



Columban Mission in Pakistan 2012



Columbans and St Vincent de Paul
in Partnership

FR ROBERT McCULLOCH
St Columbans Mission Society



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Elizabeth Hospital

After the Flood

"Thank God for the common sense and experience of Society of St. Vincent de Paul in responding to the crises. The first question that immediately came from the Society was "What do you need to help the people?", and then, when things eased a bit, "What can we do to help get the hospital back into shape?" The absolutely right questions at the absolutely right times!"

When you hear of a hospital in the Third World, you think of people in great need, impoverished people, women with desperately sick and dying children in their arms, diseases that could be prevented, and more. When natural disasters like famine or flood happen, you hope and expect that hospitals will use all their facilities and personnel to respond with compassion and competence.

This is just what St. Elizabeth Hospital did in both 2010 and 2011 when floods hit the south of Pakistan.

Our three medical and nursing teams of Christian, Muslim and Hindu staff worked together in the spirit of compassion for the poor that is characteristic of St. Elizabeth. They gave free medical care, made sure people had food and drinking water, and kept on doing so when the international care teams left.

The international media went off to cover some other "breaking news" but the needs of the flood-affected in Sindh didn't go away. St. Elizabeth Hospital stayed with them.



St. Elizabeth has a well-established reputation in Pakistan for giving the best possible care to those in greatest need. It is a 110 bed hospital where total daily charges are just over \$2 a day and at no cost for those who have nothing.

Through its Mobile Medical Outreach, St. Elizabeth is the sole medical provider to over 20,000 totally impoverished people to whom free care is given.

We used everything we had to care for people who had lost everything in the flood. The kindness of people in Australia enabled us to do so much.

One of the effects of the flood was the terrible damage to the hospital building, medical equipment, and furniture needed to run a hospital efficiently. During the floods at the end of 2011, there was 2/3

metre of water through the ground floor of the hospital for 18 days.

Patients kept coming into the hospital. Everything was moved to the first floor. It was chaotic but caring, with patients everywhere. People understood and were impressed by the dedication of the hospital staff in very difficult conditions.

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St Elizabeth Hospital

The new laundry

The 2011 flood destroyed what the 2010 flood had left of the hospital laundry. The biggest management problem we faced during both floods was providing clean linens for every department of the hospital: sheets, towels, pyjamas, uniforms, etc.

We needed to raise the laundry level by 2 metres and then construct a large building protected from rain but with lots of cross-ventilation. This is what we have done with \$10,000 given by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

We have completed the laundry building, improved the water, gas, and electricity connections, and done a lot of earth filling. We still need to buy a couple of industrial-scale washers but we are immensely happy because, like the little pig who built his house of stone, we think our new laundry can withstand the floods and storms and winds of the future, thanks to you good Vincentians.

A financial accounting for the laundry reconstruction work will be provided in April 2012. This will also be included in



the annual external audit of the hospital for 2011-2012. Copies of the external audits are provided annually by the Administrative Council of St. Elizabeth

Hospital to the Society for all works and projects in which funding provided by the Society are used.

Fr. Robert McCulloch



Mission in Pakistan



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Fr Robert McCulloch honoured by Pakistan

Fr Robert McCulloch has been awarded the *Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam*, the highest civilian award that can be given to foreign nationals with the citation: *"For services to Health, Education, and Inter-Faith Relations."*

Fr Robert McCulloch has been in Pakistan for 34 years and has been Chairman of the St Elizabeth Hospital's Administrative Council which provides quality medical services to the people of Hyderabad and rural parts of Sindh. The hospital also runs a medical outreach programme in rural Sindh.

He set up the first home-based Palliative Care unit in Pakistan which provides care for cancer patients who are terminally ill. He initiated projects, in 2007, to provide educational, spiritual, moral and personal formation for 150 Catholic boys and young men in

Hyderabad. Two centres were set up: the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence in Hyderabad and the Catholic Youth Development Centre.

Fr McCulloch now resides in Rome after taking up an appointment as the Procurator General for St Columbans Mission Society in late 2011.

Fr Robert McCulloch returns to Pakistan several times each year.

"I would like to thank the St Vincent de Paul Society for their sustained and generous help over many years. The citation mentions - "for services in the areas of Health and Education." Your contribution in these areas is greatly appreciated by myself and the people of Pakistan.

Thank You."
Fr Robert McCulloch



Pakistan seems intent on being its own worst enemy. There is much violence, urban rioting, and terrorism even in Karachi and other big cities. People live in increasing fear.

It could be a time for desperation but Christians have living faith and live their hope.



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