

## - Jane Cranston-

# A Nearly 20-Year Friendship

Veda Gill came to visit our church, First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, IA in 1999 on an exchange program for the denomination. She stayed with us for a month, and during that time, created lasting friendships. We were moved by the stories that Veda shared of the challenges for Christians living in Pakistan, and it wasn't long before plans to support the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) schools were being made.

During our nearly 20-year friendship with Veda, we have built six classrooms, a boarding house, a computer lab, a library, a science lab, and a multi-purpose room. In 2007, our church founded a group we called the "Friends of Pasrur", in the hopes of providing scholarships for the impoverished Christian girls. Since that time, we have funded over 1,000 Pasrur Boarding House scholarships. In conjunction with the Presbytery of East Iowa, we are currently building a Pasrur Christian Boys' School, which we hope to have completed in the fall of 2018.

Although our church has given much to Pasrur, the benefit to us has been enormous. Seeing the progress made, receiving pictures and notes from the girls, and having a chance to visit Pakistan has enriched our lives and expanded our world. We are proud and grateful for our relationship with Veda and the PEB. It has truly been a blessing to us.

- Jane Cranston, Friends of Pasrur  
First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa

*"....and I will bless you...and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you...."-Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)*

