



Bishop and his team is praying with a Flood affected family

Diocesan Relief Programme for the Floods Victims



Bishop Humphrey and Diocesan Officers visiting flood affected families at Charsadda

The Diocese has established 4 Relief Camps for the Christians and Hindu families, i.e. in Nowshera, Risalpur, Peshawar and Tank. The Diocese is providing shelter, beddings, food & non-food items, plus medical care. The Diocesan Development & Relief staff visits all these camps on regular basis and makes sure all their needs are met. The Development & Relief Sector has also set up a Supervisory Committee at the Diocesan Relief Camps and the volunteers are looking after the needs of the families in the relief camps.



Diocesan Relief Camp at Peshawar

The churches/parishes, institutions and different ministries of the Diocese are raising funds and providing relief items to the flood victims. Although the flood affected families are getting food and various non-food items from the Diocese and its Partners, but the major challenge is yet to be met, i.e. rehabilitation and reconstruction process for hundreds and thousands of flood affected communities in the province.



Bishop Humphrey visiting the Relief Camp at Nowshera

The Diocese is thankful to all its friends and partners in Pakistan and abroad for their kind and timely support.

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The Diocese of Peshawar through its Development & Relief Sector is busy in rescue and relief work for the Flood Victims in the Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province. There are about 1300 Christian families and some Hindu families as well; all are in dire need of help. These families took refuge on the roof tops of their houses and were rescued by the Army helicopters and later shifted to the Diocesan Relief Camps at Peshawar and Nowshera.



Bishop Humphrey with the child of a flood affected Muslim family

The Bishop of Peshawar, along with the senior management of the Diocese and the Development & Relief staff visited all those affected by the floods. Their visit was a source of encouragement and consolation for the deeply grieved and affected communities.



Bishop Humphrey inspecting a damaged house in Charsadda

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Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests



Diocese of Peshawar is grateful to God for His blessings and Mercies and also to the Partners for their financial and prayer support.

Please also pray for;

1. Kindly remember the people affected by the deadly monsoon rains and floods and for the Diocesan Relief & Rescue efforts for the victims of this natural disaster.
2. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
3. We need your prayer support for those who are living in hostile areas of NWFP, especially the Pakistani Christians and their institutions.
4. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot. May God help the Diocese to work more effectively for the development of the Earthquake victims.

Special Prayer requests;

1. Please remember Pakistan and especially the minorities as they are facing the daily scarcity of flour and other food commodities; the prices have gone extremely high.
2. Military operation against the Taliban in different areas is going on. Thousands of people have evacuated.

(The National Scenario)

The Testing Times



The recent monsoon rains have caused unimaginable damage to life, houses, roads and bridges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and in rest of the Pakistan as well.

The fragile economy of Pakistan has received another fatal blow; this will result in high inflation and negative growth-rate. Tens of thousands have evacuated their homes and hundreds of villages are inundated, and large areas of population are still trapped in flood waters.

This super flood in Pakistan is worst than tsunami, the 2005 earthquake (Pakistan) and the earthquake in Haiti. And the worst news is that this flood water has not yet reached the Arabian Sea, and the river Indus is still furious and bursting its banks. It is also feared that India will soon release water from its side into river Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab of Pakistan, and that will bring a fresh wave of super floods. It is worth mentioning that 20 – 22% of Pakistan is still under water.



The already fragile infrastructure and economy is on the verge of a complete collapse. The people of Pakistan are donating whatever they can, whereas, big shipments of aid from abroad are also being received, but the damage caused by floods is enormous, and still a lot needs to be done.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, poor people were already crushed by high price of daily use commodities and the utility bills. Now a days, it is the holy month of Ramadan, and in this month the prices shoot-up anyway. And the floods have raised the prices sky-high. So, the people caught-up in floods are dying of the natural disaster, and those who have not yet drowned are being killed by inflation, scarcity of food, and unchecked price hike.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at one hand is facing the super floods, on the other it is hammered hard by the Talibans. Their activities, i.e. bomb and suicide attacks, kidnapping for ransom, target killings and the other dirty gorilla war tactics are in full swing, even in floods.

The Christian community is the poorest among the poor, and they are often directly affected by all the negative changes in the community, and hardly ever benefit from any positive development. The Christians living in FATA and PATA areas are still unable to attract government's attention towards their problems, besides they are direct victims of the discriminatory laws, whereas negative attitudes towards them in general are all part of their day to day life.

The Christian community living in Nowshera, Pabbi, Tarnab farm, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Tank and many other sub-urban areas have lost their houses and property in recent floods, the Peshawar Diocese has accommodated them at various Church institutions and doing whatever it can within its limited resources, and/or with the help of its friends and partners abroad.



Although, response of the International Community is somehow lukewarm, but it helps, just as the assurance of not been abandoned does not decrease the distance, but makes the journey less painful.

Prayer Service for the Flood Victims



The recent floods in Pakistan have caused havoc all over the country, a catastrophe which was never experienced before. The Christian community of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, living in Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Tarnab Farm, Shabqadar, Charsadda, Peshawar and Tank has also been affected badly by this deadly monsoon rains this summer.

Many of them have lost everything they once owned, a good number of them have survived but are now waiting eagerly for the rehabilitation process to start, but as long as their areas are under water nothing could be done, but to help them by providing accommodation in camps, tents, schools and churches, they are being provided food and non-food items by the Diocesan Relief & Development Sector.

Their health needs are also taken care of, but the most important factor at this time is their spiritual counseling and keeping their hopes faith alive.

The Peshawar Diocese is in close contact with every affected Christian individual and family, and has assured them that they will never be left alone in the time of crisis.

In this regard a special Prayer service was held at the St. Thomas' Church, Tarnab farm, on 15 August 2010, led by the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters. On this occasion, Diocesan officers, workers and some members of the Peshawar Christian community were also present. On the request of Bishop Humphrey Peters, a Christian Parliamentarian Mrs. Aasia Nasir, along with her delegation members from Islamabad especially came to attend this Prayer Service for the Christians affected by floods.

The Bishop's Sermon was very reassuring for all the participants, especially the flood-affected people. He said, "God is our refuge and strong rock, we can trust Him, and He will definitely help us out in this time of crisis". Only He can comfort and console us". He added.

At this occasion, special prayers were also offered for the flood-victims in other parts of the country.

Later, Mrs. Aasia Nasir distributed cash among the flood affected Christian community of the area.



The local community leaders thanked God for His help, and highly appreciated the Diocesan efforts for the help and relief provided to them.

The 'Labour of Love'



The Diocese of Peshawar is putting all its efforts to provide relief to the flood victims, without any religious discrimination. It is a huge responsibility which needs enormous efforts and sincerity to serve the needy.



The small Diocesan Development & Relief staff is rushing from one place to other to reach the unreached. They make sure that nobody is left-out, as the affected community is scattered all over the province. It's worth mentioning that the Diocesan team is performing this duty with much pleasure, hence, it is 'their' labour of love for the whole people of God.



The Diocesan team provides all kinds of goods which they need in this time of crisis, these relief packages are provided under the head of 'Food & non-Food' items.



The Diocese is looking forward to start the second phase of help in the near future, i.e. the Rebuilding & Rehabilitation process, which is rather more challenging and a long term project, but by the Grace of almighty God, the Diocese of Peshawar, along with the support & cooperation of its friends & partners will succeed to achieve its objectives.



Inter-Faith Press Conference

To gain support for flood victims



Religious Leaders of different faiths talking to the Press Media

August 17, 2010: Pakistan Council of World Religions (Faith Friends Association), called a Press Conference to gain support for the Flood Victims, 2010.

The Chief Coordinator, Faith Friends, Qari Ruhullah, while addressing a Press Conference, expressed sympathy with the affectees of the recent flood calamity that had tremendously damaged the entire infrastructure of the Khyber Pakhtunkwa and other parts of the Pakistan.

Bridges have been wiped out and link roads are totally destroyed and thousands of houses, shops and other dwellings were completely swept away by the worst flood, intensity of which was three times more than the floods that had totally hit the area during 1929.

In the Khyber Pakhtunkwa, exams in all the universities and colleges have been postponed which were planned in the end of the July, 2010; students are struck in flood affected areas and cannot appear for exams.

Government development funds set aside for various new development initiatives are now reallocated to rebuild the damaged infrastructure.

Similarly, the annual salary raise which Government has planned for its employees is deferred because more funds are required to help affected communities and rebuild damaged infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkwa.

Well known private and public hospitals which were submerged in water are still non-functional.

Affected communities are still waiting for Government and humanitarian organizations help to do the dewatering so that they can return to their homes.

Damaged electricity lines are still non-functional due to which life remains standstill.

There are chances of disease outbreak as a result of dead animals lying in the stagnant water and shortage of clean and safe water available to the affected communities.

The Faith Friends, therefore, appeal to the nation to stand together at the time of this testing disaster and calamity and to join hands for the better future.

The Faith Friends emphasize that it is high time that the charity organizations and other philanthropists to coordinate their relief activities in the affected areas and try to lessen the miseries of the survivors with coherent and integrated activities for help and support.



Religious Leaders, during the Press Conference

The Revd. S. P. Asghar and the Revd. Joseph John represented the Diocese of Peshawar in this Press Conference.

The Revd. Asghar mentioned the Church response regarding the flood victims in the Province. He also mentioned about the Christian affected communities and the Diocesan relief efforts for them.

Younas Masih lost his house

A true story of a flood victim



Younas Masih and his damaged house

Younas Masih is a resident of Tarnab Farm, Peshawar with limited resources. He is a Barber by profession but has no shop, so he roams around with his kit like a hawker in the streets to earn his wages. Two years ago he had a heart-attack; as a result it affected both his health and his earnings. His movement is restricted and is not allowed (medically) to travel long distances for work.

The recent floods have demolished his house completely, not even a single room remains habitable. Now, he and his family are spending days and nights in the open, lack of food and shelter is threatening their lives.

His house, his dreams and all his hopes have literally been washed away by the floods, leaving him in dire need of everything to start his life once again. This is just one story of a helpless family, but there are thousands of others like him who are looking forward anxiously for help and support.

The recent floods are the worst in living memory and have caused a huge humanitarian crisis which could only be tackled by the support of the kind hearted and God fearing people. Kindly remember this situation in your prayers.

P.S: * Younas Masih and his family was rescued and are now under the care of the Diocese of Peshawar.

Youth & Sports: Inseparable



The Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese in partnership with Pakistan Sports Coalition organized a Youth Camp on 6 – 11 August 2010, at the Retreat & Renewal Centre, Murree. The Pakistan Sports Coalition is a partnership of various para-church organizations in Pakistan. The Diocese of Peshawar values this partnership.

Aims & objectives of the camp were to;

- Train and equip young leaders for sports ministry with the vision to strengthen and unite the body of Christ and to reach the un-reached.
- Share the newest training techniques and content.
- Remain a laboratory of new thought and advanced training in the sports arena.
- Help leaders to prepare plans according to their context and implement it accordingly.



About 60 young people from the different parishes of the Diocese participated in this camp. Mr. Insar Gohar, the youth coordinator of Peshawar Diocese led Bible study sessions during the camp on "Christian Leadership - a Servant hood Leadership". He presented the Jesus' model of Leadership by quoting the reference (Mark 10:1-10). "Sports

is a good activity to overcome different kinds of temptations and promotes healthy habits." He said.

The facilitators from Pakistan Sports Coalition Mr. Zahid and Mr. Imran led different sessions on Sports, and taught the youth "how to relate the Bible with Sports", and "Evangelism through Sports". All the sessions were activity-based and the youth enjoyed the training course.

The participants were divided into six groups, different tasks and activities were assigned to them.



In the concluding session, groups presented proposals about implementation of what they learnt at the Camp. Winners of the various Sports activities were given prizes at the end of the programme. During the Prayer Meeting, special prayers were offered for the flood victims and the youth committed to start a 'relief programme' for the flood victims in coordination with the Diocesan Development & Relief Sector.



In the end, the Course Completion Certificates were distributed among the participants. The closing ceremony was led by the Rev. S. P. Asghar, Secretary, Mission & Ministry, DoP.

Sunday Schools Resource & Training Base at Peshawar

The Diocesan Junior Church (Sunday School) Desk organized a programme on 20 August 2010, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. Special guests from the Pakistan Sunday School Ministry (PSSM) were among the participants. Beside the officers, Priests and Heads of the Institutions of Peshawar Diocese, the Church leaders from other denominations/churches and para-church organizations were also present on this occasion.

The special feature of the programme was to inaugurate a branch office of the 'Pakistan Sunday School Ministry (PSSM)' in Peshawar for Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province, with the partnership of the Peshawar Diocese to be a Resource and Training Base for the entire country.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was the chief guest on this occasion. In his speech, he put emphasis on the importance of the 'Sunday school Ministry' in our churches, especially when we are living in an Islamic state. The children should be taught the Christian faith properly to enable them to answer the questions asked by the majority community. He also appreciated the Diocesan Junior Church Desk efforts for this purpose. He also thanked PSSM for accepting DoP request to establish a Training and Resource Base at Peshawar..

Mr. Adnan Sandhu, the Executive Director, Pakistan Sunday School Ministry (PSSM), presented a brief report about their ministry, and through power-point presentation shared different programmes and activities of PSSM. He thanked Peshawar Diocese for its support in promoting the PSSM work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

During the programme, religious songs, skits and other items were presented by the Sunday school children from the St. John's Cathedral and All Saints' Church, Peshawar.

In the end, the Revd. Altaf Gohar was dedicated and handed over the responsibility of the "In-charge PSSM Office", Peshawar.

The Bishop along with other priests prayed and encouraged him for his new assignment and opportunity to serve God and His people.