



News from Shalom Christian Centre - July 2011

A special event at the Eva Educational Uplift Programme, in Sargodha

Respected friends,

Greetings from Shalom. We are well and we had a wonderful 2 day tour of Sargodha. We went there as a family. Unfortunately Surreya fell ill. Her blood pressure went very high, due to extreme heat and the long journey, but the good Lord enabled us to achieve what we had gone there for.

We met the children of the "Eva Educational Uplift Program". There are about 30 children of different grades who are benefiting from this effort. There are three teachers involved who give guidance to these children. The teachers arranged drama, songs and memory verse competitions. The parents of the children also came to witness the improved confidence of their children. People of this village are very happy that their children are getting assistance with their education. It gives them hope that one day these children will be able to break the vicious circle of poverty and live lives that God intends them to have. There were full rounds of applause for the children from the parents. People have shown interest in this program and more people have committed to send their children to benefit from this opportunity. The people and teachers of "program" have requested us to help them organize another 2 day program in December.



Children singing songs



Gifts were given to children

We arranged lunch for over 100 people and we had a great time with them



The parents enjoying lunch



The children enjoying lunch

The pastor arranged another evening meeting for us to encourage people to take an interest in the educational uplift program. The focus of the sermon was to help parents realize their responsibilities towards their children. People have generally felt very encouraged. To know that we had travelled 200 km just to be with them was a morale building factor for them. They felt that they were not alone and their brethren were interested in them.

We are trying to manage the resources in the best possible way we can and we try to do it on our own, but if we find it difficult, we will let you know. I want to point out here that psychologically people have been depressed for so long that a majority of folks think nothing will ever change for them. It is state of depression and it will take much effort and techniques to help them to know, that it will be good for them in the long run. So we are mainly focusing on promotional activities to encourage them. We are hoping that by March 2012 we will begin to see positive/encouraging results coming out from this effort.

Comments off one mother *"I am illiterate and I did not think my children could get any where in life but with this educational uplift program I feel comforted and assured that my children will get somewhere in life"*.

Another mother said: *"It is unique to see a church that is focused on building people's lives instead of just preaching from the pulpit"*

One father said: *"My child's grades have improved in his studies due to this program"*.

Another mother said: *"The economic conditions of our country have severely crushed our ability to get our children educated, but this initiative has greatly encouraged us"*

Please accept the love and greetings from people of Sargodha.

Humbly

Edwin & Surreya