



# Columban Mission in Pakistan 2012



FR ROBERT McCULLOCH  
St Columbans Mission Society

# The Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) Hyderabad, Pakistan



The CYDC began in 2008. It is for young men who have dropped out of school or who have never been to school so that they can get from illiteracy to 10th Class [the last year of high school in Pakistan] through an accelerated programme of teaching and learning spread over two years, from primary to secondary.

They are enrolled for examination purposes in a school in Hyderabad. Then they are guided to move into technical education which enables them to obtain secure employment and break out of the repressive discrimination they have experienced all their lives. The students this year are aged between 15 and 23.

All students have a full medical check-up and are vaccinated against Hepatitis B. They attend classes from 9:00am-1:00pm Monday to Friday. Some work before coming to the Centre and they are provided with breakfast before classes begin; the others have lunch before going to work after the day's classes. They work as street sweepers and

menial labourers. In 2012, 47 young men are enrolled in CYDC. The staff consists of the director and 5 teachers [2 male, 3 female]. Since 2102, we decided to include art classes at the request of some of the students. It has opened a new dimension to their learning.

Education, moral guidance, personal confidence building and religious instruction and sacramental preparation are all seen to in the programme at CYDC. As part of the course, all attend a month-long Basic Christian Faith Formation Course at the Pastoral Institute, Multan, in the south of Punjab province. Twelve attended this year and for most it was the first time they had left Hyderabad.

Twenty three have so far completed the CYDC programme and are now enrolled in three-year diploma technical courses at government technical institutes in Hyderabad. Because they are enrolled in these institutes we have been able to arrange apprentice-based employment for them with companies and local factories.

# The Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAIE) Hyderabad, Pakistan

The Centre began six years ago in Hyderabad. The goal of the Centre is to provide a sustained environment where academically talented but disadvantaged Catholic young men can be assisted to attain high academic grades. This ensures that they can gain university entrance on merit.

By its focus on moral, spiritual and personal development, the Centre ensures that the candidates will be able to enter confidently into tertiary education and to successfully complete their studies. During their time at CCAIE, all students attend a month-long Basic Christian Faith Formation Course at the Pastoral Institute, Multan, in the south of Punjab province.

This is part of the Centre's emphasis on preparing them as committed and informed Catholics. We look to them for leadership in the Church of the future in Hyderabad. We want them to be able to live and work effectively in Pakistan's

multi-cultural and multi-religious society. Family poverty and anti-Christian religious discrimination are the two obstacles which the Centre seeks to overcome to achieve these goals.

To date, 15 young men have completed their four years at the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence and are enrolled in universities in Karachi and Hyderabad. One is at the National University of Sciences and Technology in Islamabad. The Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence is staffed by its director and seven teachers [5 men and 2 women], all of whom are married; four are active members of the local conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Seventy three boys are currently enrolled in the Centre's four-year programme. They attend schools in the morning and come to the Centre Monday-Friday from 4:30-9:00pm. Nothing is asked from them except 100% commitment.



# St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery

Hyderabad, Pakistan



Twenty students from St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery passed the final examinations conducted by the Sindh Nurses' Examination Board in 2012. All received an A-Division. These outstanding results continue the success story of St. Elizabeth's contributing to the health needs of women and children in Pakistan and promoting the dignity and professional skills of Pakistani Christian women.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2011-2012, Pakistan has the worst rates for infant mortality [63.26 per 1000] and under five infant mortality [86.5 per 1000] when compared to other South Asian countries. Health expenditure in 2011-12 is just 0.27% of GDP. St. Elizabeth Hospital and St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery continue to make a difference in Pakistan. Seventy young women from marginalized

communities in less-developed areas are currently training at St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery to advance their socio-economic position by enabling them to become trained professional and qualified midwives for mother, neonatal and infant care.

The School of Midwifery is unable to be self-supporting and needs financial assistance to carry out its work. Given the background of the trainee midwives, fees are kept at the barest minimum. Each student is requested to provide only Rs.30,000 (AUD\$315) for the full course. Each student is provided with subsidized tuition fees, enrolment fees, examination fees, subsidized food and lodging, medical care, uniform and shoes, and stationary.

The total cost to educate one midwife is Rs.220,000 [\$2,316 AUD]. We receive no assistance from the Pakistan government.

# St Elizabeth Hospital

## After the Flood

"Thank God for the common sense and experience of Society of St. Vincent de Paul in responding to the crises. The first question that immediately came from the Society was "What do you need to help the people?", and then, when things eased a bit, "What can we do to help get the hospital back into shape?" The absolutely right questions at the absolutely right times!"

When you hear of a hospital in the Third World, you think of people in great need, impoverished people, women with desperately sick and dying children in their arms, diseases that could be prevented, and more. When natural disasters like famine or flood happen, you hope and expect that hospitals will use all their facilities and personnel to respond with compassion and competence.

This is just what St. Elizabeth Hospital did in both 2010 and 2011 when floods hit the south of Pakistan.

Our three medical and nursing teams of Christian, Muslim and Hindu staff worked together in the spirit of compassion for the poor that is characteristic of St. Elizabeth. They gave free medical care, made sure people had food and drinking water, and kept on doing so when the international care teams left.

The international media went off to cover some other "breaking news" but the needs of the flood-affected in Sindh didn't go away. St. Elizabeth Hospital stayed with them.



During the flood



St. Elizabeth has a well-established reputation in Pakistan for giving the best possible care to those in greatest need. It is a 110 bed hospital where total daily charges are just over \$2 a day and at no cost for those who have nothing.

Through its Mobile Medical Outreach, St. Elizabeth is the sole medical provider to over 20,000 totally impoverished people to whom free care is given.

We used everything we had to care for people who had lost everything in the flood. The kindness of people in Australia enabled us to do so much.

One of the effects of the flood was the terrible damage to the hospital building, medical equipment, and furniture needed to run a hospital efficiently. During the floods at the end of 2011, there was 2/3

metre of water through the ground floor of the hospital for 18 days.

Patients kept coming into the hospital. Everything was moved to the first floor. It was chaotic but caring, with patients everywhere. People understood and were impressed by the dedication of the hospital staff in very difficult conditions.

## Rebuilding the laundry

The flood destroyed what the 2010 flood had left of the hospital laundry. The biggest management problem we faced during both floods was providing clean linens for every department of the hospital: sheets, towels, pyjamas, uniforms, etc.

We have raised the laundry level by two metres and then constructed a large building protected from rain but with lots of cross-ventilation.



During the flood - Mobile medical outreach



After the flood - medical supplies are now available

We have completed the laundry building, improved the water, gas, and electricity connections, and done a lot of earth filling. We still need to buy a couple of industrial-scale washers but we are

immensely happy because, like the little pig who built his house of stone, we think our new laundry can withstand the floods and storms and winds of the future.



Rebuilding the laundry



The nearly completed laundry

## Building homes in Sindh after the floods



Since the unexpected massive floods of the Indus River in 2010 and 2011, St. Elizabeth Hospital, with the help of many benefactors and donors, has overseen the building of 820 new houses for people in the southern part of Sindh province in Pakistan who lost everything they had. Most of the people belong to impoverished tribal communities, Hindu and Christian and others are equally poor Muslims.

In the villages where the people do not own the land, the houses have been built in a traditional style but using modern materials for roofing, doors and windows. This enables the houses to be easily dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere if a landlord should throw the people off his land.

Where communities have actual or customary ownership of land, we have built permanent buildings on raised foundations.

Solar energy, water pumps, bathing and toilet facilities, and extensive tree plantings are features of all these new housing developments.

In December 2011, we were able to purchase four acres of land 30 km. south of Hyderabad. The construction of 35 permanent houses and a large clinic is nearly completed.

The families will take possession of their homes and take responsibility for their new community at the end of July 2012. The next step will be to build a school for the children of this new village and surrounding places.

The total cost for land purchase, house and clinic construction, power, water pumps, and tree planting has been six million rupees (AUD\$63,158).

We would like to do the same for many more people.



The construction of 35 permanent houses and a large clinic is nearly completed...  
We would like to do the same for many more people.



The housing project is almost completed.



# Mission in Pakistan





## Fr Robert McCulloch honoured by Pakistan

On March 23, 2012 Fr Robert McCulloch was awarded the *Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam* at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hyderabad, the highest civilian award that can be given to foreign nationals with the citation: "*For services to Health, Education and Inter-Faith Relations.*"

Fr Robert McCulloch has been in Pakistan for 34 years and has been Chairman of the St Elizabeth Hospital's Administrative Council which provides quality medical services to the people of Hyderabad and rural parts of Sindh. The hospital also runs a medical outreach programme in rural Sindh.

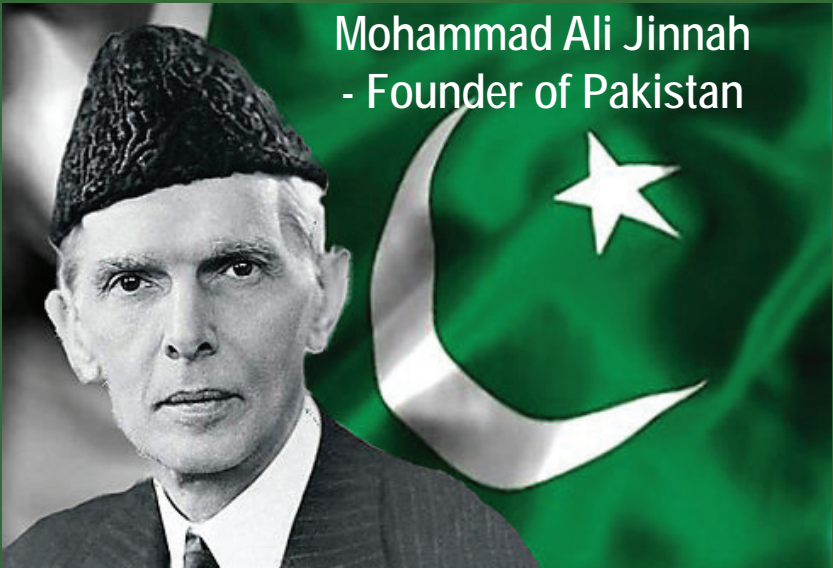
He set up the first home-based Palliative Care unit in Pakistan which provides care for cancer patients who are terminally ill. He initiated projects, in 2007, to provide educational, spiritual, moral and personal formation for 150 Catholic boys and young men in Hyderabad. Two centres were set up: the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence in Hyderabad and the Catholic Youth Development Centre.

Fr McCulloch now resides in Rome after taking up an appointment as the Procurator General for St Columban's Mission Society in late 2011.

Fr Robert McCulloch returns to Pakistan several times each year.



# Mohammad Ali Jinnah - Founder of Pakistan



## Address to the Constituent Assembly - August 11, 1947

You are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed - that has nothing to do with the business of the State.

We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State.

## Message to the Nation - August 15, 1947

The creation of the new State has placed a tremendous responsibility on the citizens of Pakistan. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how can a nation, containing many elements, live in peace and amity and work for the betterment of all its citizens, irrespective of caste or creed.



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