

Snap shot of Mirpurkhas

Both grandfathers were deeply concerned. What were we thinking taking our four young children to Pakistan? 'Do you realise how close it is to Russia?' my father asked.

This was 1980 and we felt strangely motivated to consider spending my forester husband's three months of long service leave somewhere overseas. Very shortly afterwards came a plea from CMS to relieve managers Soren and Valerie Bruhn at the Mirpurkhas Boys Hostel in Sindh, Pakistan. In 1968 I had been a nurse at Sukkur Women's Hospital and had to return to NZ suddenly after 2 ½ years for surgery. My intention had been to return but instead, marriage and four children intervened! This opportunity to revisit Pakistan was a wonderful gift to complete unfinished emotional business.

We were able to see first-hand how valuable the hostel was to boys from the tribal area of that dry desert part of Sindh. They were receiving life-changing education and rich experiences of Christian community with cooperative endeavours such as putting on dramas and singing opportunities. My husband, Peter Allan was able to help with the book-keeping and general supervision, but the hostel was well run by Pakistani staff. Our kids loved interacting with the hostel boys, gaining worthwhile changes to their somewhat isolated West Coast world view.

When the recent appeal for funds to allow this steady work of over 50 years to continue, we had no hesitation in contributing. We know that the money will be wisely used and much appreciated by the current young boys and their families. New Zealanders for many years have been vital to the vision, establishment and ongoing work of the Mirpurkhas Hostel. I'm delighted that yet again we are taking up the challenge to help continue this worthwhile ministry.

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allan.

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