

**PRAYER UPDATE FOR PAUL AND PAT STOCK**  
**April 2009**

**\* Village Outreach Program, April 2-4 \*** Continue to lift up our 32 workers and their families as they have regular worship and share Christ in 96 villages around the Sindh. They learn so much themselves when they come to our monthly training programs. Here are some testimonies:

**Virban:** At our last training session, we were taught us about the necessity of forgiveness in order to walk closely with God. When I went back home, I went straight to the house of someone who has been angry with me for 2 years. I asked his forgiveness and we were reconciled. One of my brothers-in-law was also angry with me. Yesterday I went to his house and asked forgiveness, even though it was mainly his fault. I want to be reconciled with everyone who may be angry with me, because I don't want unforgiveness to stop the work God has given me.

**Karam:** The 9 families who were baptized in October last year are really growing. Their relatives ask them lots of questions: "What did the Christians give you to change your religion? They answer: "Jesus has given us salvation!" "Haven't the gods harmed you because you threw your idols into the canal?" "No!" they answer, "the idols were not able to harm us, in fact, we are happier this year than before, with good crops and better health. When we get sick, we pray for each other and Jesus heals us! **Pray for Moti and Devi – the elderly parents of the whole extended family. May they grow even stronger in their faith!**

**Jjam:** Thank you for praying for our VOP worker, Jjam. He is much better. He still has some headaches, but has recovered well from his accident.

**\* Seminary students' internship\*** This went really well. They all came with teachable attitudes. When they visited the villages they wore tribal dress, worked in the fields, swept the homes and even helped make the meals. The villagers were impressed by their efforts to be culturally appropriate, and the students were touched by the villager's hospitality and challenged by the many needs for ministry in Sindh. **Thank you for praying, and pray that this heart for cross-cultural outreach will continue after their return to their home province.**

**\* Elisha's plans \*** Elisha is now not so sure about Phoenix. He has found a Christian aviation training facility, Alpha Aviation, in which he could get his pilot training, mechanic training, bush piloting, and Bible training, all at one facility. There are drawbacks to this approach, however, (one being no college degree!), so we need wisdom to know if this is the way to go. **Pray for wisdom! It's difficult making these decisions from a distance!**

**\* Choir Festival \*** Ashley had a fantastic experience in Oman. She was able to sing in a choir with 150 young people, conducted by excellent musicians. She made new friends from all over the world and had the chance to see a new country. **Thank you for praying for her trip.**

**\* Senior High Spiritual Emphasis Weekend\*** This was a blessing. Ashley found the talks relevant and encouraging. They were at a retreat center about a 45 minute drive from the school. On the final day there was political instability and the roads were blocked by protesters. They thought they may have to stay the night, but finally they started out, Ashley says, "Like refugees escaping in the dead of night." They had to leave all but their essentials, because at one point they had to walk around a barrier and get a

vehicle on the other side. **Praise God for keeping them safe, and also for a very positive, spiritually uplifting time.**

**\* School Break Mar 20-30 \*** It was so good to all be together again; talking, laughing, worshipping, enjoying being a family! The kids loved running around with their friends, but it all ended too soon. With heavy hearts Pat, Ashley, Joel and Jodie headed back to Murree, with Paul, Elisha, Margie and Fred waving a sad goodbye. **Thank you for praying for our time together and for the warm notes that many of you sent.**

**\* Country situation \*** Thank you for praying for our precious country of Pakistan. The political stand off between Nawaz Sharif and President Zardari was resolved peaceably when the Prime Minister decided to restore the Chief Justice and some other judges to their positions. We have been reading lately that if things financially continue as they are, Pakistan's economy will collapse within 6 months. However, we were happy to hear today of large grants promised by the US to help boost the economy and improve the infrastructure of Pakistan. So God is answering our prayers. **Keep praying for peace and stability. There have been a number of suicide bombs recently. Pray for the government to know how to stop the terrorist attacks that are becoming all too frequent.**

**\* South Asia Interserve Leadership Consultation (April 21-27) \*** Pat will be going to Bangladesh to attend a meeting of the Interserve leadership for this area of the world. **Pray this could be a good time of discussing problems, solutions, strategizing, and how we can more effectively serve in South Asia.**

**\* Pakistan Music and Dance Teaching (April 20-27) \*** Paul has been asked to come to Murree Christian School for a week and teach Pakistani/Indian Music and Sindhi dance to the students. We will end the week with a Sindh evening, including a meal of rice served on newspaper and eaten with your hands, playing Sindhi games and dancing around the drum. **Pray that Paul will be able to help the students grow to truly love and appreciate the complex, beautiful, passionate and moving music and dance of this country. An added blessing will be a chance for Paul to be with Ashley, Joel and Jodie. Pat will be away at the meeting in Bangladesh.**

**\* Home Assignment (June–Sept) \*** We want you all to know that we will be coming to the US for 4 months of Home Assignment in June. We will spend a short time on the East Coast, but most of our time will be in California. We'll be living at the Providence Missions Homes in Pasadena. We would love to see as many of you as possible during that time, and hope to have the chance to speak at our supporting churches on the west coast. **Pray for the preparations we need to make before we go. Pray for the scheduling of our speaking engagements and for times of refreshment and spiritual renewal during our busy time there.**

Love, Paul and Pat