



The newly constructed Church of the Holy Name, Bannu is a unique mixture of the Central and South Asian architect, and is a treat for the eyes.

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New workers for the Lord's harvest



Bishop Humphrey blessing the candidates

The Bishop also mentioned historical background and importance of the Church in Bannu.

Earlier, the Bishop, the priests, and both the candidates entered the Church in form of a procession.

The candidates were presented by the Archdeacon, to be examined by the Bishop. After receiving consent of the congregation, he administered oath to both the candidates. Then he blessed, and formally ordained the Priests.

Bannu, the famous town of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, also happens to be the birth place of Bishop Humphrey.

The tribal areas around Bannu are still under the influence of Taliban. The war against militants has badly affected the life and property of its inhabitants, especially the Christians.

In a graceful ordination service held at the newly constructed Church, on 11 November 2011, Revd. Murad Mshtaq and Revd. Shahzad Gill were ordained as presbyters by the Bishop of Peshawar.

The Bishop in his short message mentioned that a strategy has been adopted to ordain a priest in his own Parish, therefore, this ordination ceremony is organized in Bannu.



Both the Candidates during Oath Ceremony

During the Holy Communion Service, Bishop was assisted by the two newly ordained priests.

Later, a fellowship dinner for the guests and the congregation was arranged by the Bannu parish. At this occasion, the congregation congratulated, and garlanded the newly ordained priests.

'Then He (Jesus) said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field". (Matthew 9:37)



Science & Arts Exhibition



Students explained to the guests about their assignments/projects, prepared under the supervision of their teachers.

Mr. Sandy Sneddon from UK (Church of Scotland) and Mr. Steve Pearce (Methodist Church in Britain) were the special guests at this occasion. They appreciated efforts and hard work of the students and of the staff. The Diocesan staff, and the teachers & students from other Diocesan Schools also invited to witness the exhibition, and were inspired by the talent of the students.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters also visited all the stalls and talked to the students and their teachers. He appreciated the hard work of the students and efforts of the School's principal, Mrs. Mona Makhmoor.

Bishop Humphrey said, "These activities promote and expose hidden talent of the students, thus play a major role in their character building".



Students explaining about their projects

The Edwardes college school (wing – 1) is a reputed educational institution of the Diocese. Apart from academic activities, it promotes co-curricular activities as well.

On 13, October 2011, the School organized a 'Science & Arts Exhibition'. Students of different classes presented their various Arts & Science projects. Parents of the students and other guests were also invited to witness the Exhibition.



Students' exhibition stalls

Awareness campaign about Dengue virus

The Dengue virus is being spread all over Pakistan, whereas, Lahore and the whole of Punjab province is among the worst affected areas. A few cases have also been recorded in various hospitals of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Keeping in view the consequences of this disease, the Diocesan Development & Relief sector has started an awareness campaign regarding the Dengue virus. The development secretary, Mrs. Bimla Yousaf along with her staff visited different compounds and colonies of Christian community to create awareness, and educated the public about preventive measures to reduce the impact of the Dengue virus.

Youth Group of the St. John's Cathedral also initiated an awareness campaign regarding the Dengue virus. The youth members in different areas and residential compounds of the Christian community distributed pamphlets, and other printed material regarding preventive measures against the virus. Their efforts were appreciated by the community and the Diocesan Leadership.

The Mission Hospital, Peshawar has also volunteered to perform free tests and medical check-up for the Dengue virus. All these efforts are aimed to prevent spread of the disease.



Development staff during the Awareness campaign

The 51st Peshawar Convention



Top Pic: Bishop Humphrey and the Clergy
Bottom: Revd. N. Malik offering prayer

3 – 5 November, 2011: The two largest parishes of the Peshawar Diocese, i.e. St. John's Cathedral and the All Saints' Church, Peshawar jointly organized the 51st Christian Convention, held at the St. John's Cathedral Lawns, Peshawar.

This Convention was held after a period of six long years, as the security situation was not favourable. The Convention started with the prayer and blessings of the Bishop of Peshawar. **Theme of the Convention was "Backsliding" and the key verse was (Jeremiah 2:19), "Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you ..."**.

The key note speakers of the convention were the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Revd. Naveed Malik from Karachi and Revd. Aslam Ziai from Gujranwala.

Hundreds of people were blessed by the spirit-filled messages from the Word of God.

During the Convention, **special time was allocated for the Healing Ministry, led by the Revd. Samson Anwar, many got healed in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.**

Bible study meetings were also organized, at the Mission Hospital Chapel led by the Revd. Asif G. Paul. A prayer-room was also set-up in the Cathedral, where people spent time in prayer and meditation.

Children convention was led by the Diocesan Junior Church Desk and Pakistan Sunday School Ministry. The children were taught Bible lessons through movies and flannel graph pictures.

The Convention ended with the inspiring sermon of the Bishop Humphrey. Later, Certificates of Appreciation were also distributed among the organizers and workers of the convention.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me ... (Matt.19:14)



Peshawar Diocese through its Sunday Schools Ministry emphasizes to set a solid faith foundation for the children. Therefore, a separate Children Convention was also organized, where they leaned about faith/religion through stories and movies. They also rehearsed religious dramas based on stories from the Holy Bible, which they presented on the last day of the Convention in front of hundreds of people.

The audiences highly appreciated their efforts, and applauded both for the children/teachers, and for Revd. Altaf Gohar, Supervisor Children Convention.

Conventions in other Parishes

During the months of October and November, the Christian conventions were organized in D. I. Khan, Bannu and Abbottabad parishes as well. The conventions are a source for the spiritual growth, whereas, many went through life changing experiences.



Peshawar Convention in images

Stand up Women -- Never Give Up !



Bishop Humphrey and Bishop Azariah with the delegates

The 13th Triennial Women Synodical, Church of Pakistan was held on 27 – 29 October, 2011, at Peshawar. The women delegates from all the Dioceses of the Church of Pakistan participated in this meeting. The Diocese of Peshawar had the honour to host this Synodical meeting. The theme of this Synodical was “Never give up! Christ is our Hope”.

The women Synodical is a valuable forum of women in Church of Pakistan, which also enjoys representation in the Synod, CoP. **This platform raises its voice against discriminative attitude of the society against women. It also addresses issues concerning, education, equal rights, legislation, and socio-economic development of the women.**

The Inauguration ceremony of this Synodical meeting and Opening worship was held at Elizabeth High School, Peshawar. The ceremony was led by the Rt. Revd. Samuel R. Azariah, Moderator, CoP and The Rt. Revd. Humphrey. S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar. The Bishop of Peshawar also welcomed the delegates to the land of hospitality, i.e. Peshawar & DoP.

At this occasion, the Moderator, CoP in his address, encouraged the women leadership to carry on the good work, whereas, Dr. Rebecca Reginald, **President Women Synodical, in her speech said that, “We need to come forward to help the wounded, hungry & the homeless”.**

At this occasion, launching ceremony of a Song book, “Khawateen ki Geet” was also held, which is intended to facilitate women worship meetings and fellowships.

The ‘Formal Business’ sessions and intensive workshops continued for three days, in which reports of the women fellowships of various dioceses were presented, and the future plans were also discussed.

Special awareness sessions about Maternal health were held, and Preventive measures against the dengue virus were also discussed.

During the Conference, participants were divided into different working groups, and were required to work on various assignments, regarding issues confronted in every day life by the women.

In the end, Elections for the new office-bearers of the executive body, Women Synodical were held, and the new office-bearers took the oath. The Office-bearer are:

Mrs. Beulha Shahir (President), Mrs. Beena Yousaf (Vice President), Mrs. Reena Patrick (Secretary), Mrs. Shamim Massey (Treasurer).

The out come of this workshop was very positive, as ways/methods to address issues regarding women social and spiritual uplift, equal rights & empowerment, plus socio-economic development were identified.

The Synodical was ended with Holy Communion celebrated by Bishop Humphrey.

Traditions live - on !

Peshawar Diocese arranged a traditional ‘Peshawari Dinner’ party in the honour of the guests. All the diocesan officers and the institutional heads were also invited.

At this occasion, the guest participants were presented traditional Peshawari shawls & dresses.

Special feature of this party was the stage-show presented by students of the Elizabeth high School, who danced, and performed on the traditional tunes of the Pushtoon culture.



Women Synodical in images

Friendship ties strengthened



Mr. Sandy Sneddon, Bishop Humphrey and Mr. Steve Pearce

Q & A

A brief Interview with Mr. Steve

The Comm-desk, DoP is grateful to Steve Pearce, from Methodist Church in Britain, for giving us time from his busy schedule, for this brief interview.

Q: How does it feel to be in Pakistan?

A: Infact, its not my first visit to Pakistan, I have been to Lahore, but certainly Peshawar is totally different than any place in Pakistan. I am thoroughly enjoying my stay in this town of hospitality.

Q: What is the nature of your visit?

A: To further explore the possibilities of working together, and extending cooperation with the Church in Pakistan.

Q: What can Peshawar diocese do for you, and your Church?

A: We appreciate the exchange of information, preferably people based. We'll also be interested to know about overall situation of the region, whereas, activities of the Diocese of Peshawar, in the midst of extremism are also of great importance. Thus, it enables us to understand each other better.

Q: How does your Church organization helps other dioceses around the world?

A: Usually, we do not give large sums of money, instead we invest in personnel, e.g. a year salary for a certain person running a certain project, and/or ministry. It is worth mentioning that the Methodist Church in Britain supported the Diocesan Youth Desk, flood victims of KPK, in the past.

Q: What message do you have for the people, and the Church in Peshawar?

A: **We highly value the fact that there is a faithful Church in Peshawar Diocese, which is speaking the message of Peace & Harmony, and we highly value that.** We keep praying for the prosperity of the Church, and for wellbeing of the Christian community.

Mr. Steve Pearce, from Methodist Church in Britain, and Mr. Sandy Sneddon, Asia Secretary, Church of Scotland, visited Peshawar Diocese in October, 2011.

The Diocese of Peshawar has a long history of association/relationship with both the Church organizations. It is worth mentioning that in the Diocese of Peshawar, Mr. Sandy Sneddon also worked for a long time, as Development Secretary.

This recent visit of both the Church Partners was to further strengthen the ties of friendship/partnership between the churches.

During their stay, they visited various diocesan programmes and projects, and also went to see the flood affected areas to witness the diocesan relief/development and rehabilitation programme for the flood victims. They also visited community development projects, such as, sewing centres, and adult literacy classes. They also met the Institutional heads, and Coordinators of different ministries, and discussed matters of mutual interest with them.

Both the partners enjoyed their visit to Peshawar, and appreciated efforts of the DoP for development of their church and community, and other philanthropist activities for the masses.



Mr. Steve's visit to the Sewing & Adult literacy centres

Youth Seminars in Tank and D. I. Khan



Seminar in progress

Tank and Dera Ismael Khan, the far southern districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPK) are important parishes of the Diocese of Peshawar. The active youth groups of both the parishes often arrange various programmes for spiritual & social uplift of the youth.

22 & 23 October 2011: The Youth groups organized seminars in their respective parishes, i.e. Tank and D. I. Khan, which were attended by a large number of people.

The Diocesan Youth Officer, Mr. Insar Gohar and the Youth Council's President, Mr. Kamran Younas were invited as the guest speakers. The theme of their lectures was about Character Building. **They stressed on adopting the Character of our Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life.** Interesting methods to conduct Bible study were also taught to the youth.



The Youth Group of Tank Parish

The young participants of both the parishes actively participated and confessed that they have learnt a lot about the Word of God and received blessings.

New blood inducted in Diocese



Bishop Humphrey administering the Oath

November 01, 2011: In a graceful Ordination Service held at St. John's cathedral, Peshawar, Mr. Emmanuel Sohail, Mr. Stephen Sani and Mr. Samuel Gill were ordained by the Bishop of Peshawar, as Deacons.

The proceedings started with Prayers, followed by hymns and readings from the Scripture. The candidates were presented to the Bishop by the Archdeacon S. P. Asghar for ordination. After the traditional Q & A, and on receiving consent of the witnesses and the congregation, the Bishop blessed the candidates and administered the oath, and were formally allowed to perform their new responsibilities as deacons.

At this occasion, **the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters in his message advised the newly ordained deacons that they should demonstrate good attitude, avoid negative politics, thus, show good leadership qualities as servants of God.**

The Ceremony ended with Holy Communion, led by the Bishop, assisted by Deacons.

Consecration of the Bishop of Hyderabad



23 October, 2011: In a graceful service, the newly elected Bishop of Hyderabad, Revd. Kaleem John, was consecrated by the Moderator, Church of Pakistan, in the presence of other Bishops of the CoP, at St. Thomas' Cathedral, Hyderabad. The Bishop of Peshawar, and the Diocesan Officers, were also among the witnesses.

The Diocese of Peshawar congratulates the new Bishop, and prays for the growth of Hyderabad Diocese under his able leadership.

Church Partners Meet



CPMPF Meeting in progress

The Church of Pakistan (CoP) and Overseas Partners/Church Organizations have formed a joint forum called "Church of Pakistan Mission Partners Forum (CPMPF)". **This forum meets once in every three years. The purpose of this forum is to strengthen the partnership bond between Church of Pakistan and Mission Partners of the CoP.**

This year's meeting of the CPMPF was held in October, at Raiwind Diocese, CoP. All the Bishops along with their Diocesan representatives participated in this meeting. Representatives of the overseas Church partners were also present in the meeting. In this meeting various issues and challenges faced by the Church of Pakistan were discussed, and the Forum tried its best to sort out the solutions.

After the meeting, the participants went to see Wagha, the border dividing India and Pakistan, and prayed for regional peace and stability.

DEDICATION OF CENTRAL CATHEDRAL OF PRAYING HANDS



Participants of the CPMPF Meeting also went for the Dedication Ceremony of the 'Central Cathedral of Praying Hands', of the Raiwind Diocese. It's a newly built Church has a marvelous architectural design. The Moderator, along with other Bishops of the Church of Pakistan, dedicated and blessed the newly built Cathedral at 17 - Waris Road, Lahore.