

Link Letter No.7 June 2014

Dear friends,

So a lot has happened since the beginning of the year! My last letter I actually wrote from the UK. The end of February saw me in hospital with a dislocated shoulder after slipping as I was walking on the road – probably in a pot hole! A friend came quickly in her car when I called and spent the night in the hospital buying all my medicines and slings etc. Two weeks later, whilst on a CMS conference in Malaysia, my brother rang and called me home as my mother was very ill, so I flew from Malaysia to the UK. When I arrived, mum was recovering and she is now in a home near to my brother's house. Next month, I will return to the UK to see the family and sort out Mum's things.

Back in Pakistan, my arm is now all but better after some physio at the Salvation Army Centre and daily swims in the pool. It is over 50°C now and too hot to do much, and air conditioners and fridges are faltering in the heat. I took three workshops in a local Catholic school on language development, English phonics and grammar where the teachers enjoyed playing various bingo and card/dice games and looking at examples of children's writing progress.



School children getting prizes!

The Raiwind schools also had a phonics workshop for Urdu and English, and enjoyed fishing for the letters in a bowl of water! The primary science experiment workshop was also based on water, bubbles and water problems such as making a toy boat to carry a toy person. There was an experiment to see how long it took clothes to get dry after I accidentally spilled a cup of water over a teacher, and looking at the water cycle.

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On Sundays, I attend the church where I live, and often join the padre's wife and their mischievous son for evening cold drinks – Sprite and milk, rosewater, mango juice, brown sugar water with basil seeds (which look like frogspawn) and cola. Nowadays, plums, melons and mangos are in season and I eat these with ice cream if I can find a shop with a reliable freezer and rush back home in a rickshaw before it melts!

Easter was a special time at the church. We had a three-hour time of meditations on Good Friday; it sounds a long time but was actually very moving. On Easter Day we went on a candle light procession at 4am, which was followed by a joyous singing and worship service and breakfast – hulver purray and cardiman tea.



A Pakistani street scene



Easter at church

Other news is that the Bible books for the senior classes have now arrived, and the head teacher has read them in readiness for the new term starting in August. And I have had some new clothes made at the *durzi* (tailor) made out of lawn cotton which is very thin. All clothes are soaked as soon as you put them on!

Please continue to pray for the schools, and for the church in Pakistan, in particular for the padre in my church and the head teachers as they implement the Bible curriculums.

Love

Rachel

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