

Christmas with flood victims



Bishop Humphrey conducting Cake ceremony

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar, visited all the flood affected areas during the Christmas season and spend time in the fellowship of flood victims.

On 24 December 2010, the Bishop led the mid-night service at the Christ Church, Nowshera, which is one of the badly affected areas due to the recent floods. A large number of the flood-affected people from Nowshera, Jhengira, Akora, Pabbi and Risalpur attended this service.

The Bishop, in his special Christmas message showed solidarity with the flood victims. In his message, he mentioned that some people Worship the Lord with a holy heart, as the shepherds did, whereas, the others Worship the Lord with deceitfulness, as the king Herod did. *"When we Worship God, we should remove all kind of deceitfulness from our hearts, and only then, we can worship with a holy heart"*, he said.

Later, the Bishop spent time with the congregation and gave consolation to the flood victims and shared the Christmas greetings with them.

On the 31 December 2010, the Bishop attended a watch-night service at the All Saints' Church, Peshawar.

In his new year message, the Bishop quoted the reference, Zechariah 8:14-17, where it is written, *"Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgement in your courts, do not plot evil against your neighbour, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,' declares the Lord."*

(Continued on Page 4, Col.1)

The First 'Arch Deacon'



Revd. S. P. Asghar taking the Oath

December 21, 2010: In a graceful service held at St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar, Rev. S. P. Asghar was appointed by the Rt. Rev. Humphrey S. Peters, as the Arch-Deacon of the Peshawar Diocese.

The Installation service was witnessed by the clergy, prominent citizens, the Diocesan Officers, and the congregation of Peshawar.

Earlier, the Diocesan Secretary Rev. Rasheed Nazir read out the responsibilities of the 'Arch Deacon'. Later, the Rt. Rev. Humphrey Peters administered the Oath, and in his speech said that it's a very high profile job and should be carried out with much care and devotion.

The Rt. Rev. Humphrey Peters, the Bishop of Peshawar in his speech also mentioned that after having consulted the Moderator, Church of Pakistan, he has taken this step. Peshawar Diocese is the first among all the Dioceses of the CoP to have appointed an 'Arch Deacon'.



The Bishop, the Arch-deacon and the Clergy

After the ceremony the newly appointed arch-deacon in his speech said that "I humbly feel that it is an honour for me to be appointed as an Arch Deacon, he further said that he will carry on his responsibilities with honesty and missionary zeal.

Individual Highlights

Christmas & flood victims	1
The first Arch-deacon	1
The National Scenario	2
Inter-Faith & Christmas	3
Activities at Bannu Hospital	4
Christmas prayers held in Jails	5

Other Highlights:

* Prayer Requests	2
* Mashaloon	3
* Parents CBR Training Course	5
* Youth Activities	6

Visit us at

www.peshawardiocese.org

Contact us at

frontiernews@peshawardiocese.org
diocese.org
commdeskdp@gmail.com

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. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
2. We need your prayer support for those who are living in hostile areas of NWFP, especially the Pakistani Christians and their institutions.
3. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot. May God help the Diocese to work more effectively for the development of the Earthquake victims.
4. Construction work of the following churches is in progress:
Church of the Holy Name, Bannu; Christ Church, Nowshera; St. Xavier Church, Thandiani.

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 South Waziristan is at its full swing. Thousands of people have evacuated the area and are getting themselves registered as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in D.I. Khan and Bannu.

The Frontier News

(The National Scenario)

A voice of Truth Silenced



Late, Governor Salman Taseer

The untimely death and brutal murder of Salman Taseer, Governor of Punjab has been widely condemned by the people of Pakistan.

The minorities in Pakistan, especially Christians were deeply saddened by his death at the hands of the extremists, as he was considered as champion of the rights of minorities. He always stood by the minorities, despite a number of threats to his life, and treated the minorities as equal citizens of Pakistan.



Salman Taseer with Aasia Bibi at Police Station

Last year when Aasia Bibi (a Christian lady) was awarded death sentence by a local court in Shiekupura, the Governor took personal interest in the case, and arranged for her pardon by the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari.

Aasia Bibi is still in a critical situation, but Governor Taseer is no more in this world. He was an out spoken and courageous man, who always stood by his principles and wanted Pakistan to be a state without religious discrimination.

The Late, Governor Taseer was not in favour of the misuse of the blasphemy law against the minorities, he once described the blasphemy law as a 'black law', and this very statement took his life, he will be remember as a martyr of truth and freedom of speech.

The Peshawar Diocese strongly condemned his assassination. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters said, "Today, we have lost a true friend of the minorities in Pakistan, the vacume left by his death will always be felt".

(Courtesy 'The News Int'l, 6 Jan, 2011'. Extract from an Article written by Amir Mir.)

Aasia's fate uncertain after Taseer's murder

Lahore: The fate of Aasia Bibi, a 45-year-old Christian woman, already condemned to death by the district and sessions court of Sheikhpura on November 9, 2010 for allegedly committing blasphemy, hangs in balance, especially after the assassination of the Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, who was vigorously seeking a presidential pardon for her.

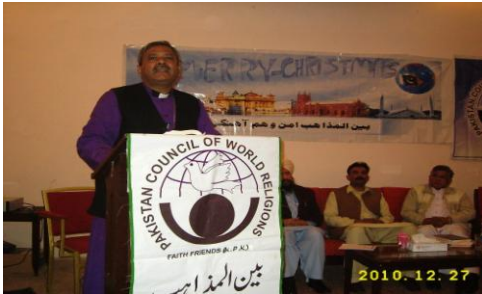
The murder of Aasia's chief supporter, Salman Taseer has left her simply terrified in the Sheikhpura district jail where she is simply at the mercy of prison guards, amidst renewed fears that some other person in police uniform could kill her anytime, as had happened with the Punjab governor. Aasia's husband, Ashiq Masih says his wife feels extremely insecure after the murder of Salman Taseer and fears for her life.

Although, Salman Taseer had forwarded Aasia's clemency appeal to the Presidency shortly after his meeting with the accused at the Sheikhpura district jail on November 20, 2010, no action could be taken because of a restraining order issued by the former chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) Khawaja Muhammad Sharif, directing the Presidency on November 29, 2010 to abstain from pardoning the Christian woman before the court ruled on her appeal. The interim orders were issued on a petition filed by Allah Bukhsh Advocate, praying to stall any possible attempt to grant presidential pardon to the Christian woman.

The petitioner pleaded that although the accused has already approached the high court, challenging her death sentence, it seems that the president of Pakistan tends to pardon her, which he cannot do according to the constitution because her appeal is still pending.

Khawaja Sharif had retired a few days after issuing these restraining orders and Aasia as well as her backers, including the Punjab governor, had been waiting since then for the LHC to set the date to hear the appeal.

Inter-Faith & Christmas



Bishop Humphrey addressing the gathering

The Pakistan Council of World Religions (Faith Friends) organized a Christmas programme in a local hotel in Peshawar, for the Christian community. This is the first event of its kind in the province, and has proved to be a success to promote Inter-faith harmony and a culture of tolerance.

Besides different denominations, i.e. Church of Pakistan, Roman Catholic, Anglican Orthodox, Pentecostal & Brothern Mission, guests from Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities also participated in the programme.



Participants of the Programme

Programme started with a prayer offered by Revd. Joseph John. Speakers from different faith communities delivered speeches about the Christmas and Interfaith harmony. The Christian speakers highlighted the purpose of the Birth of Jesus Christ, and explained why He is the Prince of Peace.

Prominent personalities like Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters (Bishop of Peshawar), Bishop Earnest Jacob, Father Shamoun John, Revd. S. P. Asghar and other Diocesan Officers participated in the programme. The Faith Friends members Dr. Qibla Ayaz (Muslim Community), Revd. Joseph John (Christian), Haroon Sarab Diyal (Huindu), Charan Jeet Singh (Sikh) and Mr. Muzzam Julion were also present at this occasion. A special guest from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Islamabad, Mr. Rizwan Ali also participated in the programme.

A Christmas cake was distributed among the participants, followed by a dinner.

Mashaloona



Bishop Humphrey enjoying the show

December 25, 2010: The Sarhad Tourism Cooperation, in collaboration with the Provincial Government, and the Faith Friends organized a special Christmas programme at the 'Nishtar Hall, Peshawar'.

The famous singers and actors performed their popular numbers and skits, and the atmosphere was electric. People highly appreciated their performances and on every performance applauded wholeheartedly.



Bishop Humphrey with the Minister of Information

At this occasion, Minister of Information, KPK, Mian Iftikhar Hussain was the chief guest prominent guests, included- The Rt.Rev. Humphrey Sarfraz Peters, the clergy of Peshawar Diocese and prominent citizens, officials and a large number of Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and even Muslims participated in the programme.



Santa Clause distributing the gifts

A special 'Santa Clause' presence was arranged on this occasion who distributed small gifts among the children and the youth.

The organizers expressed their views by saying, "This evening is dedicated to our

youth who are our future, to our minorities & to the founder of our Nation who said, "...You may belong to any religion, caste or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the state".



The religious leaders showing unity

During the programme special guests delivered their speeches about Unity, Faith and Solidarity. The programme ended with a closing-prayer.

Christmas Programmes at the Adult Literacy Centres

The Diocesan Development & Relief Sector staff organized Christmas programmes at the Adult Literacy centres. The staff and students of these centres presented skits, Christmas carols, and dramas. It was very encouraging to see the adult literacy students reading out various passages from the Scriptures. The instructors and the audiences encouraged them for their efforts.

The Development staff distributed small Christmas gifts among the students and instructors, as a token of love.

The staff and students of the literacy centres were very happy and thanked the Diocese for all their help and for the nice Christmas party as well.

Adult Literacy Programme; is especially for women who somehow couldn't get formal education, but now have joined the Diocesan Adult Literacy centres. In these centres, they are given free education, and are looked after and taught by trained teachers.

There are about 15 adult literacy centres at different locations in the Province, providing basic education, reading & writing skills.

Continued from Page 1, Col.1
Christmas with flood victims



Bishop Humphrey praying for children

“So according to the Word of God, we should change ourselves, and also become element of change for others in this New Year”. He added.

On 1 January 2011, the Bishop spent time with the flood affectees of Charsadda, there he led the Holy Communion Service and also delivered the New Year’s message. After the Service, there was a fellowship lunch, and the Bishop listened patiently and sympathetically to the requests made by the flood victims and tried his best to sort out their problems.

2 January 2011, the Bishop went to Risalpur, which is another badly affected area because of recent floods, The Bishop led the Worship Service and later met the flood victims and expressed solidarity with them. Another highlight of this visit was a programme organized by the children of the Sunday School. The children presented skits, dramas, Christmas & New Year Songs. A tea party was also arranged for the visitors and the local congregation.



Bishop Humphrey socializing with children

The Bishop, and the management staff of the Diocese spent most of their Christmas season with the flood victims, they shared the joy & happiness of Christmas and New Year with people torn by the natural disasters.

Annual Programme of the PMCH



Dr. Nadeem with the Health Secretary

The annual celebration of the Pennell Memorial Christian Hospital (PMCH), Bannu was held on 6 January 2011.

Prof Naveed Attaullah, Secretary Health DoP, Col. (R) Kanwal Isaacs, Revd. Ejaz Gill and Revd. S.P. Asghar, the Arch Deacon Peshawar Diocese were specially invited to attend this grand function.

First of all, the Administrator PMCH, Dr. Nadeem Hidayat gave a power-point presentation about the services of the Hospital. And then, the Diocesan officers were given a round of the hospital, they met the patients, staff and saw the facilities extended by the hospital.

The programme started with the opening prayer by the Revd. Ejaz Gill who is one of the Vice Presidents of the Diocese, followed by a message delivered by the Revd. S. P. Asghar.



Christian Musical group from Jacobabad

Earlier, a Christian Musical group from Jacobabad sung wonderful Christmas songs, whereas, the Midwifery staff played comedy skits and presented wonderful dance performances, much appreciated by the audiences.

The Secretary Health, Prof. Naveed Attaullah in his speech appreciated the hardwork and efforts of the staff

and administration for the treatment, and welfare of the communities living in and around Bannu, and the Waziristan agency. He said the hospital services are a true witness, and present the Diocesan Mission statement in letter and spirit.



Midwifery staff performing at the show

Later, a Cake cutting ceremony was held, which was followed by distribution of the ‘Performance Certificates’ to the staff.

Veil Ceremon of Midwifery School PMCH, Bannu



Veil ceremony in progress

A veil ceremony for midwifery school students was held at Pennell Hospital, Bannu. There are 20 students, and 7 of them passed their first year exams and have entered into their final year of training. This was a record number of students in Midi-school’s history.



Veil ceremony

The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Nadeem Hidayat and Madam Rubina.

Parents CBR Training Course



Parents Training Programme in progress

December 18 – 19, 2010: A two days Seminar for parents was held at the Mental Health Centre, Peshawar.

Mental Health Centre, Peshawar is a training and resource base in the field of Special Education and Community based Rehabilitation (CBR).

Facilities for the handicapped children in Pakistan, and in many other countries of the world are primarily child-oriented, and parents are not involved in the overall development of their children. But, Mental Health Centre believes in parents involvement and through them involves close relatives and their communities, and takes the services to the basic community level.

Pupils studying in special schools spend only a few hours out of their homes, during this time the child and his parents both get a break, but MHC believes in empowering the parents and communities by transferring knowledge, skills and attitudes, thus developmental work continues at home.



Parents & children during the Training Course

During the seminar, Parents showed keen interest in learning new teaching skills to improve their child's progress in a friendly environment, involving relatives, siblings and communities.

Christmas Prayers held in Jails

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, ...”

(Hebrews 13:3)



Keeping the tradition of previous years, the Prison Ministry of the Diocese of Peshawar arranged special Prayer Services for the Christian prisoners in two major jails of the Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) Province. In both the jails, the Holy Communion service was led by the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar, assisted by the Revd. Rasheed Nazir, the Diocesan Secretary/Prison Chaplain.

Separate Worship Services were also held in the female sector of the jails, led by Mrs. Reena Patrick, the Diocesan Women Coordinator.

Special Christmas cake cutting ceremony also took place in both sections of the jails.

On 23 December 2010, Christmas Service was held in the Haripur Jail, led by the Bishop and the Prison Chaplain. The Priests, and prominent members of the Abbottabad and Haripur congregation also participated in this Prayer Service. *“It was wonderful to hear the message of Jesus Christ about Peace and Love, in captivity,”* said a prisoner.

Special Christmas gifts were also distributed among the prisoners, and a lunch was jointly organized & served by the Abbottabad and Haripur parishes.

On 24 December 2010, Christmas service and Cake cutting ceremony was held at the Central Jail Peshawar, a good number of people from the congregation of Peshawar also showed up. Christmas gifts were distributed among the prisoners and a fellowship lunch was also served.

Peshawar Diocese is grateful to the Jail administration for their help, assistance and cooperation.

Christmas Activities at PMCH, Bannu

On 11 December 2010, Annual Sports day for the PMCH staff was arranged by the administration of the hospital, the idea was to encourage the staff and people to indulge in healthy activities.



Ladies at the fun fare programme

Similarly, on 18 December 2010, the Hospital administration arranged a Christmas Funfare Programme to promote social activities for the people living in the war zone and like areas.

A Christmas Drama was played at PMCH, the title of this long play was, *“Sitara Chamakta Raha”*. The talented staff and students of the hospital played different roles effortlessly.



Bishop addressing the gathering

Bishop Humphrey Peters was the chief guest at this occasion. In his speech he appreciated the show, and also showed his satisfaction over the progress made by the hospital.

Visit of the officials of the Christian Medical Fellowship

Two officials of the Christian Medical Fellowship, i.e. CEO, CMF, Dr. Peter Saunders, and Director CMF, Dr. Vicky Lavy visited the Pennell Hospital, Bannu.

It was a goodwill visit, and the visitors appreciated the services extended by the hospital.

Diocesan Youth Council



Bishop Humphrey with Youth Executive Members

Diocese of Peshawar has always promoted its Youth at all levels, and have been involved in decision making process of the Diocese. The Peshawar Diocese is the only in the Church of Pakistan, that has formed the Youth Council at the Diocesan level, and the youth belonging to all the parishes and sub-parishes have been given their due representation. The youth council has its own Cabinet & Executive committee responsible for the youth's activities, either it is their spiritual and/or social growth.

Three members of the Youth Council have been given representation in the main Diocesan Council, and the President of the youth council also represents the youth in the Diocesan Executive Committee. Besides this, there is a youth representative in all the parish committees.



Youth Council Meeting in progress

The 3rd Diocesan Youth Council was held in the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar, on 12 November 2010. The delegates from all our parishes and sub-parishes participated in the Youth Council. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, the Bishop of Peshawar, chaired the Council, whereas, the Youth Council President, Ms. Saima Walter presided over the meeting. Revd. S.P. Asghar, the Secretary, Mission & Ministry, DoP was also present in the meeting.

The new office-bearer of the Diocesan Youth Council, for the year 2010 – 2013,

are as follows:

- President: Mr. Kamran Younas from Mardan Parish (Northern Deanery)
- Vice President: Ms. Sarah Asghar from All Saints' Church, Peshawar (Central Deanery)
- Secretary: Mr. Ravish Jabbar from St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar (Central Deanery)
- Treasurer: Ms. Barkha Ashfaq from Thall Parish (Southern Deanery)

The Youth Council works through its Four Committees, and the chosen conveniers of the Committees are as follows:

Committees Conveniers

- Faith Awareness: Mr. Tahir Masih from Nowshera Parish
- Education: Ms. Farah Noureen from St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar
- Sports & Music: Mr. Suleman Javed from All Saints' Church, Peshawar
- Community Development: Mr. Adnan Shoukat from Tarbella Parish

=====

Prayer Orientation Programme for new Youth Executive Members



The Youth in Prayer Session

Youth Executive Members of the 3rd Diocesan Youth Council organized a Prayer & Orientation Program on Saturday, 4 December 2010, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The new Executive Members decided to kneel before God, before starting their ministerial work among the youth.

The teaching session was led by Rev. Joseph John, the Priest In-charge, St. John's Cathedral Peshawar, he taught the youth about "Christian Ministry". He explained, "The Christian leadership is a servanthood leadership", as Jesus said, "If anyone of you want to become first, he should become servant of all."

Cathedral Youth Organized a Christmas Get-together



A youth member performing at the function

A Christmas Family Get-together was organized by the Youth Group of St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar, on 30 December 2010. Bishop Humphrey Peters was the chief guest at this occasion.



Christmas drama presented by youth



Christmas Carols performance



Bishop Humphrey addressing the Youth

The Youth presented Christmas Carols, skits, funny items, songs and a drama. Various games and other fun activities were also part of the programme.

=====