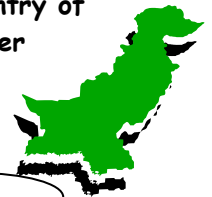
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## Imagine going to church and finding half a million people there!!



On special holy days, there can be more than 500,000 people worshipping in the walled courtyard of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan! A mosque is a holy building where Muslims gather to worship their god, Allah - rather like a church where Christians gather to worship God. The beautiful city of Lahore was founded over 2,000 years ago and has many great palaces, gardens and mosques. It is known as the cultural center of Islam and is visited by Muslims from all over the world.

This month we want to talk about the country of Pakistan, which is in Asia, between the much larger country of India to the east, and the very strict Muslim countries of Iran and Afghanistan to the west.



Pakistan covers an area of 310,000 sq miles - about the size of Louisiana and Texas together.

It has a population of about 160 million, which makes it one of the world's 10 most populated nations. Two-thirds of the people live in rural areas and the official language is Urdu,

although English is still spoken by many educated people and business men, as Pakistan was governed by the British until 1947

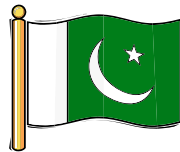
The land of Pakistan is again very varied, and stretches from the Arabian Sea in the south, to high mountains in the north, where there is no clear border and the land is still argued over by India, China and Pakistan. A large area to the northeast is known as Kashmir, where there are constant clashes between the Indians and Pakistanis living there. To the northwest lies rugged, harsh desert that borders Afghanistan, and even though life there is very hard, many different people groups live there. This is because many were refugees (people who lost their home or had to leave their country because of war or disaster. They came through the mountains by way of a famous pass, called the Khyber Pass, and settled in Pakistan.



60% of Pakistan's population live in an area called the Punjab, which is a fertile area between two big rivers - the Indus and the Sutlej. Here the people speak Punjabi, and they grow a lot of wheat, cotton and rice. However another crop is also grown that is sent all around the world - it is a special type of poppy that is very colorful and pretty, but from its seeds is produced the strong drug called heroin. Many Pakistanis are involved in growing these poppies because they can sell the seeds for a great deal of money, but this illegal drug is very dangerous and destroys millions of people's lives around the world.



The full name of the country is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and its capital is Islamabad - making it clear to the world that this is a Muslim country, and very distinct from neighboring India, with its mostly Hindu population.



For many years both Pakistan and India were ruled by Britain, and their governments and laws were based on the British system (mostly bible-based). But now, the laws in Pakistan have been gradually changed to an Islamic system, based on strict rules written in the Koran, along with their associated harsh punishments for disobedience.

65% of the people over 15 yrs of age in Pakistan are illiterate - this means that they cannot read or write. Imagine if your mother, grandparents and several other adult relatives couldn't read or write! Since they couldn't read a book or newspaper, they would have to depend on what they were told by other people. They would never be able to learn much about life outside their own area, and might easily be led to believe the lies or wrong opinions of dishonest people.



Sometimes you may not like having to study or go to school, but being able to read means that you can read and learn about ANYTHING, not just what the teacher tells you in school!

### BIBLE MESSAGE IN CODE

See if you can figure out this coded message:

FAR THO LARD GOVUS  
WASDIM, END FRIM HAS  
MEATH CIMA KNAWLUDGO  
OND ANDORSTINDUNG

*(Clue: Change the vowels)*

Many people in Pakistan are taught to obey the strict Muslim laws and to hate all non-Muslims, and some radical Muslims such as those terrorists involved in attacking New York and other parts of the world in recent years, are believed to be hiding in Pakistan. The situation in Pakistan is very unsettled today and as 98% of the people are Muslims, it's especially dangerous for Christians. In recent years, many churches have been destroyed, pastors killed and Christians attacked. Even families and children are not safe there if they are Christians.

