

Celebrating Pakistan's 25 Year Journey in Education



[David, Veda Gill, and Sue in Lahore, Pakistan]

January 18, 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Before we ended our service in Japan, David and I were invited to travel to Lahore, Pakistan in November 2023 for an amazing 25th Anniversary celebration for the Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan. Although David will continue to serve and support the transition process in Japan, he is living in the United States.

The background for the celebration of the Presbyterian Education Board begins in 1972 when the government of Pakistan took control of many Christian schools that had been birthed and nurtured through the mission work of the Presbyterians, dating back 150 years.

In 1995 our family arrived to serve as Mission Co-workers in Lahore. The government began the process of returning these Christian schools. The Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, and the Presbyterian Education Board were confronted with challenges to re-build, upgrade, revitalize, and introduce higher educational standards along with faith-based values. This opportunity came as an answer to many years of prayer.

David witnessed the challenging conditions of the schools and helped begin the process of receiving back school properties. Some of the schools were in poor villages, where access to educational opportunities is limited. When we left Pakistan, David passed the baton of leadership to Mrs. Veda Shaheen Gill (pictured above) to serve as Executive Director for the Presbyterian Education

Board, which she has faithfully and enthusiastically done for 25 years. The transformations which have taken place during her tenure are remarkable. David was invited back as the “Chief Guest” for this celebration. We were hosted at the Presbyterian Guest House along with a small group of overseas guests who have offered support to the Presbyterian Education Board in recent years.

Our experience in Pakistan was one of incredible hospitality, gratitude, and joy. We visited schools in Martinpur, Pasrur, Sangla Hill, and Kinnaird Academy, where students welcomed us warmly, throwing rose petals, performing dances and skits, singing songs in English to say thank you for the opportunities they have had to learn. Many will now be able to find employment, because of the Presbyterian Education Board’s ambitious standards and qualified staff. Please go to the following links to see some of the festivities and learn more about the schools and how to support students.

<https://www.peb.edu.pk/videos-gallery/>

<https://www.friendsofpeb.org/>

As part of the celebration the Presbyterian Education Board honored the dedicated staff and teachers, who have labored long and hard to see their dreams come to fruition, with a festive occasion called: “Leading from the Heart.”



During our visit Sue was invited to preach at Naulakha Church in Lahore, where our friend Rev. Majid Abel serves as pastor and is also Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. When we lived in Lahore, we often attended this church, but in those days, women were not allowed to be ordained as pastors. Sue shared in her sermon that she received God’s nudge into ordained ministry while serving in Pakistan.

Rev. Nosheen Khan, who was one of Sue's seminary students 28 years ago, became the first ordained Presbyterian woman in the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, and now serves as the Principal of Gujranwala Seminary, where Sue first met her. This was a full circle moment amidst the joyous celebrations!

The work of the Presbyterian Education Board is not finished. There are still schools and properties that need to be returned from the government, and new buildings that need to be built at the existing schools which are growing by leaps and bounds. Attached is one picture of a scene from a skit students performed which captures the prevailing spirit of their "H.O.P.E."



[H.O.P.E. Hold On...Pain Ends]

We thank you for your prayers and support during our time of service in Japan and invite you to prayerfully consider connecting to the on-going educational ministry of the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan!

Revs. David and Sue Hudson