

Link Letter No.8 November 2014

Dear friends,

Asalaam Alekham from Lahore! Thank you to all who have prayed during the year, a year of a lot of comings and goings. I spent a few weeks in the UK in the summer, primarily for the purpose of visiting my mother who is now in a Methodist care home near my brother. She is enjoying riding on a buggy to the sea front for ice-creams and visits to the park and worship in the local church. I also visited two of my supporting churches, one for the first time, and had good fellowship with those in my home church. I took the opportunity to prepare some PowerPoint slides for workshops and have now written an easy, infallible slide show guide on decimals for the teachers!

August saw the schools reopen for the second term, and Josephine (the school supervisor) and I went hairless trying to get all the teachers to plan for the term! I have been concentrating on the Early Years and math... for the last two months. So far, three schools have been given a set of "school toys" (beads, bricks, cars, puzzles, doll set, animals, doctor set, clay and paints etc) and I have been in the schools using the toys for lessons and helping the teachers to use teaching methods appropriate for young children.



Senior science force - how many Newtons?

Nowadays more resources are available, and money from churches and individuals has been used to buy things for the schools. However, basic maths knowledge remains a big problem. One useful resource is a small overhead projector which was a gift from my church. I can show slide shows of maths, diagrams and pictures of nursery children playing quite easily. I now need to buy some blackout curtains for the windows so the pictures are clearer!

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Some year 9 and 10 children have been to the science laboratory in the big school to do science practicals, which all the children loved as they don't have facilities in their own schools. Many people ask what I do in my spare time. We can't go out at night unless in a car, so in the evenings I sometimes watch a DVD, prepare lessons, do Sudoku (I am stuck on my present puzzle!), read novels from the second-hand bookshop or go downstairs to talk to the padre's wife, who is expecting a baby, and read and play with their small son. I have Urdu lessons twice a week and read Urdu children's books that I then read to the children in class. And, of course, there is the usual cleaning, washing clothes in the twin tub, and ironing!



Chung School choir



Lahore fort visit with Paul Thaxter from CMS

The weather has been cooler than usual for this time of year, and we had four days of nonstop rain and floods. I went in the rickshaw, and every road we turned down had a flood but we eventually made it to the office, where I collected some maths books and came back. Rain came in my room and down the stairs, but soon dried up. I asked the office manager to get two of each animal into the office! I like to walk in the parks and have a drink of Pepsi in the café, and I have been swimming in a pool which is on the roof of a hotel. Unfortunately, the club where we used to swim was shut down by the town council, so we had to look around for another pool. Last week, I met a

group of young ladies by the pool who were at a conference in the hotel. They liked my swimming so much that they came in with their shalwar kameezes on and wanted swimming lessons! I also went to the huge French Hyperstar supermarket with some Pakistani friends.

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At the beginning of October, it was the Sacrifice Eid and most houses in the narrow *galli* (street) where I live had sheep, goats or buffalo tied up outside the door. Some people buy their animals from the internet and pay with PayPal. I also had a long awaited visit from Paul Thaxter from the CMS office, and we visited a school, the fort and a mosque, and went out for a meal with another CMS partner here.

At the moment I am on a weekend away to Islamabad and Murree to chat with old friends, and hopefully to get my computer and Skype sorted out!

Thank you for all your support. Lots of love

Love

Rachel

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