www.merf.org

MERF News

October 2026

Middle East Reformed Fellowship—"Declaring the Whole Counsel of God"

"Faithful, Fruitful and Cost-Effective Indigenous Missions!"

Pakistan Ministry Update

by Pastor Emmanuel Gill



Praise God for the new gospel ministry to brick kiln workers



With over 250 million people, Pakistan is already the world's fifth most populous country. This multi-ethnic nation is growing fast. About half the Pakistani population is illiterate. Pakistan is the second largest Muslim population in the world. Very few Pakistanis are Christians. Urdu is the national language, but the largest regional language is Punjabi. In the Punjab region, on the eastern border with India, the ancient megacity of Lahore is home to many of the small Christian minority. In the time of the British empire, large numbers in what is now Pakistan, converted to Christianity from underprivileged social classes. Although Pakistani Christians are still largely materially poor and illiterate, their spiritual heritage is rich and imperishable. Christ's liberating gospel has made and continues to make a great transformation. MERF partners with Westminster Biblical Missions for gospel ministry in Pakistan It is a privileged to report to you about the Lord's work in the Bible-Believing Lahore Church Council. Over the years, the church and its witness has grown and spread far beyond Lahore into the surrounding heavily populated towns and villages of the Punjab region of Pakistan.

Preaching of the Gospel

Praise and thank the Lord for raising up our eighteen pastors and nine evangelists to preach the Gospel in different areas and for establishing faithful congregations. The nine evangelists have graduated from three years of training in our Theological Seminary of Pakistan, but are yet to be ordained. All are committed to preaching the true gospel and reaching out to the surrounding areas. The Lord has blessed with many opportunities. We are thankful that they have also trained young people of the congregation to teach Sunday School classes under their assistance. In seven or eight of our congregations, an annual Bible convention is held with sound visiting guest teachers edifying hundreds of hungry souls. Similar Bible conferences are organ-



A Pakistani evangelist sharing the gospel in a home meeting

ized in sister congregations. Two-week summer Bible instruction camps are usually held in the mountains at Murree Hills. This year camps were not possible; we pray for resumption of this witness in the future.

Calvin Academies

As the majority of Pakistani Christians are poor and uneducated, we opened schools in underprivileged areas for poor Christian children. There are four Calvin Academies in different locations. Thousands have graduated from these schools over many years. The students learn the Word of God along with an elementary and high school education. The goal is for the young people to become faithful, responsible and respectable Christian Pakistani citizens.

Sewing Project

As many young girls from poor families do not complete their education, at the Calvin Academies girls receive free training in sewing, knitting and other needlework. These skills enable them to generate income for their future family needs.

Bible Literacy Centres

Our pastors and evangelists are running Bible Literacy Centres for illiterate people of all ages to learn to read the Word of God. Some of the educated young people of the church also assist in this ministry. We have 35 Bible Literacy Centres in which some 325 people are learning to read the Word of God. After completing an elementary book, they start learning to read the New Testament. When they finish the course, each receives a copy of the Holy Bible.

New Ministry to Brick Kiln Workers

Praise the Lord that two of our evangelists have started preaching to families who work at brick kilns, usually for long hours at very low wages. Brick kiln worker families in Pakistan are often in bonded service due to being deeply in debt to the brick kiln owners. *Pray for the gospel to bear good fruit in these needy communities.*

Diaconal Aid

Thank the Lord that we can provide some help to the neediest widows, as well as to poor and destitute families in our congregations. Also, MERF support enabled the building of our clinic at Iqbal Nagar Muridke. It provides free medicine and medical assistance to all, Christians and Non-Christians. This is a great testimony to our Lord. *Praise God for the active demonstration of the love of Christ by this medical clinic. Please pray for all who serve there.*

Gospel Workers Needed!

Preparing workers for gospel ministry is the backbone of efforts to faithfully spread Christ's message of saving grace and to build up believers by God's Word. In 1974, our seminary began preparing fulltime students for ministry. The many pastors and evangelists who graduated are bringing the light of the gospel in Pakistan today. We need new students to resume providing seminary training. *Please join us in earnest prayer for the Lord to call and provide more faithful Pakistani men to study fulltime for gospel ministry.* ***Praise God for a new part-time seminary project*** *- Friday Class for laymen who are unable to study the Word of God fulltime. Please pray that it will bear much fruit.*

> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
>
> **— Matthew 5:3**

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and partnership in the Lord's work in Pakistan. May the Lord continue to richly bless MERF's gospel ministries to Muslim peoples around the globe.



At the Calvin Academies young girls learn sewing to help support their families

MERF–England & Wales
103 Merewood Avenue, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8EQ **www.give.net/MERF**

MERF–Ireland
(charity no. 103181) 246 Vow Road, Rasharkin, Ballymena BT44 8TB **www.give.net/20221778**

MERF–Scotland
1 MacAdam Way, Dalmellington, East Ayrshire KA6 7FD Scotland UK **www.give.net/20035868**

International Evangelical Church
Sundays 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – John Calvin Centre
57 Stylianou Lena St., Larnaca, Cyprus