

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 3 - 4 / 2019

Dear friends and prayer partners,

thank you for your interest, your prayers and your donations. We came safely back from our travel to Pakistan directly into the hottest part of the year here. Schools are closed this month, and even Thais feel that we have now very high temperatures above 100 F.

Why did we fly to Pakistan?

As a part of her fundraising Christine has had intensive contacts to Christians in India and in Pakistan. In 2017 we flew twice to India in order to come to know personally the recipients of the funds there and their situation, and these visits turned out to be very valuable and helpful. Last November God told us to go to Pakistan and we gladly went as soon as possible. We planned to visit our main contacts in Pakistan: 1) Robina and Jochen, who care for widows, orphans and foster children at Lahore, and Robina's family at Faisalabad, who cares for orphans, foster children and widows there. 2) The Christian Follow Up Ministry (CFUM) with Sagar. This team cares for workers at brick kilns around Lahore and for widows.

Widows in Pakistan

In Pakistan widows have a difficult life. Many of them lost their husbands at the age of 20 - 40 years and had several children. Widows, even if they are young, are not married in Pakistan and there is no social welfare for them. Many are kicked out by their relatives and are not supported by them. If they don't find a job, they have to live and sleep as beggars on the streets and are therefore an easy prey for rapists. The most important thing for widows living on the street seem to be houses, where they can be safe during the night. Then widows should live together, work together and help each other. We must find ways, how they can earn a living. And Christian men should be encouraged to marry widows.

Brick kiln workers

If a poor family has big expenses, for example a wedding with 500 guests or a funeral or an expensive treatment of a family member at a hospital, they need to take out a loan. As they earn so little, that they can't save sizable amounts of money and as they don't have any collateral for a bank loan, they have one way only: They go to the owner of a brick kiln, who pays the required amount in advance and they work at the brick kiln, until this debt is paid back. The work they have to do

is to form 1000 bricks per day from clay and to stack them in a way that they can dry. After one week the dried bricks are fired in the kiln. Putting the clay into the brick mold is done in a crouching position. Christine did it with one brick once at a brick kiln with an original mold, and she found out, that is is hard work. In order to reach the daily target of 1000 bricks, often all members of the family have to work for it including the children, down to the age of 4 years. These children, therefore, can't attend a regular school, and, as they don't learn to read and to write, they will eventually not be able to work in any qualified job. Due to the high air humidity during rainy weeks bricks can't be dried and the workers don't earn money. The workers then need to increase their debt to buy food. The interest rate on the loan is 5 % per month. In a month, when the worker can't earn enough to pay all the interest, its remainder is added to the debt. This increases the future interest. This means, that in many cases the workers are unable to reduce their debts and to become free again. These debts are passed on to the following generation. That may mean, that grandparents, parents and children are forced to work at the the same brick kiln without the hope to become free one day. Therefore these types of work turn out to be a modern form of slavery, that is common in the 3rd world, especially in India and Pakistan. As the owner of the brick kilns usually have very good political connections, often legal requirements that e.g. forbid children work, can't be enforced. The well being of the workers at a brick kiln depends very much on the goodwill of the owner of the kiln.

Most of the workers at the brick kilns are Christians. The team of CFUM visits Christians at the kilns, holds Christian Services and prayer meetings there, organizes regular teaching for Children, and tries to alleviate the most pressing needs, by e. g. food donations. As far as CFUM receives donations, they can buy needed materials or even free slaves in extreme need by paying their outstanding debts and by helping them to adapt to the new situation. The next slave to be freed is a widower with 3 children and a debt amounting to 1770 Euro. We met him and his family in person. He has become so weak, that we expect him to die within few months only, if he will not be freed.

Preparations for the travel

When applying for our visa to Pakistan, we needed a Pakistani guarantor. As in former years there was a lot of violence of Muslim extremists, but the present Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan had cracked down on radicals and had stated publicly, that the Christian minority is a a accepted and welcome part of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State officials were very much interested in our safety.

Sagar was ready to be our guarantor and took personal responsibility before the State for our safety and for our good behavior. As we had booked a flight from Bangkok to Lahore at March 2nd and a flight from Lahore to Bangkok at March 30th, he organized for us a safe place to stay and visits to a number of Christian churches and to Christian Services at brick kilns as well as a visit to Robina and Jochen at Lahore and to Robina's family at Faisalabad.

We decided to write a newsletter to our friends and prayer partners before our travel. We could finish the writing, translating at sending at February 23rd. The next day when preparing the Sunday Service Reiner didn't know about what to preach. Finally the Holy Spirit gave him Mk. 1, 15 and told him to invite the listeners to a decision for Jesus. At our Sunday Service 2 of our teenagers and an adult person, who had come with one of our friends, gave their lives to Jesus. The rest of the week was spent by tidying up our home, by packing of our luggage and by buying things we gave to the poor in our village at February 28th. With all our baggage ready we were glad, that our workers

Khun O and Khun Fon brought us with their pick up truck to the Airport Bangkok Suvarnabhumi, and we arrived there in time for our departure.

Waiting

When we checked in, we heard, that our flight to Lahore was canceled for tonight, as the airspace over Lahore and Islamabad was closed because of the conflict between India and Pakistan. Therefore we decided to sleep during the night at a resort not far from the airport. As it was nearly impossible to get informations about the flights from our airline via telephone or internet, we went to the airport again nearly every day during the following week to get our flight, but even as flights to other cities in Pakistan were possible again, flights from Bangkok to Lahore stayed cancelled, because Lahore is so close to Kashmir. During this time we moved to a hotel not far from the airport, and we had time to relax. Nevertheless this time of waiting and uncertainty was not easy for us, and our friends in Pakistan prayed a lot for us. At March 8th after a talk with a very helpful employee of our airline we decided to use the offer of the airline to change the destination to Karachi. The flight at this evening was already fully booked, but for the flight next morning we came on the waiting list, and 20 minutes before the start we could check in, but the aircraft waited so long that we could enter it, after the check in and the passport control had finished after the original time for departure. We had a good and peaceful flight to Karachi, and we decided to fly at the same afternoon to Lahore.

Overview about our time at Lahore

At the evening of March 9th we arrived at Lahore and had a very warm welcome by the team of CFUM. We had a secure place at Lahore, where we spent all our nights and got breakfast. We stayed there until our departure at March 30th. From this we were taken by car to the house of Sagar Gill. There the team assembled and went out for the different activities. In the evening we were brought back to our room.

Due to our late arrival the number of the planned visits at churches had to be reduced to 4, we were at 3 meetings for widows and we visited at least the Christians at 9 brick kilns. We spent one day with Robina and Jochen at Lahore and one day with Robina's family at Faisalabad.

We always had a good translator. Once we attended the Sunday Service at the Anglican Cathedral at Lahore. At every other Service and at every meeting with Christians at brick kilns except one Reiner was asked to preach, and it was Christina's turn for the meetings with the widows and women and for the children living with Robina and Jochen. Many persons came to us and asked for personal prayers, and we had to see many homes of brick kiln workers and to pray for the homes and for those dwelling there.

The Holy Spirit helped us in a wonderful way. Each time He gave us the Bible text (each time a new one) and sometimes one or two thoughts. We started to preach, and He gave one thought after the other and we could speak into the situation of our listeners in a way they could really understand. Each time it was a totally new sermon. Each sermon took 20 - 30 minutes. Because we received everything, we were not exhausted after the sermons, but could step back quietly. God had filled our empty hands. God filled also our hands when we prayed for others. We didn't know most of the people that came to us and asked us for prayer. Usually Christine prayed for the women and children and Reiner for the men or for whole households. We asked them, what we should pray for, and we asked the Holy Spirit to guide us. Many couples asked for another child. Certain persons had to decide to forgive others, and several demons had to be driven out. This was very simple: We made sure, that Satan had no rights any longer on this person and afterwards we commanded the demon to leave the afflicted person, to never return and to not molest any other person, and we forbade any outward manifestations. This way the demons left without any spectacular phenomenon.

We served the lowest in society, and it was a wonderful experience. Evidently we were at the place God wanted us to be. We were received very warmly and found really open hearts. Many suffered, but when they sang with a loud voice, their eyes shone, and when we preached about the greatness of God and about the victory of Jesus they rejoiced. When we visited the houses and found some extremely shabby, others very clean, and some workers could even afford their own goat and cows. It was easy to see, how the owner of a brick kiln treats his workers. We came to know one of them, who gave free time for the Service and a meal for all who attend.

We met the widower we talked about, bought clothes for his children and decided to make fundraising to achieve his liberation. At another family we saw a powerful fan, that had no protective basket around his steel blades. We decided to pay for a safe fan. And we gave money for a wheelchair needed by a 14 year old girl.

For the services and prayer meetings many workers and their families wore their best clothes. We encountered many impressive personalities and many very beautiful women.

The team had a loudspeaker with electronic amplifier for the microphones, but the songs were accompanied by one or several drums and a not very loud hand

harmonium. The singing was in most cases very strong and beautiful and touched our hearts. We felt very well in the atmosphere of these Services, even if we didn't understand that were said or prayed. We had the impression, that the Holy Spirit was present there and at work.

The team of CFUM

We were very much impressed by the team of CFUM. The members of this team are Sagar, his father, two pastors, the wife of one of these pastors, a lawyer and some volunteers. They work ceaselessly for the Christians in a number of brick kilns by Christian Services and Prayer meetings and by practical help. They support schooling of children in brick kilns, and the pastor's wife mentioned teaches children at 3 kilns. They offered food, when no bricks could be produced because of rain. If they get enough money, they free the people most in need from debt slavery by paying the outstanding debts and make sure, that all legal steps required for it are done, and they help those freed to cope with the new situation.

We got a very warm welcome by the team, and they bought for us Pakistani clothing, and we gladly wore it. They were very glad about our presence and our messages, and we have become one in Jesus. They received us into the team.

We came to know the modest house of Sagar, as we always gathered there with the team, and the sleeping room of his family, where they allowed us to have some rest. And we met once at the house of one of the pastors belonging to the team in the room where he studies and receives guests. That also was very modest. Later, when we were back in Thailand, we learned, that Sagar has no own car, but an old motorcycle only. The car we were transported during our stay was rented for the time we were here only. Never we read and heard them bragging about how wonderful, blessed and important their work is. As long as we know them, we never heard them to ask money for themselves. Sagar and his father work in a job to earn money to finance themselves, their family, and part of their work.

Christine gave a paper to Sagar, where she had gathered all the Bible verses about widows and orphans. CFUM, a work that already had cared for widows decided to give a high priority to widows in their ministry. We were impressed, how quickly they want to obey God.

Robina and Jochen and their team

We visited Robina and Jochen at Lahore. They live there in a house with 15 orphans and foster children. When we came there we were received by a dance of several children. We had a long talk with Jochen and Robina in their living room. Later we had an occasion to be together with their wonderful children. The living room of the couple is nice, but otherwise the house is quite modest, but very clean and very organized. The children there have a very strict daily time table from 5:30 to 21:00, but we had the impression, that they are happy and do splendidly. Jochen

is a very courageous German, who goes singlehandedly to different parts of Pakistan to evangelize, where he is invited.

The next day we went to Faisalabad to see the house of Robina's mother, her brothers and her sisters. They support Robina and care themselves for orphans, foster children, and for widows. For this visit we had too little time, but Robina's family impressed us by their faith and the quality of their lives.. The short encounter with the children, the widows, and others gathered there was very good. Sagar also is very impressed by the quality of the work they do. We wholeheartedly continue to support this work and the work of CFUM and encourage others to donate for them.

Pakistan

Pakistan is a land of contrasts. At Lahore, the city we spent most of our time, there are gorgeous boulevards from the time of the British rule there, there are very modern buildings, and we were on very well built highways through the country. We went to a bookstore and stationery shop, that sells lots of tools and material for artists. One evening we were brought to a big, very modern and very rich shopping mall. On the other hand we saw in the urban traffic many carts drawn by a donkey. And in the Christian quarter we often went to we saw many small shops with an area of few square meters only. When we had to travel outside of Lahore we saw a lot of small shops also.

The persons we met most, widows and brick kin workers, belong to the lowest and most despised people in the country. But we encountered men, who like to be man and are ready to take responsibility for their families, and we saw women who like to be women and seemed to be happier than many women we had come to know in other countries. We saw suffering people, but their faces shone, when God was exalted. We found Christians with whom we could be one in Christ, and a great openness for the Holy Spirit, that made it so easy to preach and pray there.

Security

God helped us to adapt to the situation and to follow the requirements concerning our safety. Often we had to wait in the car or in the house, until it was safe to go out. To walk alone in the town was too dangerous, and we had always 2 men with us who served as our bodyguards. One of them told us: "Before you die, I will die." We often drove by a church, where they had 25 portraits at the outside commemorating the 25 victims, who were killed some years ago during a Sunday service by Muslim radicals. Another picture depicted a christian guard, who died while preventing a similar catastrophe. The present Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan declared publicly, that Christians and other religious minorities are respected and esteemed citizens of Pakistan, and the Government does a lot for their protection. Nevertheless attacks by Muslim radicals continue to be a danger. When at Sunday we went to a Christian quarter, we had to pass a strong Police

post controlling its entrance. Never before in our life we saw so many steel doors, high walls crowned with rolls of modern barbed wire and so many assault guns (AK 47 and M 16, automatic guns employed by the military), carried openly by the Police and by security employees. In the airports stood lots of guards armed this way. In addition to this an escalation of the conflict between India and Pakistan couldn't be excluded. An Indian nuclear bomb hitting Lahore would have hit us, too.

The danger for our lives, however didn't disturb us, but we were carried by the peace of God. God has given us a living hope, that we shall live with Jesus forever, even if we die here on earth. We live by the love of God, and we are ready to leave everything in His hands and to receive everything from Him every moment.. And for our marriage it has been clear from the outset that our partner is entrusted to us by God for a certain time only, and that God can take him or her from us at any moment. We have lived with the knowledge, that every day in our marriage and in our lives might be the last one. We live in a close relationship with Jesus already now, and that will not change, when we die, but we shall see Him face to face, and that will be wonderful. So we look forward to the day of our earthly death with joy. We don't have any aims for ourselves any longer here on earth, but we stay here, because God uses us here.

We stand with empty hands before God, and He gives, and gives, and gives. Life is so easy, when you don't seek your own reputation and don't try to impress others, but when you simply love them and serve them, and you are free to say and to do what God wants. More and more we discover the truth in the word of Jesus: When you finished all the things you had to do, say: "We are useless servants." (Lk. 17, 10) We can't do the things, but we have to stand with empty hands before God and to receive everything, that is needed and to pass it onto the others who need it. And afterwards we are grateful to God, but our hands are empty again. Seen from outside, this life seems to be horrible, but for those, who live it, it is wonderful.

Return to Thailand

On March, 30th we had to fly to Karachi again, because the flights from Lahore to Bangkok continued to be cancelled. We spent there a night in the well protected Airport Hotel and could fly to Bangkok the next day after noon. We arrived around 22:00 at Bangkok and went from there to a nearby hotel, where our workers Khun O and Khun Fon picked us up shortly before midday. We returned to our house at Ban Kaosamchan in the evening of April 1st.

While we were away, Khun O and Khun Fon had worked very hard for us. They painted the big room in our house 1 and repaired the damaged roof there. They painted the big room, the stairwell, and the outer walls of house 2 and cleaned the whole house. They removed the old banana plants from our fruit orchard, planted new banana plants, and cleared up the garden. Daily they watered all our plants and fed our animals.

Every Saturday Khun Paeng came and made a program for children, and Khun Kanitha cooked a meal for them. April 6th a team joined the program, that was part of a discipleship training school of Youth with a Mission in Australia. Afterwards we had a short, but very good encounter with them.

When we waited at Bangkok for our departure, a fire destroyed 4 houses totally. No one of the inhabitants was wounded, but they lost all their belongings. The whole village, the Buddhist monastery of the village, the local primary school, and the state officials, also from our provincial capital worked together, that those affected had a place to stay and enough food to eat and all the other things they needed. 4 new houses were built for them. We are very glad about this initiative of our village.

Our houses 2 and 3 are to be sold.

We heard, that the owner of our houses 2 and 3 intends to sell this plot of land and the houses at a price of about 100 000 Euro. We as foreigners can't buy land in Thailand, but an accredited foundation can do it. If someone else buys this plot of land, the new owner can kick us out. We pray and trust, that God has a good solution for us and for the land.

Fundraising for the widower mentioned was successful.

We are very glad, that at April 17th all the money was sent to our account, that was needed to free the widower with his 3 children we mentioned here several times. We are grateful for all those who opened their hearts for him and gave. Now the money is transferred to Pakistan and the needed steps must be undertaken.

The time in Pakistan has changed our lives.

The problems we saw there make many of the problems at other places insignificant. You don't want any longer to play around and waste your time with petty things. We came with empty hands to Pakistan, and God gave so much during these days as never before. This encouraged us to expect more and more from the almighty God. We saw God at work in the lives of our brothers and sisters there, and sometimes we are homesick for Pakistan. We look forward to go to Pakistan again, and in the meantime we learn the main language Urdu.

We close with one of the first sentences we learned there:

خدا باپ کی تعریف ہو All the Glory to God!
(chudaa baap kii ta^rriif hu)

We thank God for:

- the people who gave their lives to Jesus at our Sunday Service,

- Khun Paeng who did our children ministry at Saturday and Khun Kanitha who cooked for them,
- a rich and protected travel to Pakistan and the big help we got there,
- Khun O and Khun Fon and all their work in and for our houses and for our animals,
- for the good ministries of CFUM and of Robina and Jochen.

We ask God for:

- a good solution for our houses 2 and 3,
- the successful release of the widower and his 3 children and a good reentering into normal life for them all,
- that we can apply for the accreditation of our foundation soon, and that the foundation will be accredited quickly and without problems,
- our publications, for good translations and for good ways to distribute them, and for new material helpful for Christians and for the rural population,
- God's protection, wisdom , and provision for the teams of CFUM and Robina and Jochen.

We wish you God's protection and His blessings during the next weeks and send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine and Reiner Hennig



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We continue to use our old bank account at ING-DiBa, but are not allowed to receive on it money for others.

Christine supports persons in need in India and Pakistan (we know most of their leaders and many of them personally). These donations will arrive at their destination by 100%, as we pay the expenses for money transfer and administration. For more information please contact Christine under cmhennig23@yahoo.com.



Shopping mall



shopping mall



besides a main road



small shops



brick kiln



bricks drying



baking bread Pakistani style



donkey cart



Jochen

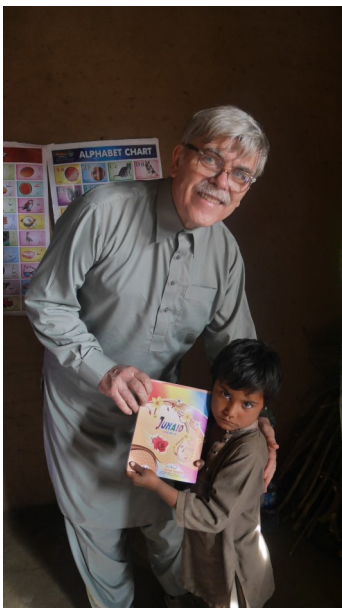


11 *Robina and Christine*



inauguration of a Sunday school at a brick kiln

preparing a Service in a brick kiln



Brick kiln children get a chance ...



in front of flats for brick kiln workers



... to learn to read and to write