



Interfaith League Against Poverty - US
Equipped by Christ, Serving the World

Interfaith League Against Poverty

NEWSLETTER
January to March 2026



The Chairman's Word



Greetings from I-LAP!

We are glad to connect with you again in the first trimester of 2026. We hope this year has started well for you and your loved ones, and that it has already brought meaningful moments and progress.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the difficult realities around the world. Many nations are facing conflict, and countless families are living through uncertainty and loss. Our hearts go out to them. We continue to pray that God brings comfort to those who are suffering and that peace may soon replace chaos and fear.

Even in the midst of these challenges, we are grateful for the opportunities God has provided. It is a joy to share some key highlights from I-LAP's work between January and March 2026.

In February, the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit in Washington D.C. brought together voices from around the world committed to promoting peace, justice, and freedom of belief. I-LAP-US was honored to participate as a partner organization, engaging in meaningful conversations and building relationships that will strengthen our shared mission.

In March, I-LAP-US also attended the Symposium on the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., hosted by Congressmen Hon. Thomas Suozzi and Hon. Jack Bergman.

As we look ahead, we gently ask you to keep Christian communities in Pakistan in your thoughts and prayers. As a marginalized minority, they often encounter social exclusion, limited economic opportunities, and ongoing constraints on their ability to freely practice their faith. Your continued care, support, and advocacy remind them that they are not alone and that they are part of a global family that stands with them.

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 First Trimester 2026

International Religious Freedom Summit 2026

Mr. Sajid Sandhu, President I-LAP-US / I-LAP Pakistan, attended the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit 2026 in Washington, DC, February 2-3, 2026. The IRF Roundtable operates in connection with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). We are proud to share that I-LAP-US was among the organizations that helped organize the 6th IRF Summit 2026. Mr. Sandhu was appointed as a member of the Summit’s Steering Committee which a significant milestone for faith-based advocacy and international engagement from Pakistan.



Congressman Hon. Thomas R. Suozzi,
Co-Chair Congressional Pakistan Caucus

Mr. Sandhu was accompanied by Dr. Nelson Azeem, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Federal Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, who also serves on the Standing Committees on Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Human Rights, and Housing & Works.

Mr. Sandhu and Dr. Azeem held productive meetings with Congressman, Hon. Thomas Richard Suozzi, Co-Chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, U.S. House of Representatives, in Washington, D.C.; Ambassador Sam Brownback, former U.S. Senator, former US Governor of Kansas and former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for IRF, Co-Chair of IRF Summit; Ms. Katrina Lantos Swett, Co-Chair of the IRF Summit and President of Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice; Mr. Greg Mitchell, Founder & Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair of Interfaith Religious Freedom Secretariat, Co-Chair IRF Roundtable and Mr. Matthew Hawkins, Executive Vice President, International Religious Freedom (IRF) Secretariat in Washington, D.C.



Ambassador Sam Brownback & Ms. Katrina
Lantos Swett, Co-Chairs of IRF Summit

Mr. Sandhu and Dr. Azeem presented a constructive and balanced perspective on Pakistan, highlighting the government’s ongoing commitment to countering extremism and strengthening social cohesion. Mr. Sandhu emphasized the important role of I-LAP in fostering dialogue between government institutions, civil society, and faith communities in line with international religious freedom frameworks. He also spoke about the difficult realities faced by Christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan, who continue to experience social discrimination, limited access to basic needs, disrespectful treatment, and faith-based violence.



Mr. Greg Mitchell, Board Chair, Mr. Matthew
Hawkins Executive VP- IRF Secretariat

On behalf of I-LAP-US/Pakistan, Mr. Sandhu presented commemorative shields to them in recognition of their tireless and visionary leadership, as well as their unwavering commitment to religious freedom. Their efforts have brought together global faith leaders, policymakers, civil society representatives, diplomats, and U.S. government officials in support of IRF 2026, advancing human dignity and promoting interfaith harmony worldwide.



Symposium on Pakistan-U.S. Bilateral Relations

Mr. Sajid Sandhu, President of Interfaith League Against Poverty-US (I-LAP-US), attended a symposium on the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The symposium was hosted by Congressmen Hon. Thomas Suozzi and Hon. Jack Bergman, Representatives and Co-Chairs of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus.

The event brought together policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders to discuss key priorities shaping the future of U.S.-Pakistan relations. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, offering insights on policy development, economic cooperation, regional stability, and people-to-people connections. The discussion emphasized the importance of strengthening diplomatic ties, enhancing trade and investment opportunities, and fostering mutual understanding between both nations.



Special attention was given to the role of the American Pakistani diaspora in bridging gaps and contributing to bilateral progress. The symposium also highlighted the need for collaborative efforts between government institutions, the private sector, and civil society to address shared challenges and unlock new avenues of partnership between the United States and Pakistan.



Congressman Hon. Thomas R. Suozzi
Co-Chair Congressional Pakistan Caucus



H.E. Ms. Natalie A. Baker
U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan



H.E. Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh
Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S.

Hurstbourne Baptist Church: Presentation on I-LAP-US/Pakistan

President I-LAP-US/Pakistan, Mr. Sajid Sandhu, was invited to Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Kentucky, to share about the work and ongoing initiatives of the Interfaith League Against Poverty in both the United States and Pakistan. He spoke about the organization's efforts to support vulnerable communities and create opportunities for education and development. The congregation listened with great interest and appreciation, engaging warmly with the message being shared.

Following the presentation, many attendees expressed a genuine desire to learn more. They asked thoughtful questions about the challenges faced by the marginalized Christian communities in Pakistan, as well as the practical





ways in which they could offer support and partnership. The interaction created a meaningful space for dialogue, mutual understanding, and encouragement, strengthening a shared commitment to serving those in need.



VIRTUAL TRAINING

Introduction to the Bible: Virtual Training for Pastors and Laypersons

The 10-month Virtual Training Course for Pastors and Laypersons, launched in July 2025 by I-LAP-US in collaboration with the National Baptist Church of Pakistan (NBCP) and I-LAP-Pakistan, is now in its final month and is scheduled for completion in April 2026.



By God’s grace, the training has progressed very well under the dedicated guidance of Mr. Sajid Sandhu and Pastor Les Bollinger. Participants have found the course both enriching and transformative. Many laypersons shared that this was their first time studying the Old Testament in such depth, gaining a clearer understanding of God’s character, His sovereignty, and His faithfulness. They especially appreciated learning how God chooses His people according to His will and remains true to His promises throughout history. The pastors involved also expressed that, despite their prior seminary education, the training offered fresh insights and deeper clarity on biblical themes, strengthening both their knowledge and ministry. There is a strong sense of gratitude among participants, along with a desire for more such opportunities in the future. Some also noted that greater participation could have been possible if transportation challenges were addressed, highlighting an area for future improvement and outreach.



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)





Rt. Rev. Ishaq Mazhar Sandhu AWARD: A Loving Tribute

In honor of his father, and his lifelong dedication to ministry, Sajid Sandhu established the **Rt. Rev. Ishaq Mazhar Sandhu Award** at Gujranwala Theological Seminary (GTS), Pakistan, as a loving tribute.

In March 2026, cash prizes of PKR. 25,000 each were awarded to graduating students, Mr. Aliyah Ajmal and Ms. Zara Akbar in recognition of their consistent academic excellence throughout their three-year Master of Divinity program.

Rt. Rev. Ishaq Mazhar Sandhu, a distinguished alumnus of GTS, was born in July 1935 into a humble Christian family in Gujranwala, Pakistan. He enrolled at Gujranwala Theological Seminary in 1971, and graduated in 1974. That same year, he was ordained and commissioned in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan. At a time when Islamabad was still in its formative years and many Christian families were migrating there in search of better opportunities, Rt. Rev. Sandhu emerged as a pioneering figure in establishing and nurturing the Christian faith in the city. He later founded the National Baptist Church of Pakistan. He planted numerous churches and led thousands to faith, leaving a lasting spiritual legacy.

On November 24, 2022, Rt. Rev. Sandhu completed his earthly journey and entered into the presence of his eternal Father. His life stands as a testimony to unwavering faith, humility, and steadfast commitment to the Great Commission. He leaves behind a rich and inspiring legacy, being carried forward by his son, Sajid Sandhu.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES: NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF PAKISTAN

Sunday Service at NBCP Churches





Palm Sunday Worship at NBCP Churches



Community Education Centers: Venus Tuition Centers: Supporting Education and Holistic Development

The Institute of Emerging Leaders (TiEL), through the platform of the Interfaith League Against Poverty (I-LAP), continues to support the National Baptist Church of Pakistan (NBCP) in running Venus Tuition Centers near NBCP churches as part of its commitment to holistic community development and quality education. These centers are serving children from NBCP congregations, neighboring churches, and surrounding communities by offering academic support, help with homework, and exam preparation. The goal is to create a supportive learning environment where children from underserved backgrounds can grow with confidence and achieve their academic potential.

In recent months, the teachers have shown great dedication in preparing students for their exams. It has been deeply encouraging to see the results of their hard work reflected in the students' achievements. Many students performed exceptionally well, securing top positions in their classes. Aniya Shahid was recognized with the High Achiever Award, while Aliyah Shahid received an award for outstanding home assignments.



We are truly proud of our students for their commitment and perseverance, and equally grateful for the teachers who continue to invest in their growth. Their efforts are making a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.





PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR 2026

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



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:

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Please join us on Instagram: [ilapofficial](https://www.instagram.com/ilapofficial)