

Pakistan Update April 2005

The month of March has been a month of sowing. God willing there will be a great harvest in the coming months to achieve our goal of 10,000 baptisms by 2010. After the appointment and dedication of APCC* national leadership in February 05 it seems that every one has gone back to their respective areas with a tremendous zeal and enthusiasm to share and win people from every sphere of life.

* APCC is the All Pakistan Christadelphian Church (registered).

The following area reports from Pakistan and Afghanistan show the tremendous growth and potential.

PAKISTAN

Sahiwal

The team here started a particular ministry among women by teaching them the real message of the Word and provides them short-term skill developing training in the Sewing Training Centre. Thanks to Him for His on-time provision to establish this centre, the team here is strategizing a special ministry among women and youth. There are scheduled Bible Study groups and regular fellowship of believers. By the time this report reaches you there will have been another 16 baptisms.

Faisalabad

APCC team in Faisalabad met in Toba Tek Singh and finalized a Ministry Campaign for summer occasions. They are preparing several people for baptism. Bible Classes for the follow-up of new believers and regular fellowship of existing believers are continuing. Two believers from this area will attend month long evangelism training in the APCC Centre* in Karachi. So in coming months, there will be a change in the people responsible for out-reach in Faisalabad region.

* Our last Update gave information about the new facilities which have opened in Karachi as a Bible training centre.

Quetta

APCC team in Quetta started with six volunteers, now it has grown to ten persons to arrange out-reach ministry particular among youth, visiting campuses and educational institutes to educate and win young people. There will be 6 baptisms in the first week of April. The Regional Coordinator reports that there are two educational institutes in the Quetta city where our team has been successful in holding Bible Classes twice a week. There are 9 students in both groups. The team is optimistic that these students will be a great help to invite others to join Bible groups. Balochistan holds the biggest land area in Pakistan (42%) with the smallest population. Students come from very remote areas to study in Quetta. If they get the real message and join our ecclesias in the city, then it would be possible for our team to access remote areas as they go back with the Gospel in their hearts and the true joy of friendship in their minds. So the future is tremendous there.

Sindh

The team in Karachi looks after the flocks of believers in the entire Sindh province (Nawabshah, Khairpur in Karachi) and arranges fellowship, Bible Classes, and activities to motivate believers for winning others, specially their families. In the month of April 2005, the APCC team in Karachi are arranging baptisms for 26 new believers from different parts of the region.

The Bible Basics Open School [Distance Learning] will open properly in April 05. BBOS will be

run from Karachi but all National Council members* and believers from all over Pakistan will be promoters for the school. This is a direct ministry plan that APCC hopes will enrol several students monthly.

The Karachi team with the help of IAC** are finalizing an evangelism training syllabus and will host a monthly evangelism training for 5 students from Pakistan and 2 students from Afghanistan in May 05.

* National Council members represent all the regions in Pakistan where there are Christadelphians. Through the National Council we are able to keep all the ecclesias in touch with each other and to co-ordinate activities.

** The International Advisory Council (IAC) is a support group of brethren in the West who are in almost daily contact with the brethren in Pakistan to support, advise and help them in whatever way we can.

Islamabad

APCC held Bible Studies when they made a follow up visit to Iranian refugees here in Islamabad. A Muslim School administrator forced two teen age Christadelphian sisters who are students to recite Quran and learn Islamic worship by practising and demonstrating it in School. The girls, who were baptised in September 04 and put their faith in Jesus, said 'we are Christadelphian' and have refused to recite Quran or follow Islamic practices. After this the attitude and behaviour of all school teachers became very unpleasant and cruel. So they had to leave the school and find another one.

AFGHANISTAN

QANDAHAR

Qandahar is close to the Chaman-Quetta border of Pakistan. All international aid organizations working inside Afghanistan have offices or a base in this city. Qandahar is also the city that first warmly welcomed the Taliban in 1995. Thousands of Taliban are believed to be hiding and operating terrorist activities in Qandahar. So there have been many bomb explosions and casualties of US soldiers in Qandahar in March. Two APCC members will be visiting Qandahar from 12th April. People are extremely looking forward to a Messiah to OPEN THEIR EYES, RESTORE THEIR SIGHT AND LIBERATE THEM FROM DARKNESS.

JALALABAD

Jalalabad has border links with Peshawar in Pakistan. The majority of Afghani Christadelphians live here. A one week long Bible study and fellowship was held with Afghani believers in Peshawar from 15th March to 21st March 05. It was very exciting to see them growing in faith, spirituality and wisdom of the Word. Bible sessions continued for several hours daily. Two Brothers have offered their services and agreed to find a way to attend one month evangelism training in Pakistan. Audio cassette players with radios have been given to them to listen to Bible teaching audio cassettes. They have been taught to use the internet for regular communication, but it seems not possible to find internet cafes, or if they do it is very expensive. One hour Internet cost was US\$5 in Kabul.

Prayer Requests:

-Please pray for APCC team to continue its enthusiasm and zeal to achieve the targeted goal: 10,000 by 2010.

- Remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers as they are very active and busy in supervising social and ministry activities.
- Pray for the people who were baptised in Sahiwal, Karachi and Quetta.
- Pray for Faisalabad Region they start a ministry campaign for summer occasions.
- Pray for Iranian refugees, especially for the teenagers who still feel insecure in their new school and also pray that God may open a way for them to get asylum in a western country.
- Pray for Bible Basics Open School and other training material being considered and provided by IAC.
- Pray for the financial needs of trainees and for Bibles, which we need for BBOS students (we need about 500 Bibles!).
- APCC is going to prepare some books and teaching videos with the help of IAC. We need your prayers for financial provision to make it ready on time.
- Remember the APCC team visiting Qandahar as that is a dangerous place. The law and order situation is worse there. -Pray for believers in Jalalabad that they may continue their zeal and enthusiasm to serve Him safely among their people.
- Always remember the financial contributors and thank Him for their generous support because without their generosity it is very difficult to make all these things happen on time.

with love from your brothers and sisters of APCC

[Taken from the recent APCC Newsletter]