

Apostolic Faith Church of Portland, Oregon Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan

Monthly Report (May-July, 2023)

Greetings Everyone! We believe that anyone who reads this report of the Lord's work going on in Pakistan by your prayers will receive blessings and a great joy. We appreciate your support for Pakistan through prayers. We thank Lord to have such a faithful family behind us.

MAY

Meeting with community elders:

On May 1 we convened a meeting with community leaders and heads of families from our locality as well as adjacent areas. The aim was to extend an invitation for them to join our usual Sunday church services, lend their support in disseminating the Gospel via the Apostolic Faith Church platform, and to encourage them to send their young ones to Sunday school, find salvation, and serve the Lord alongside us.

The meeting began at 5 PM. Bro. Nadeem, who was kind enough to welcome all the attendees, also took a moment to briefly outline my trip to Zimbabwe and Bro. Felix's visit to Pakistan.

Subsequently, I provided an overview of the beliefs and faith of the Apostolic Faith Church. I emphasized that we are a Bible-based church, tracing our roots back to the Azusa Street revival, with our main headquarters situated in Portland, Oregon. I communicated that our focus in Pakistan is to propagate the Gospel and contribute to the spiritual salvation of its people. In addition, I urged them to assist us in our ministry work in any capacity possible. This can be through attending our church services with their families to hear the word of God and experience the transformative gift of salvation.

Outcome: The attendees were pleased to gain this insight, with some already familiar with it. They made a commitment to send both their children and adults to our church services to serve the Lord. They conveyed their readiness to help in any capacity needed for the ministry's work and affirmed their continuous prayers for the church's growth.

Mother's Day Service:

On May 14 we conducted a special service in honor of Mother's Day at our Toba Tek Singh branch. The prayer service began at 11 AM and featured some traditional Christian songs sung by the choir in tribute to mothers. It was a touching and heartwarming scene to observe everyone expressing their love and appreciation for their mothers, truly a beautiful moment! The celebration was further enhanced by the cutting of a lovely cake and the presentation of beautifully colored coffee mugs to 30 mothers as tokens of our appreciation.

Purchasing Bibles: This month saw an increase in Bible purchases, facilitated by the generous support of our Canadian brethren, with a special thanks to Sister Marjorie. Over 200 Bibles for adults and 50 for children were bought to be distributed among new converts. This is a crucial aspect of our outreach to new areas, where we encounter families without knowledge of the Gospel. It's essential that when we reach out and preach to them about Jesus Christ, they have access to the Bible to read for themselves. If the Lord tarries, we also plan to distribute audio Bibles to those unable to read, enabling them to hear the word of God.

Conversion of Living Room into Worship Place: We have been blessed with the opportunity to transform our living room into a dedicated worship space for church services. The cozy carpet on the floor, the beautifully placed cross on the wall, and the prominently displayed "Jesus, the Light of the World" contributes to an uplifting and inspiring environment. All who visit can come and pray to the Lord, confess their sins, and find peace and comfort.

Daily Prayer Meeting:

The daily prayer meeting is conducted for an hour from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. It is heartening to witness a large turnout of young boys and girls, including children, actively participating. These young attendees come regularly, learning to sing and play musical instruments from skilled brethren. Parents are grateful for the Apostolic Faith Church providing such a platform for their children to unite, pray, learn, and serve the Lord. The aim is to encourage and prepare these young individuals to potentially become ministers, perform music, and sing during the services. Bibles have also been distributed among these young participants.

JUNE

Zoom Service (Toba Tek Singh)

On June 3, Apostolic Faith Church Pakistan hosted a combined Zoom service that was attended by members from Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, and the surrounding areas. Our guests included our country director, Bro. Felix from Zimbabwe, as well as Sister Marjorie and Bro. Edwin from Canada. The service started promptly at 5:30 pm with Sis. Warisha and Sis. Zanica leading the opening song. Despite the main area being fully occupied, many men enthusiastically sat outside the prayer area, eager to participate in the service and hear the Gospel. The gathering was large, with over 200 members present in Toba Tek Singh and an additional 80+ in Faisalabad.

The service was enlivened by shared testimonies, including that of Bro. Paul and Bro. Emmanuel, who shared their spiritual transformations since joining the Apostolic Faith Church. Additional healing testimonies were shared by women from both locations. A sister shared her testimony who was suffering from skin allergy. She always use to put bandages on her arms. She used to attend Sunday service in Faisalabad. She prayed for healing in altar call. Lord healed her and she had a wish to share testimony with all saints, so in the combined service she testified. Bro. Felix delivered a sermon on "Faith" based on Mathew 8:1-10,13, encouraging members to maintain their faith in challenging situations. Participants were delighted and found their faith strengthened by the teaching. Sis. Marjorie led the closing prayer while both she and Bro. Edwin expressed joy for being able to worship with the saints in Pakistan. After the service, participants were grateful for the opportunity to hear the Gospel from their respected leaders, and 14 bibles were distributed to those who requested.

Second Zoom Service (Faisalabad)

On June 18, a Revival meeting was held in Faisalabad, attended by over 450 local congregants, including 30 from Toba Tek Singh. Despite the intense heat, their enthusiasm was palpable. Bro. Felix Panganayi, Sis Marjorie, Bro. Edwin, and a few overseas brethren joined the service via Zoom. The service began with a worship song led by Sis. Muskan and the choir. Sis. Warisha led the congregational song "Here I am to Worship." The testimony of Bro. Shan about his transformation from drug addiction to active church participation was moving. Sis. Marjorie conveyed her joy at attending the service and affirmed her prayers for the congregation. Bro. Felix gave an inspiring sermon on receiving through faith, which was based on Matthew 6:33. The resulting Altar Service saw many attendees experience healing, salvation, and deliverance. Following the service, 39 bibles were distributed.

Visit to Barnala (Chiniot Region)

On June 25, the AF team visited the Barnala region. A worship service led by Sis. Sumbal and Bro. Faraz was attended by 70-80 locals, and a sermon based on 1 John 1:9 was delivered. A total of 45 bibles were distributed, and 13 locals reported receiving salvation in the following days.

Assistance to Brick-Kiln Family

The Apostolic Faith Church aided a family working and living in a brick-kiln factory. After becoming aware of Natasha's difficult pregnancy, Sister Victoria arranged a doctor's visit which indicated a C-section was necessary. Natasha later gave birth to a healthy baby girl naturally at home, and the remaining funds were used to provide better living conditions and cover additional expenses. The family now regularly attends our services.

JULY

Outreach to Seowal

On July 15 the Apostolic Faith Church conducted an outreach program in Seowal. The meeting was attended by over 125 saints, and worship was led by Brother Paloos and Arsh. I shared a sermon based on Isaiah 55:7, and the local response to the altar call was heartwarming. After the service, 48 bibles were distributed among the young people.

Visit to Northern Pakistan

From July 21 to 25 we visited Northern Pakistan with the aim of understanding the Christian population and promoting the Apostolic Faith Church. Despite initial resistance, we managed to meet several Christian families and individuals from other faiths who expressed an interest in our teachings. We aim to revisit the area, distribute Bibles, and establish regular Sunday services.

Meeting of Church Workers

On July 30, we held a meeting with senior and young members of our congregation to encourage them to serve in various roles within the church. Attendees were enthusiastic about volunteering their services and joining our church ministry. We also maintain regular Sunday services in Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad. However, Tuesday Evening Devotional Services and daily prayer meetings are ongoing in Toba Tek Singh.

Future Plans:

- 1. Organize more monthly combined Zoom services.
- 2. Conduct youth meetings.
- 3. Expand the church community through outreach programs.
- 4. Celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Apostolic Faith Church in Pakistan in September.
- 5. Inaugurate 1–2-day camp meetings in Faisalabad.
- 6. Help brick-kiln factory families become self-sufficient.
- 7. Start prayer services in Sahiwal, Lahore, and Islamabad.