

## Initiative for Peaceful Co-existence



Bishop Humphrey addressing the Gathering

D. I. Khan: "All religions of the world teach to serve humanity, and we need to promote religious harmony in our society" said, Bishop Humphrey Peters in a Reception Party hosted in his honour at D. I. Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

In this reception, apart from local and prominent Christians, a large number of Muslim representatives of the lawyer community, and prominent citizens, and Media persons were among the participants.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters in his address announced that the Mission School, D. I. Khan will be up-graded, and it will be equipped with modern academic facilities. The Bishop said that 'admissions' on the basis of 'merit' will be our priority, whereas Christian students will be given their due quota of admissions, thus the principle of 'Merit' will be implemented without any fear or problems.

"On the instance of the people of D. I. Khan, it has also been decided to up-grade the 'Mother & Child Health Centre', D. I. Khan, as well. Further, it will also be linked with the Christian hospitals of Tank and Bannu, and this strategy will enable people to benefit from the services of all the specialist and competent doctors of the Christian Hospitals of the region", The Bishop added.

At this occasion, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters also made another historical announcement, and added, "It has been decided to build a commercial plaza on the land currently used by the Mission School & Mother & Child Health Centre, D. I. Khan. Thus, the income generated through 'Plaza'

will be utilized to further develop the Mission School and Health Clinic". "Children belonging to all the minority groups will be awarded with scholarships". He assured.



Bishop Humphrey with members of Civic Society

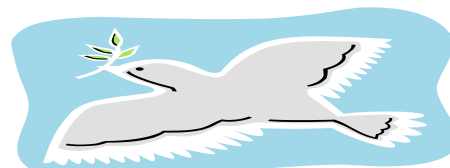
The Bishop's historical speech and announcements were highly appreciated by the Civic Society of D. I. Khan. Representatives of the Civic Society said, "It's the best gift for D. I. Khan, given by someone after a long time, and we highly welcome his plans and decisions which play their role in the overall development of the land and its people".



Bishop Humphrey with people of D.I. Khan

The Bishop's address was followed by address of the Deputy Attorney General, the Chairman Zaqat & Usher.

Mr. Akhtar Hussain Qureshi, Advocate, Representative of the D. I. Khan Bar Association. Mohammad Fazle Rehman, a local journalist, and Chaudary Riaz, member Muslim League (N) in their speeches thanked the 'Bishop' for the uplift of all the communities of D. I. Khan.



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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.

### **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)

(Extract from 'The News Int'l', May 26, 2011)

### **Suicide bomber hits CID building**

**Seven cops, a soldier killed; 46, including 12 army men, injured in Peshawar**

Peshawar: Seven police commanders and a Pakistan Army soldier were killed and 46 others injured when a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a police station of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on University Road early Wednesday.

The powerful blast rocked the provincial capital at 4:35am when most people were asleep or offering morning prayers. The security forces immediately cordoned the area and blocked the University Road for traffic for several hours.

A few nearby buildings were also slightly damaged by the explosion. The windowpanes of several buildings in the vicinity were smashed due to the impact of the blast.



**Damaged boundary wall of the graveyard**

**Commdesk adds:** The CID Police Head Office is opposite to the Diocese Graveyard (Gora Kabristan); due to powerful impact of the blast one side of the boundary wall of the graveyard was totally destroyed, and it's quite a build hundreds of yards of wall.



**Gora Kabristan, Peshawar**

A fresh wave of terrorism has been launched by the terrorists after the death of Osama bin Laden. Kindly remember us in your prayers.

(Extract from 'The News Int'l', May 14, 2011)

### **80 die in suicide hits outside FC fortress**

**Day after passing out, FC recruits were to go home on vacation when two bombers hit; TTP claims responsibility, warns of more such attacks**

Charsadda: As many as 80 people, including more than 65 paramilitary Frontier Constabulary (FC) recruits, were killed in twin suicide blasts at the entrance of the FC training centre in Shabqadar town of Charsadda district at about 6am on Friday.

Over 100 others were also injured and were rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital and other health facilities in Peshawar and Charsadda.

An eyewitness said around 850 of the 1,800 recruits were boarding vehicles to return home for a 10-day vocation just a day after celebrating their passing out when a suicide bomber, riding a motorbike, blew himself up near the main gate of the well-built FC fortress, located 30 kilometers northeast of Peshawar.

**Commdesk adds:** Among the injured, were 3 young Christian men, who were serving in the FC Fortress, they were also brought to the Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar. The Bishop of Peshawar, along with other Diocesan Officers, immediately visited and consoled them, they also prayed for them, and were assured the Diocesan help and support for them.

The Revd. Yousaf T. M. Azam, Priest In-charge of Charasadda parish visits them on regular basis and special prayer service was also held for their quick recovery.

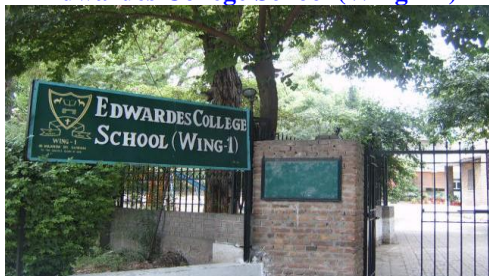
### **Christian community houses destroyed in Hangu blast**

Hangu, May 2011: The terrorists attacked the Police Training School in Hangu, which resulted in several deaths and casualties. The huge blast destroyed the Police Training School, and several nearby houses of the Christian community were partially damaged as well. Nobody from the Christian community died in the incident, but damage to their property has further added to their already tensed life, due to terrorism and the war against it.

*Kindly pray for the situation.*

## Maintaining the Church acceptability

Edwardes College School (Wing – 1)



The Diocese of Peshawar's contribution in the field of Education is highly commendable. Although, it is responsibility of the State to provide Health and Education to its citizens, but the government cannot do it alone. Thus the Diocesan Institutions have rendered their services, and the Church Institutions have become the Government's 'right hand' in promoting Education.

Peshawar Diocese is the proud custodian of Institutions who have made the 'History of Education' in the Province/Country. The Diocesan 'Directorate of Education' recognizes the value of quality education; therefore it keeps on initiating different projects to fulfill the gap, and need of the society.



In the year 1999, the Diocesan Directorate of Education, along with his team decided to launch a new venture as a pilot project. Hence, a Play group/Nursery School was started in the premises of the St. John's Cathedral School, Peshawar Cantonment.

Within a couple of years, the seeds of careful planning and sincerity started bearing its fruit in the form of 100% results. Since the new school's academic results and standards were up to the mark, so in the year 2001, it was decided to affiliate it with Edwardes College School (Main Campus), and was called 'Edwardes College School (Wing – 1).

Gradually the newly born School was upgraded from Nursery to Primary School, then from Primary to Middle, and eventually it became a High School. In the

year 2006, the School was registered with the Government Board of Education, NWFP.



Most of the Church-based Institutions are in fact charity based, and at times it becomes difficult to keep them financially afloat. So, in order to avoid such a situation, the Board decided to run this new Co-education School on the basis of 'Self-Reliance'. Whereas, its main objective remained the same, i.e. to provide Quality Education, thus emphasis was placed on developing student's personality and character building. Hence, a few more professionals with sound academic background and dedication were included in the team, and it paid.



General perception or misconception about Education in the society is that the purpose of education is to obtain jobs, but the School's objective is '**Education for the sake of knowledge**', which unveils the mysteries of life and of the universe, thus brings humans closer to God. Hence, motto of the School is '**Lifelong love for learning**'. This develops positive attitudes and enhances pupils' knowledge and skills, as well.

The Women in Pakistan make more than 45% of the total population; and unfortunately their potential as productive citizens is not realized, whereas, the local norms and taboos further hamper their right to education, and this damages overall development of the state and the Nation. The Edwardes College School (Wing – 1) used to be a Co-education School up till 2008.

From 2008 onwards, it was decided to change this Co-education Institution into a School, exclusively for Girls. But, the boys were not left on their own, thus, Edwardes College School (Wing – II) was established, for Boys, only.

Today, total strength of the students enrolled in Wing – 1, is more than 550, whereas, total number of staff is 41.

Apart from following the academic syllabus, students are also encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities, such as, Gardening, Sports, Dramas, Athletics, Painting and Poetry, etc.

The school also promotes '**religious tolerance**' and '**Inter-faith harmony**' and its pupils are encouraged to participate in prominent religious festivals, such as, Christmas, Eid, plus National days, i.e. Independence Day, and Pakistan Day with traditional zeal & spirit.

The 'Parents' also look forward to attend 'Annual Day' of the School, which provides an opportunity to the students to exhibit their talent by performing on stage, which makes both Teachers and Parents proud. Whereas, Parents also get a chance to mingle with staff and discuss matters concerning their children's Education and Conduct in an informal and friendly environment.



Mrs. Moona makhmoor, Principal

Mrs. Moona Makhmoor, Principal of the School in her interview said; "now-a-days, the parents desire their children to study 'O' Levels, instead of 'Secondary School Certificate' (Matriculation), as it provides them access to get admission in foreign educational institutions with ease. And I favour their suggestion, as this is my Vision, and Plan for the future as well".

### Mission Statement

**"To Spread the knowledge of the Gospel, to provide pastoral care, and also to be an instrument of service and witness to whole people of God".**

**Construction work at Raisalpur, after the Floods**



Bishop Humphrey inspecting Construction Work

The construction of the boundary wall of the St. Mary's Garrison Church's compound, and three rooms of the St. Mary's School, Raisalpur is in progress. This construction work project is being materialized through the kind support and help of a Christian Organization, Operation Mobilization (OM), Lahore.



Bishop Humphrey discussing the Progress

The boundary wall for the Church will provide protection. And the additional three rooms for the St. Mary's School will help in upgrading the school to higher levels. A special prayer-room is also being constructed in the compound of the Raisalpur Church, which will be used for prayer and meditation by the Congregation.

Bishop Humphrey Peters also paid a visit to the Raisalpur Parish, and especially went to see the under-construction sites. Mr. Imran Gill, the Development Coordinator for OM Team was also there to brief the Bishop about the project. The Bishop appreciated the construction work and thanked the OM Team for their kind support and cooperation.

It is worth mentioning that Raisalpur was badly hit during the last year's floods, the Church and its surrounding areas were partially damaged.

**OM Leaders & Pastors Conference**



Delegation of Peshawar Diocese

The Diocese of Peshawar, apart from its own 'In-Service Training Programmes', encourages its clergy to participate in training programmes organized by other organizations as well.

The Operation Mobilization (OM), Pakistan, organized a conference for Church Leaders and Pastors, in May 2011. Theme of the Conference was "Mission in Pakistan". Keynote speakers of the Conference shared their messages on a variety of topics, such as, 'Basics of God's Kingdom', 'Manifesto of Mission in Pakistan', 'Importance of Inter-faith Dialogue'.

The Diocese of Peshawar's delegation comprising of four priests went to attend this Conference, i.e. Revd. Tanzil Zafar, the Bishop's Chaplain, Revd. Salamat Masih (from Nowshera), Revd. Yousaf T.M. Azam (from Charsadda) & Revd. Anil Jasper (from Haripur). They actively participated in all formal sessions and open-discussions. Organizers of the programme highly valued their input as candidates.

The Revd. Salamat Masih was given an opportunity to share his thoughts on 'Basics of God's Kingdom'. Whereas, Revd. Tanzil Zafar actively contributed in discussion regarding Inter-faith matters, his input was much appreciated. The Revd. Yousaf led Evening prayer meetings.

This training equipped the clergy with up to date knowledge and enhanced their vision.

Participants were awarded with Certificates of Participation, in the closing ceremony.

**Christians faced with hardships**

Parachinar Parish is located in the remote tribal area of Kurram Agency. Due to sectarian violence this area is passing through a very difficult and tough time. The road to Parachinar is still blocked, as 'Sadda' area, which leads to Parachinar is still under the Taliban's control. Thus movement through and into Parachinar is restricted; hence the area has become land-locked. As a result prices of the basic food & commodities have gone sky high. The people are leading an unimaginable tough life.

Most of 150 Christian families of Parachinar are employees of the Town Committee, and are once again confronted with extreme poverty, as their salaries are not paid due to unavailability of funds, as the Town Committee is unable to collect any taxes.

Last year, they were confronted with similar situation and were rescued by Bishop Humphrey Peters timely efforts and involvement. He met the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and raised the issue of salaries with him, and the Governor assured the Bishop of his cooperation, thus sorted out the problem. Eventually, the Christian employees of the Town Committee received their 1 ½ year salaries.

Recently, services of the 40 Christian employees have been suspended, whereas the others are still waiting for their one year salary. And the Town Committee has only one answer to all the queries, i.e. 'No funds, no salaries'.

It is worth mentioning that Peshawar Diocese has not abandoned the people of Parachinar and getting its all links together to resolve numerous problem faced by the Christian community. Although it's difficult to reach the area but the Diocesan Priests assigned to the area are conducting Prayer Services on regular basis.

Kindly pray for the situation of Parachinar and especially for the Christian committee living there and also for our Priests there. May God protect them in His mighty hands.

## Inter-Faith Conference

Rev. Joseph John talked about  
Charity/Social work initiated by the  
Disciples of Jesus Christ



Inter-Faith Conference in Progress

May, 22-24, 2011; Chitral, KPK: The world Council of Religions (Faith Friends) held a three days workshop/conference at Mountain Inn Hotel, Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Chitral District is situated on the western bank of the Kunar River in Pakistan. The town is at the foot of Tirch Mir, the highest peak of the Hindu Kush, 25,289 ft (7,708 m) high. It has a population of 20,000 while the district (of 14,833 km sq), has a population of 300,000. The altitude of the valley is 3,700 ft (1,100 m).



Session in Progress

Purpose of this workshop was to promote religious harmony among various religious groups and to create awareness about Inter-faith, its concept and activities in the region.

Prof. Dr. Fakhar-ul-Hassan Kararvi, Qari Roohullah Madni, and Dr. Qibla Ayaz represented the Muslim community, whereas, Rev. Joseph John, along with Rev. Akmal Haroon, Rev. Raza Barkat, Mr. Naeem Nazir and Mr. Ishtiaq Masih represented Peshawar Diocese and the Christian community. The Hindu Community was represented by Mr. Haroon Sarbdyal, and Mr. Charan

Jeet Singh represented the Sikh Community. A large number of local religious leaders also participated in this Conference.

One of the reasons to choose Chitral as a venture was to include the old inhabitants of the Kalash Valley also called 'Kafirs'. They are descendents of Alexander the Great. Their cultural values and traditions are based on ancient/primitive religious beliefs, norms and social taboos. These people, their way of life, and their traditions are considered as National/World heritage, but they are remain isolated, and excluded from the general society.

Thus the 'Faith Friends' intends to include these people in Inter-faith activities, and to create awareness among the general public to promote positive discrimination for this forgotten/ancient religious community.



Group Discussion

The first session was all about formal introductions and issues related to the Chitral/Kalash valley.

Later, the participants were taken for a sight-seeing and exposure visit, where they mingled with local people, exchanged greetings and learnt about their life style, religion, values and beliefs.

May 23, 2011: Topic of the first session was about 'Basic Religious Faiths/Concepts'. Representatives of various faiths talked about their religious beliefs and values. Mr. Naeem Naiz presented an overview, and essence of the Christian faith. He explained about Holy Trinity, Divinity of Jesus, Repentance & Salvation, and everlasting 'Kingdom of Jesus Christ'. The Kingdom of Jesus is recognized by the Muslim community as well.

May 24, 2011: Topic of discussion was about 'Concept of Peace and Social Work' in different religions. Rev. Joseph John in his presentation quoted example of 'Good Samaritan' from the Holy Bible. Then he talked about miracles performed by Jesus, and charity/social work initiated by His (Jesus') Disciples. And mentioned that, that tradition of social work is still kept alive through Missionary Health & Educational Institutions, and their input is highly regarded all over the world.



Participants of the Conference

On the last day of the conference, Prof. Kararvi in presence of all the religious leaders and participants in a press conference informed the Media that a Resolution has unanimously been passed by the Faith Friends forum, and it has been decided that;

\* All religions should be respected and nobody should discriminate a certain community on religious grounds. Thus civil society should also be involved in Inter-faith activities.

\* There should be religious harmony among the people belonging to various faiths.

\* Religious freedom should be upheld in the country.

\* All the religions worship places should be respected and protected.

\* People of various faiths should promote a culture of tolerance and religious harmony.

\* Since all the religions teach to respect humanity and to help fellow humans, therefore, Social Work for the uplift of the needy and deprived should be a priority.

\* Global community should be exposed to the soft and tolerant face of Pakistan, through Inter-faith activities.

\* Through Interfaith activities and dialogue, World Peace should be given a chance to prevail and strengthen in the days to come.

## Community Development Projects, D. I. Khan



Mrs. Bimla Yousaf with Students

D. I. Khan Parish of the Peshawar Diocese is situated in the far south of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The Diocesan Development & Relief Sector has initiated Community Development Programmes in D. I. Khan, such as Micro-credit scheme, Adult Literacy Classes and Sewing Centers.



Adult Literacy Class

Mrs. Bimla Yousaf, Development Secretary, along with her field supervisor paid a visit to D. I. Khan and inspected the undergoing development projects. They also observed the Annual Exams, taken by the students of the Adult Literacy Classes and of the Sewing Centers. The following day, during the Sunday Service she distributed Certificates among the successful students. The Revd. Waseem Ayaz, Priest In-charge, D.I. Khan Parish led the Certificates distribution ceremony.



Prayers offered for new Session

Mrs. Bimla Yousaf welcomed the new students of the Adult Literacy programme and Sewing Centers, and encouraged them to work hard to achieve desired results.

## A promise fulfilled

Plots allocated, a dream come true



Priests of D.I. Khan, on-site

D. I. Khan: May 30, 2011; The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters announced a Housing Scheme for the Christian community of D. I. Khan in April, 2011. And on May 30, 2011, 50 plots were allocated for the community members, as promised.

The housing scheme is supervised by the Priests of local Parish of D. I. Khan, i.e. Revd. Waseem Ayaz and Revd. Sajeel Khan, and the property in-charge, Mr. Naseem is also part of the team. It is part of the plan to build a shopping mall, children's park, post office and a community hall for the future residents of the colony.



Work in Progress

It is worth mentioning that this allocation of 50 plus plots is only the beginning, in the second phase, more plots will be allocated for the Christian community of D. I. Khan.

At this occasion, the local community leaders, on behalf of the whole Christian community of D. I. Khan expressed their gratitude, and said, "It's like a dream come true". They said they will always be grateful to Bishop Humphrey for initiating and then practically implementing this plan by providing shelter and facilities. They said that they are also thankful to the whole of the Peshawar Diocese, its Management and the Clergy for providing us this relief and an opportunity for our socio-economic development.

## Seminar on HIV/AIDS

Initiative by Jamat-e-Islami & the Diocese of Peshawar



Seminar in Progress

The Provincial Health AIDS Programme, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa organized an Awareness Seminar in collaboration with Peshawar Diocese, and the Development Wing of Jamat-e-Islami, 'Al-Khidmat Foundation', on 6 May 2011, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The purpose of this seminar was to develop awareness among general public regarding HIV/AIDS.

The Revd. Joseph John, Priest In-charge of the St. John's Cathedral was the keynote speaker; he delivered a sermon regarding 'Morality', and talked about the desired Christian attitudes towards people suffering from HIV/AIDS. He mentioned Jesus' Command, i.e. "Love thy neighbour as yourself", and quoted example of 'Good Samaritan' from Holy Bible, thus advised the audience to adopt that kind of an attitude, especially towards those suffering from 'taboo' attached diseases, such as, Leprosy, and now a days, HIV/AIDS.

Both Christian and Muslim communities participated in the Seminar. Representatives of the 'Provincial Health AIDS Programme' also delivered a lecture on HIV/AIDS preventive measures, and precautions. And, insisted to develop positive attitudes towards people suffering from HIV/AIDS.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters was the chief guest at the occasion; in his speech he talked about the 'Christian Teachings' in reference to 'Love one another'. He also thanked the Provincial Health AIDS Programme organizers for holding a Seminar on such an important subject/issue, and for developing awareness among the masses.

The Revd. Dr. Titus Presler, Principal, Edwards College, Peshawar was also present at this occasion; in his remarks he appreciated the joint efforts of both the Organizations for holding a beneficial seminar for the people.