



FRIENDS
OF PEB

April 2026 NEWSLETTER



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A Letter from Cheryl

This month's newsletter is, once again, about security. That's where much of our focus has had to be lately and we want you, our faithful supporters and prayer warriors, to understand what's happening. My update will be brief this time, because Veda has written a report from her perspective, and I think you'll find her words far more meaningful.

Over the past month, I've often been asked some variation of the question: "How is this situation any different from what always happens in Pakistan?" It's a fair question, and I think it's important to explain. Life in Pakistan is undeniably difficult. What's considered "normal" there would feel traumatic to most Americans — constant inflation, unreliable power, food insecurity, no social safety nets, and widespread poverty. Yet even within that hardship, people generally haven't lived under a daily threat to their safety or their children's safety simply by leaving home for school or the market.

Having lived in Pakistan for over a decade, I can honestly say that the danger facing mission schools right now is the highest it has been since I arrived there in 2004. The recent U.S. war with Iran has played a major role. While tensions began during the conflict in Afghanistan, the escalation with Iran has intensified anti-American sentiment, and the threats have shifted more directly toward mission-affiliated organizations.

In Pakistan, Christians are often closely identified with America, which is viewed as a Christian nation. When anger toward the U.S. rises, Pakistan's Christian communities feel the backlash. In the past, that has taken the form of village burnings, church attacks, and violence during Christian holidays. Today, the government is specifically concerned about attacks on mission schools. That's what's new and that's what makes this moment different.

Even so, PEB continues doing what they do best: educating children who might otherwise never have such opportunities and working tirelessly to keep them safe, physically and emotionally, amid uncertainty. They are implementing new security measures quickly yet still working to keep things routine so that the students can continue to learn without fear. Parents are sending their children to school because they trust PEB. This is a trust built over many years of faithful service, partnership, and integrity in their communities.

Thank you for helping PEB remain steadfast in its mission, even when circumstances are far from "normal." Your prayers, generosity, and encouragement mean more than you can know to the staff and teachers who continue serving with courage and love.

With gratitude,

Cheryl Burke

Friends of PEB Executive Director

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678-697-6454

GIVE NOW



Friends of PEB also welcomes planned gifts, donor-advised funds, IRA distributions, or gifts in other forms. If you have questions about your gift, please contact Cheryl at cheryl@friendsofpeb.org or 678-697-6454. If you've recently added Friends of PEB to your will, please reach out to let us know!

2025 Annual Report

Our 2025 Annual Report is here! We're grateful for all that was made possible this past year through your support. We'd love for you to take a few minutes to celebrate the impact together. Click the button below to view it.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT



Kinnaird Academy Expansion

Goal: \$850,000

Currently Raised: \$201,821

Construction on the new administration building is underway, progress made possible by generous supporters like you. Once finished, it will immediately free up three classrooms in the main school building currently used as staff offices.

But we cannot pause here. Funding is urgently needed to begin construction on the academic block that will add nine more new classrooms. Every classroom is full, and more than 200 children are on a waiting list. For many families, Kinnaird is the only affordable, safe, and high-quality education option available in this densely populated area of Lahore.

Give now to help us keep building and open the door for 200+ more students.

GIVE NOW



News from Pakistan: Security Update from Veda

We wanted to send an update on the security situation in Pakistan since it has been a couple of weeks since we have given an update.

Due to the incredible generosity of our donors, we have raised about a third of the total \$350,000 needed to completely update the security needs of the PEB schools. This has allowed the PEB team to hire armed security guards for all of the schools for the next six months, purchase and install walk through gates and metal detectors for all of the schools, install CCTV cameras and begin some of the boundary walls. The remaining funds needed are for repairing and replacing boundary walls and installing barbed wire wherever it is missing. These are longer term needs, but we will continue to raise funds for them until they are complete. We must prioritize this need going forward.

As far as the overall security situation in Pakistan, I have asked Veda to tell us about that. Her response is as follows:

As common citizens in Pakistan, we witness daily how regional conflicts involving Afghanistan and rising tensions with Iran are directly affecting our schools, staff, and communities. These are not distant political issues; they shape the lives of our students, teachers, and families.

Pakistan continues to face serious security threats from Afghanistan due to cross-border militancy, especially from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Increased attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have also created fear and instability in the Punjab, particularly in vulnerable communities where many of our schools serve. Border clashes, militant violence, and targeted attacks on civilians and security forces have created an atmosphere of uncertainty. In some sensitive areas, schools are forced to close temporarily due to security threats, disrupting the education of children who already face many challenges.

At the same time, tensions involving Iran have added significant economic pressure. Rising oil and gas prices have increased inflation, making fuel, electricity, transportation, and basic necessities more expensive. For educational institutions like ours, fuel shortages and rising operational costs directly affect school transport, staff mobility, and the smooth functioning of our campuses. Families struggling with financial hardship often find it difficult to keep their children in school.

There is also growing concern that instability along both borders may increase refugee pressure, smuggling, sectarian tensions, and insecurity in already fragile regions such as Balochistan. These conditions place additional burdens on educational and social service institutions that are already working with limited resources.

As faith-based educators, we remain committed to providing hope, stability, and quality education during these uncertain times. However, the combined impact of terrorism, border conflict, inflation, and insecurity reminds us that education is not separate from national peace and stability. It is deeply connected. Our mission continues, but with greater challenges and a stronger call to serve the most vulnerable.

Peace and Prayers,

Veda Gill

Executive Director

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan

Thank you so much for your support. We will continue to keep you updated in the coming weeks. If you would like to help continue to move security measures forward, including reinforcing boundary walls, please click the button below.

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Student Story: Solomon Standard High School Rawalpindi

This story follows a young girl from Rawalpindi whose life changed dramatically after a serious injury to her left eye. The injury, caused by a lead pencil due to a teacher's negligence at a government school while she was in Nursery class, required surgery and drew the attention of senior education authorities in Punjab.

Following her recovery, her family began searching for a new school, but the process proved difficult. Some advised enrolling her in a special needs school, while others were hesitant to admit her due to the ongoing involvement of government officials. Meanwhile, doctors strongly recommended that she continue living a normal life and attend a mainstream school.



With determination, her family visited PEB's Solomon Standard High School Rawalpindi. The principal welcomed her with compassion and admitted her into Nursery, allowing her to restart after losing a year of schooling.

Although she still experiences brief moments when her vision fades, the care and encouragement she received from the principal, teachers, and staff made a profound difference. Their supportive environment helped her regain confidence and feel secure in the classroom again.

That support soon led to remarkable progress. Through consistent encouragement and hard work, she not only adjusted well but went on to achieve first position in her class.

Her journey is a powerful reminder of the impact that compassion, patience, and dedicated educators can have—restoring confidence, opening doors, and transforming a child's future.

Available Student to Sponsor

Boarding Student | \$70 per month

"My name is Aliza. I'm in Class 2 at Christian Girls' Boarding House Sangla Hill, and I dream of becoming a teacher."

Aliza's father is a laborer, and her mother is a housewife. Aliza's family cannot afford school fees on their own. She is waiting for a sponsor to help her continue her education long-term. Would you consider helping her family with tuition costs?



[MORE INFO](#)

To make a gift to Friends of PEB, click the button below.

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Friends of PEB

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