

Rachel Ullmer, mission partner – Pakistan

Rachel Ullmer is a mission partner working in Lahore for the Diocese of Raiwind. She is a primary school teacher and is using her skills to work with teachers within the Diocese, undertaking teacher training and curriculum development work.



Dear friends,

First of all, thank you for your support, emails and postcards, the latter of which have ended up being pasted on card, cut up and used as jigsaws in the nursery! The children love to see the pictures – something we all take for granted – as many do not have access to picture books and beautiful scenes.

Lahore is known as “The Garden City”, and there are many wonderful parks, trees and flowers planted on the roadsides and fountains on most roundabouts. However, just around the corner lives the economically poor and not so well off. In the hot weather they suffer with houses being so close together, electricity often cut off and life being difficult. Despite this, however, many parents make an effort to send their children to school, and the children love to learn, but due to their poor background, the heat and lack of hygiene, sometimes children are sick and it is hard work studying.

Since my last link letter, many things have happened and I have been busy, working alongside Josephine who does the administration for the seven Wesleyan Schools. God has blessed me with good health – apart from two days of sickness which I think was caused from eating

over-ripe mangos, and a couple of incidents of hyperthermia when the electricity was off for two nights!

Some of the things that I have done/visited include:

- Three weeks during July spent in Murree, a town in the mountain area above Islamabad, preparing lessons and learning Urdu, in a cooler climate
- Two weeks spent in Quetta in August taking a series of four math workshops for the Diocese School there. This was also a time of fellowship with CMS mission partners Joan and Nigel Bull and a chance for some rest. The teachers enjoyed the sessions and came early to do extra activities!
- Workshops on writing exam papers.
- Workshops in Lahore and Raiwind on Creative Writing – the hen who hatched a crocodile!
- Math workshops in Raiwind – the weather was extremely hot and humid, and there was no electricity for fans so, when the sleepy teachers told me that 4×4 was 8 during a working of Pythagoras triangle theory, I knew that it was time to finish early!

Josephine talking to the children in a social studies lesson about Pakistani cities



- Three days were spent in a school implementing early years activities for the 3-5 year olds – this turned out to be more like play therapy for the teachers! They enjoyed the water, skittles, building with food boxes and the puzzles and I had to remind them to include the children!
- An art competition for the teachers and children where the teachers made letter cards and the children coloured in Pakistani scenes and drew their own pictures.
- A “Go Green” project – schools were encouraged to grow plants to make their schools colourful and fresh looking.
- A three-day music convention organised by the youth and pastors held at the end of September, in which the young people shared both their musical talents and faith.
- School visits, where math and Urdu lessons led by new teachers were checked, and the teachers’ creative writing lessons were observed.

I take four Urdu lessons a week when the teacher helps with lesson preparation, and shop in the local bazaar and small department store. Usually I eat lunch with the others in the office and cook a bit at night – as well as drinking litres of water, as the temperature throughout September has been 42°C-46°C with humidity levels of 60 per cent and above. But I have been swimming three times with a friend who is a member of the swimming club, and this really made a difference to coolness and fitness!

- Please pray for safety as I go around Lahore, as security is tighter after the recent events.
- Pray for the teachers in the schools, that they will care for the children and teach them well.



“Look at my long train”- playing with boxes after a lesson on long and short



“My plants help give me clean air”

- Pray for the government and the community in Peshawar as they grieve and deal with the bombing episode. The government and all political parties have condemned the actions and are seeking ways forward. Many minority groups of various religions have been targeted recently and everyone is looking for peace. love Rachel