

REPORT on the Mission to Pakistan from February 15-23, 2020

The most important aspects of the mission week were: the women's conferences in Lahore, the first leadership training, parenting classes for the parents of students in the "School of Grace", visits to the school and the brick factories.

We boarded the plane in Frankfurt with great expectations. We were looking forward to the ministry itself, but also to getting to know each other and becoming a team. That all happened very quickly!

On Sunday, we took part in a service to celebrate the founding of a new church for the brick factory community. In her sermon Margret Meier gave it the official name: Emmanuel Church. Since October 2019 services have been taking place there.

Our 7-person German team received a very warm welcome and thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the School of Grace. It was particularly pleasing to see the kindergarten children playing with the toys and games donated from partners and friends in Germany.

On our visit to a brick factory we experienced child labour first-hand. We were amazed by the speed and skill with which these children turn over the bricks which have been made by their parents. The process is necessary for the bricks to dry evenly in the sun. Hundreds of stones are moved by the children who have to crouch for hours to get the work done.

250 women from the brick factories took part in the Women's conference! They were all waiting for us on Tuesday when we entered the large hall. Loud, Pakistani worship, a warm welcome and great joy filled the place. Margret Meier preached on the topic "Faith is a living relationship with Jesus." The sermon was based on the Bible text about the "woman with chronic blood-loss," a topic very appropriate for women.

The word of God fell on open hearts. Many came forward after the altar call to entrust their lives to Jesus, and many came afterwards with their needs for personal prayer. The team prayed with each woman personally. We brought them to God with their needs. On Wednesday there was a leadership training course. Armin Knothe and Christoph Graf captivated the congregation with helpful advice

from Col. 3.12-14. Enthusiastic singing to God's glory ended the training and we went on to visit two orphanages.

Thursday took us back to the brick factories. Parents were trained here. Marga Ziegenhard explained to the parents how important schooling is and encourages them to send their children to school for the entire 10 years. Then, Dorothea Fritschen taught the parents about hygiene and the importance of vitamins and a healthy diet. There was also a practical lesson on dental care. Every family was given the necessary toothbrushing kit, which was a great joy.

The last big event was the second women's conference in a different part of the city. Here, too, many women heard the message of Jesus, many accept him as Savior and Lord and brought their needs to God. The full, intense week quickly came to an end. The services of Himmelsperlen International brought people in Pakistan love and joy, appreciation, hope and inner strengthening. Their faith in Jesus Christ grew, God spoke to this people and many responded.

Marga Ziegenhard