



Interfaith League Against Poverty

Newsletter May to August 2025



The Chairman's Word



Greetings from I-LAP!

It is my pleasure to welcome you and to share that this trimester has been highly successful at the organizational level. I-LAP-US has successfully launched its online training initiative, "Introduction to the Bible for Pastors and Laypersons," from Louisville, KY, targeting Pakistan and UAE. This program provides an excellent learning opportunity for beginners while also serving as a refresher course for pastors, enabling them to explore various aspects of the Bible from fresh perspectives. Following the successful completion of this training, I-LAP-US plans to initiate extensive virtual certificate and diploma courses with a special focus on church planting and evangelism among people of different faiths.

In addition, another much-needed initiative will soon begin in Louisville, KY, specifically designed for missionaries and their families preparing to embark on evangelistic missions overseas, especially in Muslim majority countries. This intensive orientation program will equip them with essential knowledge of language basics, cultural practices, traditions, social and religious sensitivities, and the broader environment of the country and city of their future ministry.

I am deeply grateful to the board members of I-LAP Pakistan and US for their unwavering support and encouragement. A heartfelt thanks to Ms. Nazia Ansari, Executive Director of I-LAP Pakistan, for her tireless dedication in renovating the facility and helping launch the virtual training. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our committed volunteers and Rev. Rufus Samieullah Khokhar for translating "Introduction to the Bible for Pastors and Laypersons" into Urdu, blessing many with God's Word.

Before closing, I earnestly appeal to my dear readers: Pakistan is facing its worst floods in nearly four decades. The Punjab province is under grave threat, with Kasur, Sialkot, and Narowal, which is home to a significant number of Christians, already submerged. Human lives are at risk, homes destroyed, and losses could reach into the trillions. The Christian community, already vulnerable, is under unbearable stress. Please lift Pakistan, and especially our Christian brothers and sisters, in your fervent prayers during this hour of great trial.

A Brief Profile of Interfaith League Against Poverty-US

Interfaith League Against Poverty I-LAP, is a US based non-profit, nondenominational Christian charity committed to sharing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. I-LAP-US uses a holistic approach to sharing the love of Jesus Christ by 1) assisting mankind in a time of man-made and natural disasters 2) combatting poverty by sponsoring sustainable community development projects 3) pursuing interfaith dialogues to encourage peaceful coexistence 4) advocating for religious liberty and 5) equipping churches around the world by improving access to biblical and theological education. I-LAP-US, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and international office in Islamabad, Pakistan.

With extensive expertise in disaster response, I-LAP teams specialize in relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. A guiding principle in all the efforts is interfaith unity, serving affected communities without discrimination, recognizing that disasters impact all people alike. Through these compassionate initiatives, we also share the message and love of Christ in meaningful and respectful ways.

I-LAP is dedicated to promoting religious freedom, interfaith collaboration, and peaceful coexistence, envisioning a world where diversity is embraced and celebrated.



Join us in empowering leaders for Christian ministry worldwide and create a world where every person can live with dignity, freedom, and mutual respect. Together, we can transform diversity into a source of strength, paving the way for lasting peace and unity. Your support can make a significant difference!

Highlights of the Second Trimester 2025

Interview (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pbvw18mzHQ>)

In May 2025, “The Heart-Life” visited the I-LAP-US Studio in Louisville to interview Mr. Sajid Sandhu. Speaking with correspondent Ms. Charlene Williams, Mr. Sandhu shared the vision and mission of I-LAP, recalling past blessings and unfolding future plans.

With deep concern, he spoke about the plight of Christians in Pakistan who are mostly living below the poverty line, denied education, jobs, and security, and forced to live under the shadow of bias and religious extremism. He stressed the urgent need for church planting, so that believers in remote villages may worship freely in safe and sacred spaces.

Reflecting on his own journey, Mr. Sandhu shared how, though the son of a Reverend, he once pursued a career as a development practitioner with degrees from the Philippines, Canada and the United Kingdom. Yet God’s call brought him to the U.S., Louisville KY, where a Master’s in Apologetics from the Southern Baptist Seminary reshaped his heart for ministry. Today, he stands ready to serve the Lord and invites believers to join in prayer and partnership for this mission.



MOTHERS’ DAY

Mr. Sajid Sandhu was invited by Pastor Amos Luka to the Fountain of Life (FOL) Church in Louisville to participate in the Mothers’ Day celebrations. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and families gathered with joy to honor mothers, grandmothers, and women who have played a nurturing role in their communities.

He shared his personal reflections, noting how behind every successful ministry and strong family is often the quiet strength and prayers of mothers. He encouraged the congregation to continue supporting and uplifting women in their vital roles within both family and church life.



Interfaith Event: BAISAKHI

President I-LAP attended the Baisakhi event at the Swain Students Activities Center, organized by Punjabi Cultural Society and Sikh Society of KY.



TRAININGS

Introduction to the Bible: Virtual Training Course for Pastors and Laypersons

I-LAP-US, in collaboration with the National Baptist Church of Pakistan (NBCP) and I-LAP-PAK, launched a 10-month Virtual Training Course for Pastors and Laypersons beginning July 17, 2025.

The faculty comprises:

1. Rev. Lester Bollinger (M.Div., USA)
2. Mr. Sajid Sandhu (M.A. Apologetics, USA)
3. Rev. Amos Luka (Ph.D. Candidate in World Religions, USA)
4. Rev. Rufus Samiullah Khokhar (M.Div., UAE)

This program is designed to help participants understand the Bible as a unified story of God’s plan, providing a framework for interpreting Scripture and strengthening both personal faith and Gospel witness. It is tailored for beginners as well as those already familiar with the Word. A key objective of this training is to prepare evangelists who, being rooted in their own culture, can naturally engage with the unreached in Muslim-majority contexts. By equipping local leaders in this way, the course ensures that the Gospel can be shared authentically and effectively without attracting unwanted attention.

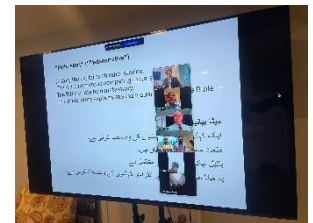
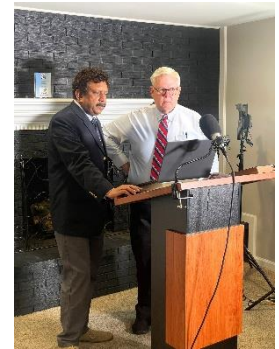
Cost-Benefit Analysis: Financing Missions and Evangelism Overseas

Sending missionaries abroad is a costly endeavor. According to global statistics, supporting one missionary, costs an average of \$77,000 per year, while a couple requires around \$154,000. Families with children can cost over \$200,000 annually, covering housing, visas, salaries, travel, medical care, and education.

In contrast, supporting local missionaries is far more cost-effective. In Pakistan, for example, the annual cost for a missionary couple with two children is about \$20,000, which is less than one-tenth the cost of sending foreigners. This means that for the expense of one foreign missionary family, the Church could support eight local missionary couples or 16 individuals who already know the language and culture.

Despite the Church’s global income of \$42 trillion, only 0.064% of Christian giving is directed toward reaching unreached people groups, leaving billions without access to the Gospel. Meanwhile, vast sums are spent on nonessential items such as holiday decorations and pet costumes.

The imbalance is clear: while millions of ministers serve in already-reached areas, only a tiny fraction labor among the unreached. By investing in local missionaries, we can maximize resources, strengthen the Church, and bring the Gospel to those who have never heard it.



Training at QBS, Home for Amazing Kids

I-LAP-PAK was invited to QBS (Qasim Bin Sa'adat) School to conduct a training session on Good Manners. The two-hour training was led by Ms. Nazia Ansari, Executive Director of I-LAP-PAK, and attended by students aged 6 to 14 years. The training focused on practical aspects of daily life such as polite behavior, showing empathy, speaking kindly, and helping friends and family whenever possible. Ms. Ansari emphasized that good manners are the foundation of building strong character and healthy relationships.

QBS is a charitable school successfully run by Ms. Ismaa Sa'adat, who warmly welcomes children from nearby villages. Most of these children belong to marginalized households where education is not a priority. Many of these children come from large families where both parents work long hours in menial jobs, leaving little time for guidance or conversation. Consequently, these children often receive only food and clothing at home, but no moral or emotional nurturing.



Church Activities: National Baptist Church of Pakistan

The National Baptist Church of Pakistan (NBCP) is an indigenous church ministry faithfully serving under the leadership of Mr. Sajid Sandhu. NBCP pastors are actively engaged in all aspects of church life, including Sunday worship, Sunday School, Women's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Men's Fellowship, and Prayer Groups, which hold regular meetings to strengthen the spiritual growth of congregations.

Churches in rural areas face unique challenges compared to those in urban centers. Long distances and lack of proper transportation often hinder pastors from reaching scattered congregations, limiting evangelism and fellowship opportunities. Another noticeable trend is the higher participation of women and young girls in church life, while boys and men often need encouragement to attend and remain engaged in ministry activities. Despite these challenges, NBCP congregations remain strong in faith.



Tuition Centers at NBCP Churches

NBCP churches across Pakistan operate regular Tuition Centers to provide academic support to schoolchildren with homework and exam preparation. On August 14, the children joyfully celebrated Pakistan’s Independence Day with full fervor, expressing their patriotism through songs, speeches, and prayers for the nation’s unity, peace, and prosperity.

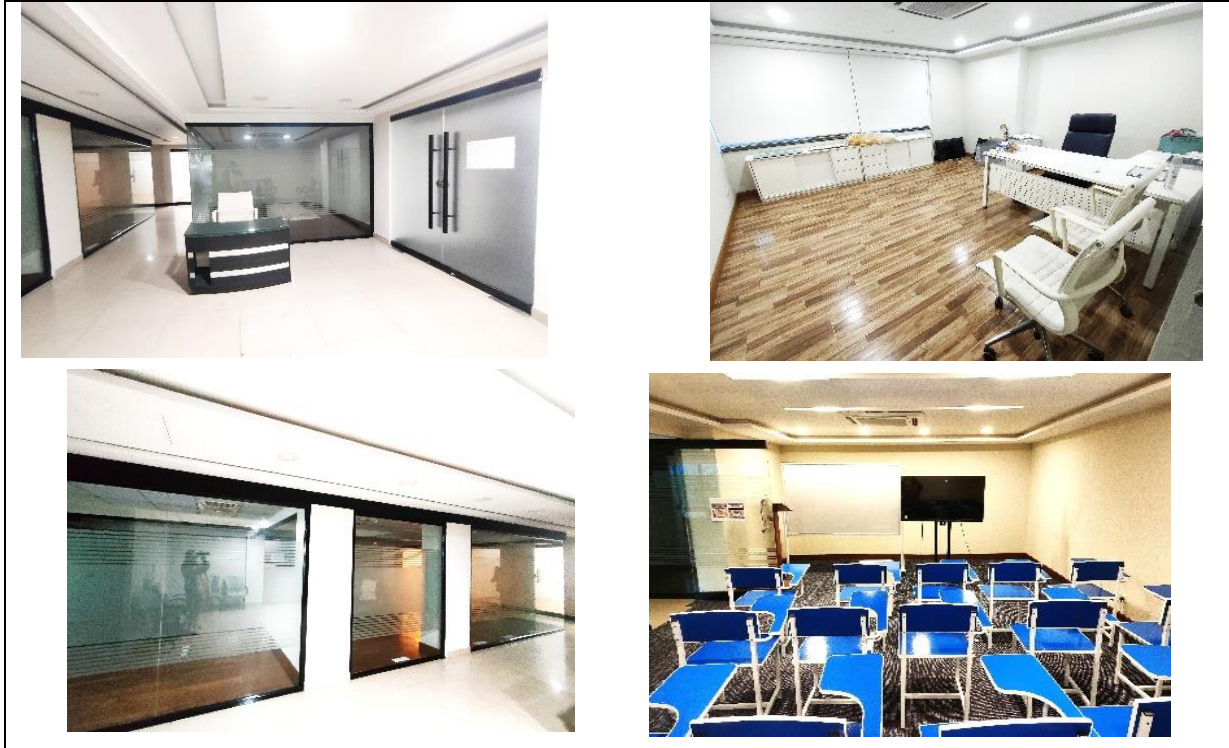


I-LAP-PAK Office Repairs and Renovation

The I-LAP-PAK office, a spacious facility of 4000 sqft in the business hub of Islamabad, was vacated by tenants after three years, left in a dilapidated state that was both heartbreaking and infuriating. Rising to the challenge, Ms. Nazia Ansari, Executive Director, personally oversaw repairs and new fittings, dedicating the entire month of July 2025 to restoring the premises. With the office now renewed, Mr. Sajid Sandhu has most lovingly committed the space to the Lord for ministry work. The vision is for it to serve as a hub of holistic mission for addressing spiritual, educational, and social needs of communities across Pakistan.



GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE OFFICE NOW



Distribution of Rickshaw-Bikes by I-LAP-PAK

I-LAP has always remained at the forefront in empowering communities and uplifting lives through sustainable initiatives. Guided by the principle that it is better to teach a person to fish than to provide short-term aid, I-LAP is committed to creating opportunities for long-term self-reliance and dignity.

As part of its economic empowerment program, I-LAP recently distributed Rickshaw-Bikes to four deserving young men. This initiative not only enables them to earn a livelihood but also restores their sense of pride, responsibility, and respect within their families and communities. By providing the means for honest work, I-LAP ensures that these young men can support their households, educate their children, and contribute positively to society.

Through such efforts, I-LAP continues to reaffirm its vision of transforming dependency into productivity, offering hope and practical solutions for a brighter, self-sustained future.





Proposed Interventions for Next Trimester (September to December, 2025)

I-LAP-US

1. Preparatory Training for Missionaries Assigned to Muslim Majority Countries

I-LAP-US is set to launch a one-year “Strategic Missionary Training and Orientation Program” for those preparing to serve in Muslim-majority countries. Based in Louisville, KY, the program will combine strong Biblical and theological grounding with vital socio-cultural and practical preparation. Missionaries and their families will gain essential skills in language basics, cultural traditions, and religious sensitivities, enabling them to engage wisely and effectively in their future contexts. This initiative ensures that those called to serve are spiritually equipped and culturally prepared for long-term, impactful ministry.

I-LAP-PAK

1. Youth Empowerment Through Life Skill Development

With 64% of Pakistan’s population under 30, the nation’s future rests heavily on its youth. Yet, many young people, particularly from Christian communities, struggle without access to quality education, career guidance, or skill-building opportunities. Lacking proper support, they are vulnerable to unemployment, addiction, depression, and crime, losing sight of their God-given potential. In response to this pressing need, I-LAP Ministry envisions establishing a Skill Center dedicated to empowering disadvantaged Christian boys and girls. The center will provide marketable training, mentorship, and counseling, enabling them to become self-reliant, productive, and strong witnesses of Christ in society.

I-LAP will begin by introducing two skill-based programs at its Skill Center in Islamabad:

1.1. Digital Skills Training (Graphic Design & Video Editing)

This course aims to equip participants with marketable digital skills to enhance employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.

Immediate Needs: Digital Skills Training (Graphic Design & Video Editing)			
S. No	Items	Quantity	Cost in USD
1	Desktop Computers (with suitable specifications)	10	3,500
2	Licensed Graphic Design and Video Editing Software	1	250
3	Salaries for Qualified Instructors/per year	1	3,600
Total Project Cost			7,350

1.2. Videography & Photography Program

This program will train individuals in professional videography and photography for events, media, and freelance opportunities.

Immediate Needs: Videography & Photography Program			
S. No	Items	Quantity	Cost in USD
1	DSLR Camera	1	375
2	Tripod	2	150
3	Studio lighting equipment	2	157
4	Video editing accessories	2	360
5	Salaries for Qualified Instructors/per year	1	3,600
Total Project Cost			4,642



Transport is an immediate and urgent need for both programs. Since Youth Empowerment through Skill Development serves both boys and girls, safe and reliable transport is vital. Most Christian families own only one motorbike, usually used by the father, leaving youth, especially girls, with no way to commute. Without a pick-and-drop facility, many Christian girls, though eager to learn, will be left behind, trapped in poverty and vulnerability. As a Ministry, we cannot allow this barrier to silence their potential. Providing transport is more than meeting a logistical need; it is a ministry of protection, dignity, and opportunity, ensuring that our youth, especially our daughters in Christ, can step into the future God has prepared for them.

Immediate Need: Transport for Pick and Drop of Students			
S. No	Items	Quantity	Cost in USD
1	Toyota Van	1	50,000
Total Project Cost			50,000

With your partnership, Christian youth can gain skills to build a future of dignity and hope while living as witnesses of Christ in their communities. Together, we can break cycles of poverty and advance the Gospel through transformed lives.

I-LAP-US Calls for Your Support: Make a Difference Today

As a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, I-LAP-US is committed to equipping pastors, empowering youth, and supporting local churches in Pakistan. Our mission is rooted in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and a deep desire to bring transformation through the Gospel and practical skills that restore dignity and hope.

You can contribute in the following ways:

- **Become a Prayer Partner**
Support us spiritually by regularly praying for our initiatives, our team, and those we serve.
- **Contribute Financially**
Extend a helping hand by donating to support our programs and outreach. Your generosity enables us to impact lives meaningfully:
 - Train pastors and laypersons in countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith;
 - Launch skill development courses for Christian youth for making them useful citizens
 - Encourage persecuted believers
- **Volunteer Your Skills**
Offer your time and talent to further the cause. Whether through administration, teaching, media, or event support, your involvement makes a lasting difference.

Banking Details:

Bank: Stock Yard Bank
 Account Title: Interfaith League Against Poverty
 Account No: 430086369
 Domestic Routing: 083000564
 International Routing: STYTUS41



For more information please contact:

ssandhu@ilapus.org