

**General Topics :: A Man of Courage****A Man of Courage, on: 2011/6/6 22:55**

As I prayed through the Barnabas Fund guide for the persecuted I was reminded of a noble man who was martyred a few months ago. The man's name was Shabbaz Bhatti of Pakistan. He was a Christian and held the rank of Minister of Minorities. Very rare in an Islamic country. Shabbaz championed the rights of minority groups in Pakistan which included Christians and off sects of Islam. He opposed the infamous blasphemy law in Pakistan and called for its repeal. He also called for the release of Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five who has been imprisoned for over a year for her stand for Jesus. I might add this sister is sentenced to be executed by hanging. Obviously Shabbaz taking a stand for these things in Pakistan drew the attention of the extremists. He received multiple death threats. Like Jesus he knew he was marked for execution. Yet this brother was willing to die for his beliefs. On Mar. 3rd this noble saint went onto the welcome embrace of his Lord. Let us remember the sacrifice of this courageous saint and pray his death will not be in vain. Through his sacrifice may the blasphemy laws be repealed in Pakistan, may the church there grow stronger, and may many be brought to Christ.