

Anglican Alliance visit Peshawar Diocese



March 19 - 26, 2011: Sally Keeble, Director, Anglican Alliance, U.K. and Bradley Chapman, Anglican Board of Mission, Australia, visited Peshawar Diocese for a week's trip. This was a goodwill visit of the Communion to Peshawar Diocese, and their special focus was to visit the flood affected areas.

The guests attended the Sunday Service on 20 March, at the St. John's Cathedral. They visited various parishes of the diocese and saw the parish ministries. They also visited some of the diocesan projects, programmes, and institutions, and saw the Diocesan development work, and appreciated the diocesan efforts for the community development. They also met some of the key persons involved in various Diocesan ministries of women, Youth, and the Junior Church.



The highlight of their visit was to see the flood-affected areas. They were taken to Risalpur, Nowshera and Charsadda and saw different relief & Rehabilitation projects and Diocesan programmes for the flood-affected people. They met the local people, and enquired about their needs and comfort, thus consoled them with their kind prayers. The local people told them that they were thankful to the Diocese for helping and supporting them in the time of crisis.



A special Welcome reception was also arranged for the guests by the Diocesan Management on Saturday, 19 March 2011, at the Lawn of Bishop's House. The Diocesan officers, Priests, Head of institutions and coordinators of different ministries in Peshawar Diocese participated in this reception party. In this programme, the Diocesan management welcomed the guests in a traditional way, and presented the traditional gifts (souvenirs).



The Bishop in his address said that we thank the guests for their visit to Pakistan, especially, in a tense situation. He also mentioned that Peshawar Diocese has very close links and relationship with the Communion. "We appreciate the Anglican Communion's support for the Peshawar Diocese, especially during the floods in our Province", he added.

Ms. Sally Keeble from Anglican Alliance in her speech thanked the Diocese for their warm welcome. She said that we are happy that the Peshawar Diocese is serving in this part of the world. She also promised to continue their support.



Individual Highlights

<i>The Anglican Alliance's representatives visit</i>	1
<i>The Bishop's Press Conference</i>	2
<i>The National Scenario</i>	3
<i>Youth Leadership Training</i>	4
<i>World Day of Prayer</i>	4
<i>Development & Relief Sector</i>	5

Other Highlights:

- * Prayer Requests 2
- * Pre-lent Clergy Retreat 6
- * Ecumenical Approach Towards Prayer 6
- * Press Release by Faith Friends 2

Visit us at

www.peshawardiocese.org

Contact us at

frontiernews@peshawardiocese.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 KPK, 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)

Bishop Humphrey condemns desecration of the Holy Quran



March 24, 2011: Bishop Humphrey Peters in a Press Conference, organized by 'Pakistan Council of World Religion' (Faith Friends), strongly condemned the desecration/burning of the Holy Quran by a so called pastor of a small type parish/church of Florida, USA.

Bishop Humphrey said that Terri Johns is not a real Priest, nor he represents the world Christian community he committed this shameful act only to gain cheap popularity.

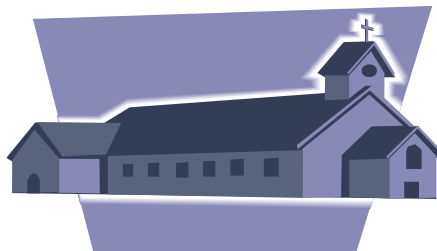
On this occasion, the other leaders of the Faith Friends, Qari Ruhullah Madni (Chief Khateeb and Coordinator, Faith Friends), Mr. Charan Jeet Singh (Sikh Community), Mr. Haroon Sarabdiyal (Hindu Community) also expressed their views and anger over this shameful act. Representatives of all the religions demanded from the International community to take this matter to the international court of law and to give Terri Johns an exemplary punishment.

Bishop Humphrey said that the US government should stop Terry Jones type of people, as they are threats to the global peace and interfaith harmony.

=====

Attention

In reaction to the desecration of the Holy Quran, some members of the Muslim community in Wah Cantonment, Taxila, attacked the St. Thomas' Church and destroyed furniture and other equipment, thus desecrated sanctity of the Church.



US pastor's trail in ICJ demanded

(A Press Release by Faith Friends)

Peshawar, March 24, 2011: Pakistan Council of World Religions (PCWR) has strongly condemned the alleged burning of Holy Quran by an American pastor Terry Jones, and called for his trial in the International Court of Justice.

Speaking at a press conference at Peshawar Press Club on Thursday the PCWR members led by the Council's provincial president, former minister for Auqaf, Qari Rohullah Madni stressed the need for legislation at world level to ensure a ban on such blasphemous activities in the future. He said Terry Jones was a 'terrorist' who wanted to create rifts in the Christian-Muslim relations by committing this crime.

Appreciating the Christian community of Peshawar, he said that they had also issued decree that the alleged blasphemer was a black stigma on the face of Christianity.

"Terry Jones is not a Christian priest but only a religious terrorist who tried to incite Muslim community's religious sentiments by burning the Holy Quran," said Bishop Humphrey Peters on the occasion.

Expressing grief over the occurrence of the tragic incident, the Bishop said Terry Jones had no importance in the Christian community. He said the Holy Quran had also reverence for the Christians because it mentioned references of Jesus and Mary.

Haroon Sarb Diyal, a representative of the Hindu community also shared his views over religions of the world, saying, all the religions are peaceful and teach peace. He said it is the duty of all the communities to discourage such people. The participants demanded of the US government to award the pastor exemplary punishment.



Pakistan Council of World Religions

A Press Release by Faith Friends

March 17, 2011 (Peshawar): The Pakistan Council of World Religions (Faith Friends), Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa in its meeting showed its deep concern over the murder of Shahbaz Bhatti, Federal Minister. Members were of the opinion that blasphemy issue has been settled by clear statements of the Prime Minister and Minister for Law, that the blasphemy laws would remain intact. In such a situation the issue was satisfactorily settled and the Muslim religious parties had suspended their movement. The members maintained that such heinous acts are committed by those who are determined to destabilize Pakistan.

Muslims and non-Muslims have remarkable mutual relationship throughout the history of Pakistan. The members took strong exception to the efforts of some top govt. functionaries who are trying to dilute the intensity of the murder by giving it a different colour.

Procession taken out against desecration of Holy Quran

(Extract from 'The News Int'l', March 28, 2011)

Islamabad: Thousands of people on Sunday marched on roads of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to condemn and protest desecration of the Holy Quran by a US pastor.



The Christian community based in the federal capital also participated in the rally to express solidarity with Muslims and condemn the act of US pastor. Some JUI-F workers also joined the rally from Rawalpindi.

Munawwar Hasan asked the Foreign Office to summon US ambassador to register protest as the US government was also answerable to the Muslims for the condemnable incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in the United States. "The American government should tell the Muslim world as to what action is being taken against the US pastor, involved in the heinous act," he said.

Protest against Shahbaz Bhatti's Assassination



March 6, 2011: The youth members of the St. John's Cathedral and of the All Saints Church recorded their protest, in front of Peshawar Press Club, against the assassination of Mr. Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian member of the parliament in Pakistan. They chanted slogans and were carrying placards. They demanded justice and protection of the Christians in the country.

Earlier, they formed a rally and walked through the main roads of Peshawar Cantonment. They demanded exemplary punishment for the people responsible for this atrocious crime.



Although the initiative was taken by the youth of the two main churches of Peshawar Diocese, a number of Christian community members from other denominations also joined this rally to record their protest.

On this occasion, the electronic and print media took notice of the rally and protest by the Christian community and supported their rights of protest. At the end, the Christian community members prayed in front of Peshawar Press Club for the bereaved family of Shahbaz Bhatti and also Peace and Prosperity in Pakistan.

(Source, Mirror update, NCJP of the Catholic Church, Pakistan)

Two Christians shot dead

After a brawl over interrupting a church gathering, two Christians were shot dead and two others were injured by local Muslims at Hurr Camp, a locality of the Christians in Hyderabad, Sindh Province on March 21, 2011.

According to the reports Christians were celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Salvation Army Church when a few Muslim youth interrupted by playing music on their cell phones in high volume, they also teased the Christian women when they came to the Church.

A few men tried to stop the Muslim youths asked them to respect the sanctity of the prayer service and refrain from teasing the Christian women. The argument turned into a clash between the two parties.

According to witnesses around six Muslims opened the fire and killed Mr. Jamil Sardar (24) a newly married and Mr. Younis Masih (45) on the spot. Siddiq Masih (40) and Waseem George (20) got serious injuries and were admitted to the hospitals in Karachi and Hyderabad respectively, till this report.

(Source, Mirror update, NCJP)

Blasphemy convict found dead

Qamar David, a Christian man convicted for alleged blasphemy was found dead in Karachi jail on March 15th, 2011 raising doubts that he might have fallen prey to active hate campaign going on in the country on this issue by extremist groups.

Qamar David was arrested on May 24th, 2006 on flimsy charges. He was given life imprisonment and fine Rupees 101, 000 on February 25, 2010 after he was accused of being in possession of a SIM phone used for sending derogatory messages offering insult to Holy Prophet. He was charged under Sections 295 A and 925 C of the Pakistan Penal Code however, the Muslim co-accused was acquitted for lack of evidence.

A native of Lahore Qamar was in Karachi for business in 2006. The jail authorities said he died due to a heart attack. His family would be reaching Karachi to claim his body on March 16th. The family intends to bring the body to Lahore and bury him there, which might take a couple of days. He was 55 years age and father of four boys.

(Mission & Ministry Sector)

Youth Task Force formed



The Diocese of Peshawar always tries to develop its youth and works for their capacity building. A special Leadership Training Programme was organized by the Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese on 11 -13 March 2011, at Camp Mubarik, Murree.



This special training was organized to equip some young leaders to form a 'Youth Task Force' in the Diocese of Peshawar, which will work through the Diocesan Youth Council and work for the development of the youth and christian community at large in the whole Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The trained youth leaders were assigned to develop projects for the uplift of their youth and community in their respective parishes.

The youth leaders from almost all the parishes of the Diocese participated in this 3-days leadership training programme. Even the participants came from the far flung and hard areas of the province, i.e. Tank, D.I. Khan, Thall, Swat. Some youth leaders also came from the last year's flood affected areas, like Charsadda, Risalpur, Nowshera, Swabi etc. The participants enjoyed the Biblical reflections, training, and teachings about 'Christian Leadership'.

Mr. George Boota from the Ibadaat Trust, Lahore, was the keynote speaker. His session was about 'Leadership & Project Planning', he involved the youth in various activities and group discussions during the learning process.

The participants enjoyed the teachings and were equipped with the new knowledge.



The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was especially invited to this training programme, to encourage the young leaders. The Bishop led a session on the 'Role of Youth in the Church'. He taught the youth to adopt positive attitude and thinking. He quoted (1-Peter 4:7-11), ".....Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone serve, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ".

The Youth Officer, Mr. Insar Gohar led Bible Study and talked about the leadership of Nehemiah. How Nehemiah motivated his people to build the wall and gates of the Jerusalem. Same like, we should also rise up and build and develop our community with joining hands with each other.



Last session and Sunday Mass was conducted by the Very Revd. S. P. Asghar, Archdeacon of Peshawar Diocese.

The participants were awarded by certificates of participation at the end of the course. The programme ended with prayers, commissioning & dedication of the youth leaders for the ministry.

Word Day of Prayer

March 4: World Day of Prayer is about Informed Prayer which flows into Prayerful Action. After hearing the voices of our sisters, experiencing their feelings, fears and hopes have empowered us to act. 'Prayer' and 'Actions' are inseparable realms of our faith experience. A true prayer in itself is an element of change, which reveals 'power of the prayer', and changes individuals, families and communities for good, thus the prayer and action continue together.



The Women Desk of Peshawar Diocese organized a special programme to celebrate the World Day of Prayer, at the All Saints' Church, Peshawar, in which the women from both the main churches of Peshawar Diocese participated actively.



The 'Order of Worship' was prepared by the women of Chile and, the theme was "How Many Loaves Have You?" (Mark 6:38), according to which various passages were read turn by turn by the members of Women Fellowship. They prayed for the tense situation of the region, and for the Christian community in Pakistan. Mrs. Noreen Altaf, the Sunday Schools Coordinator of the Diocese shared a message regarding theme of the programme.

Later, a fellowship dinner was served. The whole programme was hosted by the 'Women Fellowship' of the All Saints Church Parish.

(Development & Relief Sector)

Annual Day at New Light Public School



13 March 2011: The Annual Result Day of the 'New Light Public school' for Earthquake Victims, Pateka, Balakot was held at the school premises. The school's success rate was 90% and the outstanding students were awarded with prizes and certificates.

The School staff with the cooperation of the Diocesan Development & Relief Sector's staff arranged this event. Parents and the community leaders were invited to witness and celebrate the success of their sons and daughters. On this occasion Mrs. Bimbla Yousaf, Secretary, Development & Relief along with her staff also participated in this function.



The Minister for Industry & Trade, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the chief guest at this occasion. In his speech, he thanked the Diocese for its efforts for the development of the earthquake affected people; he also praised the hard work of the principal and of the staff. He also encouraged the students to put all their heart and mind on their studies.

The students skillfully displayed different skits and made speeches as per their academic needs and achievements. The award giving ceremony was led by the chief guest, followed by distribution of sweets and lunch afterwards.



The Development secretary in her speech said that the school has proved its worth and has maintained the required standards of the Diocesan School System. She also appreciated efforts of the Principal, teachers and of the students.

=====

Anglican Alliance guests visit Community Development Projects



The guests from the Anglican Alliance visited different projects run by the Diocesan Development Sector. They want to see the Sewing and Adult Literacy Centres, and met the apprenticeship scheme students, who have established their own workshops and are making a good living out of it.

In the sewing centres the trainees exhibited their skills by preparing bed sheet sets, kitchen wears, and garments. Their hard work and skills were appreciated by the guests.



In adult literacy class, the students displayed writing scripts and read different Scripture from the Holy Bible, thus proved that they have achieved reading and writing skills successfully.



The guests appreciated the diocesan efforts for the uplift of the community. They said that they have been impressed to see various programmes and projects run nicely and smoothly by the Diocese.

=====

Development programmes at Tarbella

Tarbella parish is a small, but an active parish of the Diocese. The priest in-charge works hard for the spiritual and social uplift of the congregation. The Diocesan Development & Relief Sector has also extended its support for the community development programmes in Tarbella, i.e. A Sewing Centre and an Adult Literacy Class.



The Adult literacy class is showing encouraging results. The students can now read and write with confidence.



(Continued on Page 6, Col.1)

(Continued from Page 5, Col.3)

Development programmes at Tarbella



The sewing centre students have learned embroidery skills, and can stitch their own clothes, and they also stitch clothes for others on demand as well, and this enable them to generate income for their families and household. The Diocesan Development sector provides all possible help and facilities to the centre for its uplift.



Recently, Mrs. Bimla Yousaf, the Development Secretary, along with her field supervisors visited the Tarbella parish, along with the Priest In-charge, Revd. Akmal Haroon. They were impressed by the encouraging results of both the programmes. They also appreciated the hard work of both the teachers and students. The teachers and students were thankful to the Diocese for setting up such beneficial programmes for their uplift.

Distinction



Asfanyar Ibrar



Omar Obiad

Two brilliant students of the Edwardes College School, Peshawar Asfanyar Ibrar and Omar Obiad of the 10th Cambridge obtained the highest grades in their respective subjects for the 'Brilliance Pakistan Awards' in IGCSE Examination. Asfandyar Ibrar excels in Mathematics in Pakistan, whereas Omar Obaid brightens in Physics in Pakistan.

The Pre-lent Retreat



A scenic view of Khanpur

March 2-5, 2011: The Annual Pre-lent Clergy Retreat was held at the Diocesan Retreat Centre, Khanpur. The Rt. Revd Humphrey S. Peters conducted the Retreat. This year's, theme of the Retreat was "Sanctity".

Most of the sessions were led by Bishop Humphrey. He said that, we 'the priests' are chosen people of God, therefore, our conduct should be a model for others, and we need to keep ourselves holy in eyes of God. One session was also led by Revd. Sajeel Khan.

The clergy re-confirmed their commitment for the service of God, and prepared themselves for the forth coming Lent-Season.



A scenic view of Khanpur

During the retreat, participants were divided into four study groups, and were assigned to discuss various aspects of the theme. Special prayers and intercessory prayers were performed in the evenings. The final session was held to conclude reflections, presented by the four group leaders.

The Priests presented themselves, and reconfirmed their pledge with God. The programme ended with prayers and blessings.



Ecumenical approach towards prayer



To promote ecumenical approach towards prayers, on 25 February 2011, a special prayer seminar was held at Mission Hospital, Peshawar. The prayer meeting was organized by the Derek Prince Ministry, with the cooperation of Peshawar Diocese. This was a great initiative to bring together the Church leaders from all denominations.

In the opening session, Mr. James Dean, Director, Derek Prince Ministry, explained the aims & objectives of the Prayer Meeting, he said that the purpose of this meeting is to build unity in the Body of Christ and to pray for the Church in Peshawar for the tensed situation of the region, so that may God bring peace and harmony to our country.

A big delegation from the Peshawar Diocese participated in this prayer programmes, i.e. Revd. Joseph John, Revd. Fayyaz M. Channa, Revd. Patrick Naeem, Revd. Shahzad Gill, Mrs. Bimbla Yousaf (Development Secretary), Mr. Insar Gohar (Youth Coordinator), Mrs. Reena Patrick (Women Coordinator), and Mrs. Noureen Altaf (Junior Church Coordinator). A few leaders from some para-church organizations also participated in the programme, a part from the Priests/Leaders from many other denominations.

Different prayer points were raised and the participants were divided into small groups to pray for these points. The guests/pastors from USA also joined the groups and encouraged the local leaders in prayers.

In the end, all the Church leaders joined hands together in prayer and prayed for the unity in the Church in Pakistan, and for the peace and religious harmony in the country. It was a great sight as the presence of the Holy Ghost was felt among the believers.