

Jane Shaw's news. Jane's Link Letter no 6, dated May 2007, was delayed in arriving in Leckhampton, but is now safely installed on the porch notice-board, behind the door. Here is a selection of extracts.

Greetings from a hot and sticky Lahore! ... Let me share with you how God is still answering prayer, in the light of my last letter's prayer requests. Top of the list was progress in Urdu – and I may be thinking wishful thoughts, but I think I am slowly beginning to understand more easily. I recently attended the Diocesan Triennial Council, which was three days of listening to continuous reporting, reading and praying in Urdu (and once being called on impromptu to pray myself); and it was very beneficial. Of course I still miss a great deal of what's said, but confidence is coming. Praise the Lord for that – and for the promise of a month's full time study in Murree in June. Meanwhile I am about to start with a new Urdu tutor, as my previous teacher has gone to Murree.

The second prayer request was to use my time well and take proper rest – well, I'm still working on that, but I have joined a club with a swimming pool, where I can sit quietly and read as well as swim. I sneak off there two or three times a week when I can, and it's very refreshing. They have special cheap rates for mission people. And I did have enough energy for Lent, Holy Week and Easter (third prayer request), even though it was quite a marathon. I really valued my five-day break in Multan the week after Easter with friends at the Christian Hospital!

My final prayer request last time has been gloriously answered – I have a car! First of all, thanks to CMS who mobilised half the cost (I dipped into my savings for my half), and sent it through to the Diocese very quickly; then thanks to the banking system, because it arrived without any "en-route" deductions; then thanks to the Diocese, who gave me a cheque for the full amount which I could cash at any time. So I discussed possibilities with the Bishop and started to look around. Nothing happened for several weeks, and finally, in desperation, I asked the Lord for help. And the next evening the Bishop phoned me to say a Christian contact of his was selling a Suzuki Cultus (the very model I yearned for, but thought was too expensive) and it would be a really good buy. He negotiated a price within my range, and after having it inspected by the Bishop's driver who 'Knows Cars', I bought it. I'm very happy about it, and it has already made pastoral (evening) visiting, getting to the hospital and generally moving about Lahore much easier and pleasanter. So I am very grateful to God and the Bishop ... and to the vendor, who I think lost on the deal!

You can see a photo of "proud owner with car" if you look on the notice-board. More from Jane next month: meanwhile here are some prayer points.

I give praise and thanks for:

my new car, and also for Farzana, my new lady who washes, irons and cleans twice a week – this is a liberation for me!

progress in Urdu speaking and writing and for having good teachers over the last year;

my continued good health and energy levels, despite the hot weather.

Please continue to pray for:

my Urdu study, especially as I begin to prepare for the first year exams;

for survival through the hot weather here in Lahore – it lasts until October.