



Indigenous Missions in Pakistan



< Pastors commute by bicycle.

ty-six pastors. Bicycles equip pastors and Bible literacy teachers to reach widespread congregations and growing ministries.

Pastor Sardar Ahmed Din reports, “We praise the Lord that our fresh seminary graduates have planted new churches in their respective areas.” Also praise God that five more men are currently receiving theological and practical training locally to prepare for pastoral service.

CD technology has opened the door for a new, broadening outreach. The good news of Jesus Christ is being carried beyond local congregations via gospel CDs to those unable to attend church services and to other friends. Faith is strengthened and many are blessed by God’s Word. CDs are enabling gospel messages to be broadcast even wider—on cable TV and radio stations. Cable stations in seven different sections of Lahore, Faisalabad, and Islamabad now broadcast these messages. Pastor Din reports, “We receive many [telephone] calls from people of different areas where our preaching is run on cable TV.” Pray especially for those hearing the gospel for the first time by these means. Pray also for the Lord’s provision to maintain and extend this outreach.

With over 170 million citizens, Pakistan is one of the largest and most densely populated Muslim countries in the world. Catholic and Protestant Christians are less than 2 percent of the population, many originating from the lowest social classes. Pakistan is ethnically very diverse with more than sixty spoken languages; Urdu is the national language. But approximately half the population is still illiterate.

The Indus river valley, from mountain peaks down to



the sea, was defined as a nation in 1947 with independence from British rule. Historically, natural disasters and military upheaval have been major themes.

As noisy battles for world power rage in the region, gently, quietly, and lovingly the risen Christ is gathering His own in Pakistan. The

Gospel reaches out from pulpits, cable TV and radio, by CD, in school and evening classes, and with medical mercies. It is a joy and a privilege to encourage, support, and pray for this wonderful work.

Outreach by Bicycle, CD, and Cable TV

In partnership with Westminster Biblical Missions, MERF works through local Pakistani churches. Currently the forty-nine congregations of the Bible-believing Church, Lahore are served by twen-

Fifth Calvin Academy Founded

Lives of children and families are impacted by God's Word at the Calvin Academies. Most of the schools are located in slum areas where there are very few educational opportunities. Currently about 2,500 students are enrolled in a total of five different Calvin Academies in the greater Lahore area and Faisalabad. Due to the prayerful efforts of the Faisalabad congregation, the fifth academy was recently founded. It already serves 115 students in rented facilities. The most established school, Calvin's Academy #1, provides Christ-centered education from nursery through high school to 1,450 students. Pastor Gill reports,

"We can see a real change in our students' lives, and also in their families through them. We thank the Lord that daily Bible teaching is our priority in our academies. We are grateful to our Lord who has made it possible through our donors that we can teach the Word of God in our schools."

Income-Generating Skills

Practical technical training is also given in the schools. Pastor Gill explains:

"We thank the Lord that He has provided facilities at three of our academies for teaching stitching, cutting, knitting, and embroidery to our young girls in



our academies. These young girls become a great help to their parents and families in generating income as seamstresses when they finish their training from our schools."

As the Lord provides, sewing machines are given as diaconal aid to girls from very needy families so that

they can teach their mothers and sisters to sew and establish small businesses.

Medical Clinic

Diaconal aid is also provided at medical clinics serving the poor of both Christian and Muslim backgrounds. This is a very good testimony to Christ. At the formal opening of the Muridke Clinic in January, the facility was filled with about 100 people praising the Lord's provision and introducing Dr. Khalid. We praise God for him and other staff committed to the clinic who daily minister the love of Jesus Christ to the medical needs of the poor.

Major flooding, skyrocketing inflation, and great security challenges pro-

vide the backdrop for our Pakistani brothers and sisters as they boldly stand on God's promises, strengthened and encouraged by our prayerful support. Together we rejoice to see their faithful service blessed.

Please Pray for:

- ⊕ The training and support of more Pakistani pastors, evangelists, and elders.
- ⊕ The safety of God's people in Pakistan in the face of violent fanatics who oppose anything Christian in the country.
- ⊕ Support to expand the Urdu broadcast ministry and to establish a related Urdu internet outreach.

Top to Bottom: School girls learn sewing skills to help their families; Dr. Khalid and Mr. Nazar, Pharmaceutical Dispenser at Muridke Clinic; young men preparing for the ministry.



*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."
—Galatians 6:10*