



## Independence Day Celebrations



**Bishop Humphrey raising the Flag**

14<sup>th</sup> of August is the Pakistan's Independence Day, and every year Pakistani Christian community also celebrate this day with national zeal and spirit. The white colour in Pakistani flag represents the minorities.

Special Worship Services were held in all the parishes of Peshawar Diocese. Special prayers were offered for the prosperity of the Country.



**Bishop Humphrey with the Congregation**

The Bishop of Peshawar led a Service on the Independence Day, at the St. John's Cathedral Peshawar. The Bishop in his message highlighted importance of the freedom.

During the Service, the congregation knelt before God and prayed for peace and prosperity in the country.

After the Church Service, the Bishop conducted the 'Flag Raising' ceremony, which was witnessed by a large number of people.

Long live Pakistan!

## Peshawar Diocese and the Lions



**Bishop Humphrey handing over a fan to a villager**

Peshawar Diocese through its Development & Relief sector distributed 500 pedestal fans among the flood affected communities living in the villages, i.e. Tang Korona, Esogai, Tarlangi, Sarasung, and new Walay. These fans were collectively donated by the Lions club, Pakistan, the Lions club, Denmark, and the Peshawar Diocese.



**Bishop Humphrey distributing the fans**

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar personally went to every village and distributed the fans in floods affected areas/communities.



**The Bishop with the Community Leaders**

On this occasion, the community leaders of the area expressed their gratitude, and said that they were highly grateful for this thoughtful donation which will make their life much easier.

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## Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests



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

### **Please Pray for;**

1. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
2. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot, Earthquake victims (2005), and for the Flood victims (2010) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
3. Pakistan, Minorities and Inter-faith harmony in the region.
4. Kindly pray for newly elected Bishop of Multan, 'Bishop Leo', and the Diocese of Multan.
5. Pakistan, as terrorism and the War against it has intensified after the death of Osama Bin Laden.
6. Monsoon rains have caused floods in Sindh, and some parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province once again, hundreds of villages are destroyed, and people are in dire need of help.

### **Special Prayer requests;**

1. Please remember Christian community of Parachinar, as their salaries have once again been stopped, and they facing scarcity of food commodities; and the prices are beyond their reach.
2. Kindly pray for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in D.I. Khan and Bannu.

## The Frontier News

(The National Scenario)

**Courtesy: Geo, News**

### 7 Killed in Peshawar twin bombings



Police inspecting the damaged vehicle

11 August 2011: Peshawar: A female suicide attacked and a handcast bomb targeted police on Thursday, killing seven people in the first deadly attacks to hit the city after two months. At least 37 others were wounded in Thursday's attacks, carried out several hours apart in the Lahori Gate area targeting first a police van and secondly a police check-post. "This was a female suicide Bomber aged around 17 or 18 who threw a hand grenade on the police Check-post, 20 meters away from the first site of the first blast, and then blew herself up," a police officer said. "Her vest did not explode completely. She was killed and another woman was also killed," he said.



People carrying the injured to the hospital

"The other woman is more than 60 years old. Her face is completely disfigured and beyond identification. Her body has no sign of wearing a vest. We feel that she was just a passer-by", a hospital spokesman said. Police said five officers and a child were killed earlier when a bomb hidden in a handcart on the roadside, tore through a passing police van carrying 20 personnel at 7:10 am. Twenty one other people were wounded in the attack.

**Diocesan Comm desk adds:** The Bishop's Chaplain, Revd. Tanzeel Zafar's in laws house has also been partially damaged due to the intensity of the blast. Luckily non of the family members got hurt.

## The Independence Day and Sports



Sports Competition in Progress

The Diocese of Peshawar organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop Khair-ud-Din Memorial Basket Ball Tournament at the St. John's Cathedral School ground to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan. The youth groups of the Churches actively participated in this tournament and enjoyed this healthy activity.



Bishop Humphrey with players and organizers

Different matches were played among various teams and a large number of audiences enjoyed these competitive matches. This tournament provided a healthy activity to the youngsters as well as it provided entertainment to the Christian Community, and a chance to socialize, as due to terrorism in the region people hardly find entertaining activities outside their homes.



The winners receiving Trophies from the Bishop

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was invited as chief guest at the Closing Ceremony of the Tournament. He also distributed Trophies among the winners. The Bishop encouraged and appreciated hard work of the youth, as they played with a good Christian spirit, and showed their character.

## Church survives despite thorns



St. George's Church, Malakand, built in 1920

The Malakand Agency was one of the Tribal Areas in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan until 1970. It included the princely states of Chitral, Dir and Swat, and an area around the Malakand Fort known as the Malakand Protected Area.

In 1970, following the abolition of the princely states, the agency became the Malakand Division, which was divided into districts, one of which was the Malakand Protected Area, known as Malakand District. In the year 2000 the Malakand Division was abolished.

Despite the constitutional changes since 1970, the expression Malakand Agency is still used, sometimes of the entire area of the former Agency, but more often of Malakand District.

The British army constructed two forts at Malakand and Chakdara to ensure the safety of the strategically important Chitral road. They also constructed the 'St. George's Church' at Malakand in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Then, and now, the predominant religion of the masses is Islam, but after construction of the Church, the camp followers emerged as a Christian minority/religion of the area, there are about 300 Christian families residing in Malakand, Batkhella, Swat and Mingora who belong to various Christian denominations.

Peshawar Diocese was created in 1980, and this region was also merged into the jurisdiction of the Peshawar Diocese, and now it has very active churches and parishes belonging to the Anglican Communion.

In the mid 90's, this area was influenced by the Taliban, led by extremist religious leader of the area, Sufi Mohammad. The movement was called Tahreek-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Mohammadi (TNSM). Later, TNSM was hijacked by his son in law Fazalullah, who brutally ruled this area

until the Army Operation against them in 2009. During his rule, brutal murders, killings in the name of religion and strict Islamic laws made the life a living hell of the general public, but specifically of the Christian community.

But the Peshawar Diocese kept a close contact and helped them through every thick and thin, so the Christian community kept its faith in God and never stumbled, thus the Church Survives despite thorns.

Recently, the Bishop of Peshawar, Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters, along with the Arch-deacon S. P. Asghar, and Dean of Northern Deanery Revd. Rafique Javed visited the Malakand and Swat parishes on 7 – 8 August 2011.



Arrival of Bishop Humphrey and his team at Malakand

As mentioned earlier, this area was highly influenced by the Taliban in the past, and the Christians of Malakand and Swat suffered a lot, and were even displaced from their houses during the Operation against the militants.



Bishop Humphrey leading the Worship Service at Malakand Church

One of the purposes of the Bishop's visit was to console and show solidarity with the people of the area. The Christians living in these areas are not well-off, rather very poor, and lead a miserable life under many social & economical constraints and pressures.

The Bishop, and other Diocesan officers were warmly welcomed by the Priest and congregation of Malakand parish. A Holy Communion Service was led by the Bishop in the historic St. George

Church of Malakand.

The Bishop, in his sermon said, "Poverty is a Curse", and it comes from satan, we should get rid of it by fully obeying our Lord Jesus. If we have faith in God we can overcome the worldly problems and temptations, and defeat the Satan," he added.

Later, a reception party was arranged by the congregation of Malakand for the guests, during the reception the Bishop and his team interacted with the congregation and listened to their problems and issues.



The Youth President of Swat Parish is presenting a Souvenir to the Bishop

After Malakand, the Bishop and his team went to visit the Swat Parish and there led the Holy Communion Service, and a sermon was also delivered by the Bishop for their spiritual growth and encouragement.

The Bishop also conducted a meeting with the Parish committee and discussed the matter of construction of the Church building in Swat, Bishop gave them a challenge to start prayers for the construction of the Church building. He also assured them that the Diocese will also support and help the congregation of Swat in this regard.



Bishop Humphrey with the Arch-deacon, the Dean of Northern Deanery and the Secretary, Swat Parish

The local community leaders said that the Bishop's visit to their area has encouraged them and is a source of inspiration, thus they feel blessed as well.

**Isaac TV, a Christian Channel launched**



The launching ceremony of TV Channel

22 July, 2011: A special 'Thanksgiving' prayer service was held at St. John's Cathedral School 'Chapel' for the launch of 'Isaac TV' channel. The first Christian Channel on-air for Pakistani Christians. A good number of Christian community members were present on this occasion. They attended the 'Prayer Service', led by Revd. Joseph John.

After the Service, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar welcomed the Isaac TV, founders and guests. Bishop Humphrey in his speech explained the importance of the Electronic media for the propagation of the Gospel in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. "We will be able to spread the Word of God in over 53 countries, the world over. And our Diocese will be enabled to telecast its programmes like 'Healing Ministry' and other ministerial work of the Diocese. A lot has been done for the masses during the floods and other natural disasters, but very few people in the International Community are aware of it. Through 'Isaac TV' we will be able to share our work and vision with the rest of the world". He said. The Bishop also garlanded Revd. Anwar Fazal and Revd. Dave of New Zealand, along with other team members of the 'Isaac TV'.

Revd. Anwar Gazal (Isaac TV) in his speech thanked the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters and Peshawar Diocese for their warm welcome, kind support and cooperation. While addressing the congregation he said, "I do not alone own the 'Isaac TV', but you all are considered as partners, your help and generous donation will contribute towards smooth running of the channel, whose sole purpose is to spread the Word of God, in every household, all over the world".

"It costs us 3.5 million PKR, per month, and any single individual cannot do it alone, therefore, the Christian community's support is essential to keep this channel on-air". He added.



(L - R) Revd. Anwar Fazal, Bishop Humphrey and Revd. Dave

Later, forms for Issac TV membership were distributed, which were filled and returned by the congregation. Revd. Dave also in his speech highlighted the importance of the channel and said that now is the time to bring change in Pakistan, and through this channel we will become the element of change in Pakistani society.

Earlier, Revd. Dave Garlanded the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters and thanked him for his kind support.

Later, a lunch was served for all the participants.

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**Sunday School Teachers Training**



The Bishop with the teachers & organizers

A three days Sunday Schools Teachers Training Course was jointly organized by the Peshawar Diocese and the Pakistan Sunday Schools Ministry from 10 – 12, August, 2011, at the Elizabeth High School, Peshawar.

The training course started with Holy Communion Service, led by the Arch-deacon S. P. Asghar of the Peshawar Diocese.

At this occasion, Mrs. Noureen Altaf, Coordinator Sunday Schools Desk introduced the guests and explained the rules and regulations of the Course.



Organizers with the participants

Mr. Adnan Sindu, Coordinator, Pakistan Sunday Schools Ministry took first session. He gave a description and introduction of the course, and introduced his team and the course instructors.

About 120 participants from various denominations participated actively in the Course. Participants from other towns and cities of the Province were accommodated at the Elizabeth school hostel.

During the Course, participants were divided into various groups and were given written, oral and practical assignments which they carried with interest and enthusiasm. Audio/visual aids, multimedia, and songs were used to teach the participants, who thoroughly enjoyed the modern teaching methods and techniques.



Bishop Humphrey distributing the certificates

On the last day of the course the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters was invited as the Chief Guest. The honourable Bishop in his speech admired hard work of both the organizers, and the participants as well. Bishop Humphrey also distributed Certificates among the course participants.

The programme ended with prayer.

**Both Minority & Majority Communities Healed**



**Crowd during the Healing Crusade**

The Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Peshawar is the most popular ministry among the masses, including the Muslim majority. Revd. Samson Anwar and his team organizes Prayer Meetings, Conventions and Healing Crusades all over the province, and people from all denominations and faiths attend these meetings in large numbers. Thus, by the Grace of God people get healed in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In all the gatherings presence of the Holy Spirit is felt and participants are blessed in abundance.



**Large number of participants**

**19/4/2011 Kohat:** Revd. Shahzad Murad invited Revd. Samson Anwar to Kohat for a healing crusade. People turned out in large numbers to attend this service. Despite the fact that there was no electricity for several hours people kept sitting patiently and attended the 'Praise and Worship' with patience. As much as 17 people who were suffering from various diseases, illnesses and impairments were healed in the name of Jesus Christ. On this occasion, the organizers of this seminar thanked the Lord for the healing ministry.

The organizers especially thanked Revd. Shehzad Gill for his tireless efforts to help them organize this seminar.

**23:5:2011 Hassan Ghauri, Hall, Peshawar:** Hassan Ghari is a village, situated in the suburbs of Peshawar.

Last year, it was one of the worst hit areas by the super floods. A good number of active Christian families reside in this village, living side by side with the Muslim majority communities. It's also an area which can be a good example of interfaith harmony and living in peace with each other.



**People during Prayer and Praise**

A two days healing ministry seminar was organized at Hassan Ghari's Hall. The Hall was jam packed on both the days. During praise and worship a good number of people started dancing as they witnessed the presence of the Holy Spirit. People felt blessed and healed. On the last day of the Seminar participants were served with a dinner, as well.

**16-7-2011, Tarnab Farm, Church:** The congregation and youth group of the Tarnab Farm organized a two days healing seminar at Tarnab farm Church. It was a well organized and disciplined programme. The participants actively participated in praise and worship whereas, 23 people were healed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**Praying to God**

In the last couple of months, similar kind of healing Crusades were held at Gharibabad, Lalazar Colony, Bhatta, Mission Hospital, University Church, and at the St. John's Cathedral Peshawar, CVTC Mardan, and Civil Hospital, Nowshera Cantt. Total number of people healed in these Seminars is 156, whereas, thousands were blessed in the Name of our Lord

**Sewing Centres & Beauty Parlours**



**Sewing Centre Class**

The Development & Relief sector of the Peshawar Diocese runs various programmes for the social and economic uplift of the under privileged Christian communities, such as, Adult literacy centres, sewing centres, and also run training programmes to enable the trainers to run their own Beauty Saloons.



**The Development Secretary inspecting the Beautician Course**

Recently, in one of the Sewing Centres in Peshawar, the trainees in an exam passed all their written and practical assignments successfully. During the Sunday Church Service, the successful candidates were awarded certificates by the Secretary D & R, and their supervisors.



**Beautician Course in Progress**

The Secretary D & R, Mrs. Bimla Yousaf also inaugurated a Course for the 'Beauty Parlour' training. These courses enable the Christian women to run their own businesses, thus they become economically self-reliant.

**Invitation for Conversion;  
yet witnessing!**



**The Church Members welcoming the Bishop at Tarbella Church**

The town of Tarbella is situated at bank of world largest mud-filled Dam, i.e. Tarbella Dam. Peshawar Diocese has an active parish in Tarbella, whereas, Swabi is its sub-parish, led by Revd. Akmal Haroon.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters visited the Tarbella and Swabi parishes on 27 – 28 August, 2011. During his visit he led a Holy Communion Service. Later, in a meeting with the Parish Committee the Bishop discussed construction matters regarding 'Church building', as presently the tarbella congregation is worshiping in a rented building. The Bishop informed the committee that the Diocese is trying its best to raise funds for the church building. The parish committee also assured the bishop that they will also raise the funds by themselves for the construction material.



**Gospel Reading at Tarbella Church**

After the Parish meeting, the Bishop paid visit to various families in Tarbella and especially prayed for the sick, needy and the depressed in any way. Thus, the church members felt encouragement and consoled.

In the evening, the Bishop went to visit the Swabi sub-parish, where he led the Holy Communion Service. In his message, the Bishop quoted the reference, John 13:31-36, and said;

"We need to be very humble, so that the Lord Jesus may glorify from our lives". He also quoted Psalm 11:10, "Fear of God is the beginning of Knowledge". "We should also spend a life in the fear of God". He added.



**Prayers for Healing, at Tarbella**

Special mark of the Swabi Praise and Prayer Service was their choir, and their little rhythm master, aged 3 ½ years who played rhythm (Dohalak) in the Church and lead the Church Choir, it was an amazing performance. The Swabi church didn't have a person to play any musical instrument for the last 20 years, and the congregation prayed to God for this purpose, eventually God provided them this little master with this special skills.



**Bishop Humphrey with the little Rhythm Master, at Swabi**

The Swabi Christians living style is similar to pashtun people of Pakistan. Thus, that they are often asked to convert to Islam, as they live very much like the local people and follow local customs, but they are strong in faith and have been surviving among the local community from generation to generation.

The Bishop during his door to door visit, taught the Christians to show a good witness/testimony of Lord Jesus Christ through their lives. "God be with you and may help you to overcome all temptations", the Bishop prayed for them!

**Christians of Landi Kotal**



Landi Kotal is a famous town of the Khyber agency, a tribal area on the Pak/Afghan border, now a days this area is influenced by the Talibans, and their activities.

A small minority of Christian community also lives there, who are involved in menial jobs, and are poorer among the poor. They live in small houses/quarters of the Frontier Corps (F.C.), as most of them are ordinary workers in the F.C.

Last month the F.C. administration gave them a notice to vacate their houses. The Christians community contacted the Bishop of Peshawar for help. The Bishop immediately communicated with the F.C. commandant and asked him for a favour for the Christian community of the Landi Kotal.

In response to the Bishop's call, the F.C. commandant took a suo-motto action and cancelled the orders regarding vacation of the Christians from their houses.



**The Christians of Landi Kotal in a meeting with the Bishop**

Later, the Christians of Landi Kotal came to the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar and thanked the Bishop for his kind support and help.

**Youth & Sports**

The St. John's Cathedral Youth Group arranged two matches, at the Cathedral Ground, Peshawar.

A Cricket match and a Football match was also played between the Cathedral Youth and the SCM (Student Christian Movement), Edwardes College, Peshawar. Both the matches were won by the SCM.