



# Mission News

*Mission Activities of the Canadian Reformed Churches*

**Volume 10 – November 6, 2015**

## New Hope Orphanage – West Timor

*And we know that in all things  
God works for the good of those who love him,  
who have been called according to his purpose.*

**Romans 8:28**



### Busy times

Busy times at New Hope this time of the year, lots of new comers and a few that leave again having graduated from Senior High school. This is also the time of the year when the Elpida School hosts its yearly soccer tournament, a definite highlight for the boys! With the new sports court in place we were also able to host Elpida's first volleyball tournament. This was a great success; we had some very talented teams come out, and a lot of supporters and onlookers. Besides this being a great motivation for the Elpida students to participate in positive activities, it also helped the new arrivals settle in and feel at home here in Noelbaki.



*New Hope Orphanage*

### Brokenness

We had a bit of an issue with one of the girls who no longer felt at home here because of the strict schedule and rules (apparently she has a boyfriend). She tried to influence the other children to run away by telling them all sorts of lies. Thankfully the Lord opened this up in time, we had some very good talks with the children, and are glad that none of them followed her. Indeed, such is life, Satan is always on the lookout to corrupt and destroy, yet the Lord uses this as well for the good of those that love him.

During these talks with the children, we became aware once again of so much brokenness in life that these children have had to deal with at a tender age. Most come from broken homes, suffered physical abuse, neglect, and also sexual abuse. All this hurt and suffering has left deep scars buried deep and certainly not always visible from the outside. It takes a lot of bonding and trust for these children to be able and willing to talk about their past.

We are very thankful therefore that in his own way and in his own time the Lord opened this up to us. We have had many one-on-one conversations with these children and through this built up trust and openness. We are seeing a lot of improvement and continue to pray that the Lord will help them deal with these bitter memories. The above text is such a comfort: whatever terrible things we have gone through or are facing right now, the Lord uses this too for the good of those that love him.

## More councilors

Through all this we have come to think more of the system that we use to “parent” these children in our care. So far we have Yuba as the sole councilor for the New Hope home here; she takes care of all the details, schedules for cooking, cleaning, studying, devotions, etc. Besides this she is also the one that deals with problems that arise first hand. She can and does call on us a fair bit as well to help out, but our work is such that we are often away. It is becoming too much for her to continue it this way and the children too are in need of more care and attention.

We have been thinking and praying about this a lot and think it wise to hire more full time councilors to divide the jobs and be able to give better/more care. Please pray that the Lord will provide this need as well. We are amazed time and again of how the work of New Hope has been abundantly blessed, we are encouraged and strengthened by the support and prayers of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

*In his care,  
Femmy Dethan-Bouwman*

## Prayer requests:

Please pray for:

- The children sponsored by New Hope and all of the scars they bear.
- The counselors who care for the children in the dormitories.
- The Dethans as they continue this work, which can be difficult at times.
- The spreading of the gospel and the growth of strong Christians in Timor.

## Financial requests:

- At this point in time we are still in need of sponsors; sponsor a child for \$50/month or make a one-time donation.
- We are also requesting donations towards the Elpida school operational budget as well as the plans to build more classrooms in the school.
- The ongoing woodworking program supporting members from the church is also in need of funding.

Anyone wishing to support New Hope please write all cheques out to “Smithville Canadian Reformed Church” earmarked “Mission Aid/New Hope.”

In Christ’s service,  
The Smithville Mission Aid Board  
Smithville Canadian Reformed Church,  
330 Station Street, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0



*Elpida School*





## Pakistan Update



Lahore Bible-Believing Church Council leaders



**P**raise God for the fruitful gospel work in Pakistan. MERF partners with Westminster Biblical Missions (WBM) to support the witness of the Bible-Believing Lahore Church Council. Lahore is the capital of the populous Punjab province next to the Indian border. It is the second largest metropolis in Pakistan, with over ten million ethnically diverse inhabitants.

From the 11th century, it was the seat of five different empires preceding British rule. Since Pakistan's independence in 1947, Lahore is both the cultural heart and leading commercial

city. Although Sunni and Shia Muslims are over 95 percent of the population, Christians still live, work, and practice their faith in relative freedom. Occasionally incidents arise from unwise personal conflicts or, more recently, radicalized elements. Despite

this, the church in Pakistan is vibrant and growing.

### New Churches

The Church continues to grow and has now extended beyond Lahore. Five congregations have been established in a semi-circle in poor areas around

the populous neighboring industrial city of Faisalabad. Thousands are also able to hear the Word of God faithfully preached in the Urdu language over cable TV and the internet. These messages are aired in many Pakistani villages, areas of greater Lahore, Faisalabad, and even in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Responses are very encouraging, with most of the feedback coming from young adults who telephone or visit churches as a result. Thankful responses to the sermons on the internet also come from Pakistanis working in the Arabian Gulf and other countries.





### Slum Christians

Through limited religious freedom under British rule, large numbers of Pakistanis professed faith in Christ. Most converted from the lowest, extremely poor Hindu castes. Even today most Pakistani Christians are poor, illiterate, or semi-literate laborers, with few qualified for church leadership.

For this reason, the 32 churches that have been planted have a strong Christian education program. Thirty of them hold daily, one-hour Bible literacy classes. Most attendees are manual laborers, such as street sweepers, who long to be able to read God's Word. Yet, the churches in these poor slum communities are for the most part self-supporting.

Additionally, over the past 25 years, three Calvin Academies have been established in slum areas of Lahore and one in Faisalabad, providing Bible-based education from nursery to high school to about 2,400 children. A seminary prepares young men for the ministry of the Word. Seminary students are active in church planting while studying.

### Christian Education

Classrooms of the three Calvin schools are filled to overflowing. Still, many more would like to enroll for a Bible-based education. Land for expansion has been provided by MERF funds, but more resources are needed for these projects.

Despite the fact that students pay a modest tuition, the Calvin schools only remain open because of the



prayerful support by God's people elsewhere. Recently, an additional MERF gift for solar power systems greatly reduced costs. Yet, the schools still remain dependent day-to-day upon the regular support of believers from other lands.

Efforts are underway to reduce operating costs and raise more local support from school alumni and the Pakistani Christian community. This will lift local Christians from the despairing mentality of poverty, blessing them with the greater joys and fulfillment of thankful giving. It will also free up foreign giving for the much-needed extension of Christian school facilities.

### Reaching Muslim Neighbors

Praise God for the oppor-

tunity to witness in word and deed to Muslim neighbors in these communities. Although they are not allowed to attend the Christian churches and schools, many listen appreciatively to the daily Bible readings over loudspeakers. They are also thankful for medical care provided freely to all in Christ's name in two neighborhood clinics run by church committees. This low-key witness is bearing some fruit.

Even though the vast majority of Pakistani Muslims are quite nominal in their religion and peaceful in their politics, Jihadist violence is frequently in the news and used by the evil one against the advance of Gospel work. Pray for the protection of our Pakistani brethren and for the continued effectiveness of their witness.

*Clockwise: Two medical clinics freely serve the needy; Seminary students; Calvin Academy student assembly*



### MERF-Canada

Thank you for your faithful support! Please make cheques payable to MERF-Canada and send them to the address at the bottom of the page.

Online donations can be made to Middle East Reformed Fellowship (Canada) Inc. through [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

*"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."  
—1 John 4:4*