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Report of Mission Trip to Pakistan
June 15 to July 13, 2023



Mission Trip

I am pleased to share the details of my Mission Trip to Pakistan, which was planned after a gap of six months. The purpose of the trip was to visit the projects of National Baptist Church of Pakistan, (NBCP). National Baptist Church of Pakistan was established with the support of International Mission Board, Missionary in Pakistan in 1990. My father, (late) Rt. Rev. Ishaq Mazhar Sandhu was the first Church planter of the Baptist Church in Islamabad; he also initiated church planting in the Southern and Northern regions of Pakistan.

I am truly grateful to God for His travel mercies and for enabling me to complete all my planned activities in a short span of time.

I will remain highly obliged to Pastor and Mrs. Timothy Beougher, Jim Hume, my WBBC family, and my Sunday School team, for their continuous prayers, support, and encouragement throughout my stay in Pakistan.

Mission Trip Activities

1. Visit to Sindh Province

1) Speaking at NBCP Church, Mirpur Khas:

I am grateful to God, who provided me the opportunity to share His Word in the Church at Mirpur Khas, where eleven people (Hindus) have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

2) Meeting with Pastors of Sindh Chapter

I met with the NBCP Pastors and applauded their individual progress. We also discussed the issues that the pastors are facing while working among the Hindu community.

3) Visit to the Brick Kiln

I was able to visit a few Christian families who work as laborers at the Brick Kiln. They are living and working there for generations. Being extremely poor they borrow money from the kiln owner which indebts them to an amount that they cannot easily return. As a result, they are forced to continue working to pay it off, but end up borrowing more money for their everyday needs.

The purpose of the visit was to identify bonded labor, share the message of Hope, that Jesus came to this world to set all captives free from all kinds of bondages, including their bonded lives.

4) Skill Development Centers

I visited the existing skill development centers established by NBCP, where marginalized Christian men and women weave rugs and make small wooden household furniture. The purpose was to find avenues to promote their skills abroad and find a market where their products may be sold. The proceeds from the sale of these items will be utilized on the betterment of these Christian families in Pakistan.

5) Gospel Through Sports

NBCP Sindh Chapter has introduced a new approach to Evangelism, i.e., Gospel through Sports. In this regard, NBCP has initially formed a Cricket team comprising Christian youth. The aim is to channelize the energies of the youth through sports and provide them with a platform to play with players from other faiths. This will expose them to understanding of other beliefs and develop their tolerance for diversity.

2. Visit to Islamabad Capital Territory

1) Speaking at NBCP Church, G/7-2

It was an honor for me to speak to the congregation at the Church that was planted by my late father, Rt. Rev. Ishaq Mazhar Sandhu. It was a very emotional moment for me to be seated in my father's chair and share the Word of God, Luke 5:1:11. It was a pleasure to meet with some of the people that belonged to my father's generation.

2) Speaking at NBCP Church, Hundred Quarters, F/6-2

My father was a much loved and respected man of God and it was a humbling experience to speak to the congregation that cherishes his memories. I shared the message from Malachi 3: 6-12 with the congregation.

3) Meeting with NBCP Pastors, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtun Kwa Chapters

A One-Day Meeting was held with the pastors working in NBCP Churches in the Punjab Province and Khyber Pakhtun Kwa Province. It was an exhaustive session whereby planning was carried out for the next five years. The following points were discussed at length:

NBCP Roadmap 2023-2024

NBCP, in its Five Years Strategic Plan (5YSP) committed to do the following activities in the first year:

I. Pastoral Training

Invite trainers from the US and other countries to run Training of Trainers (ToT) on the following topics:

- Evangelism
- Christian Leadership
- Stewardship
- Church Governance
- Role and Responsibilities of:
 - Pastors
 - Deacons
 - Elders
 - Lay members

II. Evangelism

NBCP has set a target to reach out to the KPK Province, Central and South Punjab Province, and Sindh Province to share the Good News through:

- Personal evangelism
- Crusades
- Literature development and printing
- Literature distribution

III. Plant 10 Churches

- 02 Churches in Peshawar
- 02 in Rawalpindi
- 01 in Gujranwala
- 03 in Lahore
- 02 in Sialkot

IV. Improve infrastructure of the existing Churches of NBCP

There is a dire need to improve the existing churches which were built between 2002 and 2010. Due to floods and earthquakes, these churches need maintenance and structural improvement, which includes:

- Plaster
- Paint
- Roof repairs
- Flooring/ carpeting
- Chairs for the Church

V. Transport for Pastors

NBCP provided Motorbikes to the Pastors in 2006, which are now old and need to be replaced.

- Need new motorbikes

VI. Initiate Development Project

NBCP has realized that there is a dire need to adopt Holistic Approach to the Ministry. It has planned the following Church projects to start in the first year:

- Education
 - Establish Coaching Centers for students in NBCP Churches
 - Skill Development Centers for economic generation

VII. Enhance Pastoral support

With growing inflation, it has been realized and approved to increase Pastoral support in 2023-2024, so that they may manage their families in a better manner and concentrate on God's work with more zeal and commitment.

VIII. Evangelism through Sports Ministry

Pakistan is a country where youth comprise 63 % of the total population. NBCP believes that youth can make or break the future. Therefore, there is a need to engage our youth in outdoor sports where they can interact with people from different faiths. This will enhance their religious tolerance and help them in understanding other people's perspectives.

NBCP is of the view that youth should be engaged in the Sports Ministry where Christian teams, Muslims, and players from other faiths will play together. It will provide an opportunity to claim the Christian faith while interacting through different sports.

In the first phase, NBCP has formed a Cricket team in Karachi, which will be replicated in Punjab and KPK Provinces. Basketball and badminton will be added at a later stage. In the second phase the Sports Ministry will be expanded to include hockey, volleyball, weightlifting and swimming.

IX. Free Bonded Labor

In 2023-2024, NBCP has set a target of helping 50 families out of bondage at the brick kilns in Sindh and Punjab Provinces.

X. Find US Market for Pakistani products produced by Christians

Ways and means will be sought to promote Pakistani products at international level, which are being produced by Christians.

3. Additional Activities

1. Launching of a Gospel Web Channel

This channel will be launched in the US and will cater to the Urdu and Hindi speaking population living in Southeast Asia, which comprise of approximately 2 billion. This audio-visual studio will also extend its arms to English, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, and Arabic speaking communities. For the purpose, studio equipment and furniture were successfully dispatched to the USA.

2. Evangelizing

In Pakistan, there are about 8 non-Muslim religious groups (commonly known as religious minorities), among them Hindu and Christians are the largest, both comprising 1.5 % and 1.4 % respectively of the total population of Pakistan.

NBCP teams are reaching out to the Hindu community to share the message of Salvation, Love, and Peace. These Hindu families are Dalits, commonly known as "*untouchables*". They are looked down upon by other Hindu castes, hence they are shunned by the Hindu society. They are extremely poor and remain outcastes all through their lives. A majority of these families live at the brick kilns, are lowly paid, and are deprived of the basic human rights. Even the Government departments neglect them

due to their faith. NBCP is committed to reach out to these communities and win the souls in the name of Jesus Christ.

Needs

- **Food Packages**
 - Subsidy for their ration needs on monthly basis

 - **Freeing them from bonded labor**
 - One time support to pay off their debts.
 - Provide legal aid for ending their bondage through the court of law.

 - **Job Creation**
 - Micro-Financing
 - Skill Development
 - Cottage Industries

 - **Education**
 - Child Friendly Learning Spaces
 - Adult Basic Education Centers
 - Scholarships to get them admitted into existing schools/hostels.
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PICTURE GALLERY

NBCP Church, Mirpur Khas, Sindh Province



Brick Kiln, Sindh



Gospel Through Sports, Sindh





**Visit to Islamabad
NBCP Churches**





Meeting with NBCP Pastors, Islamabad

