



July 2020

Dear Friends,

Across the world, societies strive to provide more opportunities for their children than those provided to the generations before them. The struggle for success is especially difficult in Pakistan and even more so for the country's poorest of the poor located in the Punjab province.

Friends of PEB believes that providing a quality education for these children cultivates opportunities for the next generation and builds bridges across cultures, religions, and castes that result in a better world. That is why it's our mission to cultivate support throughout the United States for the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan.

From humble beginnings in the mid-19th century and struggling through many, many challenges, PEB has grown to 25 schools currently serving almost 6,000 students each year. Through perseverance and faith, the schools of PEB provide a quality education that has changed the lives of thousands of children, especially girls, for almost two centuries.

In Pakistan, poverty prevents so many children from having access to a quality education. Government schools in rural areas are seldom available and, when they are, lack quality curriculum and teachers. Many children live in single-parent homes, or their parents have debilitating illnesses that further restricts opportunity for their child's education. Girls are often kept at home to help with family chores, as cultural norms devalue the need to educate girls and parents fear for their daughter's safety when walking to and from school. Yet many families recognize the benefits to be gained from education, and they earnestly seek a way for their children (boys and girls) to be educated.

This is where PEB shines! Its mission is to provide education "...to individuals of all religious backgrounds, regardless of their ability to pay" and focuses particularly on "the poorest of the poor." This is a noble goal and one that PEB takes very seriously. Considering that most parents can only pay a meager portion of school fees for their children, PEB must supplement the remaining cost. To do this, PEB relies on Friends of PEB to solicit support from donors for individual student scholarships or donations to the general scholarship fund.

On behalf of Friends of PEB, I urge you to consider donating to a child's education in a PEB school. The formula is simple: for a dollar a day, you will make it possible for a student to get a quality PEB education. That's \$365 a year, which covers tuition, books, supplies, and uniforms. For two dollars a day or \$730 year, PEB can provide a student an education, as well as accommodations at one of its boarding houses. Boarding house scholarships provide an educational experience that includes room and board, which is particularly important for girls who need a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for learning and living.

Donations to our general scholarship fund are also critically important. Student needs and circumstances change frequently. Families, once able to contribute to their children's education, are suddenly faced with difficulties that would require the withdrawal of their children from school without the help of a scholarship. This is particularly true in these days of the coronavirus global pandemic, which has and will continue to place an unprecedented burden on families in Pakistan. Those struggling to provide food for their children and families now also face the likelihood of being unable to provide for their children's education. In such chaotic times, the general scholarship fund provides PEB the flexibility to nimbly meet the needs of students whose circumstance is suddenly altered.

Again, I urge you to generously support PEB's educational ministry by supporting the scholarship program. If you choose to sponsor a student, let us know whether you prefer to sponsor a day or boarding house student. Also let us know any preference you may have for the student's gender, school group, or location. Friends of PEB will pair you with one of PEB's students in need. Of course, you may also simply make a donation to PEB's general scholarship fund.

As it looks to reopen schools, PEB has developed a plan consistent with the recommended guidelines of the World Health Organization to provide a safe school environment. However, without your help, many children will go without an education this year. Thus, FOPEB has set a goal of raising the funds to underwrite the education of 1,000 students. This is a goal abounding in hope and full of growing opportunities! More than ever, I urge you to support the mission of Friends of PEB and donate to a Pakistani child's education.

On behalf of the students we serve, thank you for your generous support -- past, present and future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim F. Roach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim F. Roach
Board President of FOPEB