



## Fourth Anniversary of 2005, Earthquake



A Class in session, New Light Public School

October 8, 2009: The fourth anniversary of the Earthquake, 2005 was marked all over Pakistan. One minute silence was observed throughout the country to commemorate the saddest day of the Pakistan's history when more than 70 thousand people lost their lives and became homeless.

The Peshawar Diocese, along with the help of its 'Friends and Partners' responded quickly to help the people in need. It adopted six villages of Pateka and Shawal, Balakot. The main objective was/is to rehabilitate the people and to develop the area.



Shawal Health Clinic, Balakot

The Diocese helped the local community to reconstruct and repaired their houses, along with the development of roads/communication and infrastructure. A water and sanitation project was also initiated immediately. Micro-credit scheme was launched to give loans to the local community to fulfill their immediate needs and to re-establish their work/business. A Community Based Organisation (CBO) was formed to look after its own community and projects.

The main source of income of the locals is through agriculture, they were provided with latest equipment, i.e. Tractor, trolleys, thresher, etc., to plough and grow their own food, the Diocese also provided them livestock: cows, goats etc. The people of the land have taken full advantage of this help and are now self-sufficient, as far as their food is concerned. The livestock has enabled the local community to sell milk and butter after fulfilling their own need.



Agricultural Development Programme

A medical clinic has also been established to look after medical needs of the local community, some of the medical staff permanently stays there to address the emergency health needs.

An English Medium School (High School) named New Light Public School, Pateka, has also been established which is producing good results and flourishing day by day.



Community Business through Micro-credit Scheme

In a recent meeting of the CBO officials with the Diocesan Secretary Rev. Humphrey Peters, the local community of Pateka and Shawal said, "Diocesan help, love and hospitality is very highly appreciated, and will be remembered by even our generations to come".

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## 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 Pray for;**

1. Please remember the Christian community of Sambrial, Sialkot, Gojra and Korian in your prayers, they have recently been victimized by the Islamic Religious Extremists. They too need to recover, and to re-build their homes and lives. They are still struggling for equal rights and justice.
2. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
3. We need your prayer support for those who are living in hostile areas of NWFP, especially the Pakistani Christians and their institutions.
4. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot. May God help the Diocese to work more effectively for the development of the Earthquake victims.
5. 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. Kindly pray for our brothers and sisters in Philippians, who were hit twice by super typhoons, also pray for the missing persons, deceased and their families.
3. For Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from Waziristan, the tribal area of the NWFP, Pakistan.

### **Military Operation in Waziristan**

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.

Peshawar Diocese is also prepared to look after the Christian IDPs.

Schools in Peshawar, rather throughout Pakistan will remain closed till 25, Oct, 2009 as there is security risk and threats.

Section 144 has been imposed in Peshawar on 20/10/2009, for 30 days carrying weapons or its exhibition and the use of tinted glass vehicles is strictly prohibited.

### **Educational Institutions Closed**

All government and private schools, colleges and universities have been closed throughout Pakistan because of fears about Terrorists attacks, especially after suicide bombings at a Female University campus in Islamabad.

Once again, the educational institutions are on the hit list of the Taliban, who seem to have decided to hit the soft targets and killing the innocent children and students, thus academic activities are hit-hard, and the students are suffering, as the schools will remain closed till further orders.

### **Islamists Attack Pakistani Christian Family For Refusing to Convert**

Washington, D.C. (October 06, 2009) – International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on September 28, Islamists attacked the home of a Christian family for refusing to convert to Islam in Murree, a town near the Pakistan capital of Islamabad.

Rafiq Mashi Bhatti and his family had lived in peace and harmony with their Muslim neighbors for years. However, in the past few months, they received anonymous phone calls and letters warning them to convert to Islam, or leave their home or die.

The threatening letters were inscribed with verses from the Holy Qur'an, including Sura 5: 51 which reads, "O ye who believe! take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends..."

In one of the letters, the Christian family was told, "You Christians are agents of US led forces... Therefore it is our religious duty to wipe out all Christians from Islamic Holy land of Pakistan."

The family reported the death threats to the police but the police were unable to prevent the attack. The police are investigating the attack but the unknown assailants remain at large.

ICC's Jonathan Racho said, "This latest attack once again highlights the insecurity that Pakistani Christians are living with. Despite promises to protect Christians, they continue to face attacks in Pakistan. We urge Pakistan to fully investigate the attack against Rafiq and his family and bring the perpetrators to justice. We call upon Pakistani police to protect Rafiq and his family from further violence."

### **Staff's bravery saves scores of lives at varsity**

(Courtesy 'the daily Dawn': By Syed Irfan Raza Thursday, 22 Oct, 2009)

ISLAMABAD, Oct 21: The courage shown by two unsung heroes, including one who lost his life during the two suicide bombings in the International Islamic University (IIU), saved lives of hundreds of girl students in the institution's cafeteria on Tuesday.

Pervez Masih, a 40-year-old Christian worker, saved scores of lives at the double-storey cafeteria, where around 400 female students were present at the time of the attack.

"There would have been dozens of deaths had the suicide bomber not been blocked by Pervez Masih," said Saifur Rehman, a senior security official of the IIU.

The other hero, Mohammad Shaukat, survived the attack but he is fighting for his life on a bed in the surgical ward of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, as a shot fired by the suicide bomber hit him in lower abdomen.

Narrating the scene of the suicide attack on the cafeteria for women, Shaukat told Dawn that:

"The attacker clad in a black burka was heading towards the cafeteria for female students at a time when they were having their lunch. I felt something wrong as no girl student, even one who observes veil, wears a head-to-toe burka on the women campus. I intercepted the bomber, who shot me, and I fell down but Pervez, who witnessed the scene, understood the designs of suicide bomber and held him at the entrance of the dining hall where the blast took place."

Organs and flesh of the suicide bomber littered the entrance area and Pervez was thrown at the wall on the other side of the dining hall, said another eye-witness.

Pervez Masih, who leaves behind a three-year-old daughter and a widow, had joined the IIU on October 5. He was not only the sole breadwinner of his family, who live with him in a rented house in Dhoke Kala Khan, Rawalpindi.

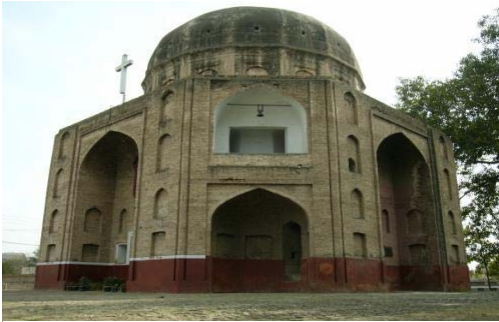
"He was very simple and, by nature, he was quite different from other workers in the university," said Amjad, the contractor (employer) who inducted Pervez Masih in his workforce on daily basis.

Two suicide attacks took place in two separate blocks of the IIU on Tuesday, killing seven people. Three girl students and the Christian worker died in the cafeteria, while three people, including two male students, died in the main block for men.

The university administration announced that it would extend monetary assistance to the bereaved family of Pervez Masih and injured Shaukat for the courage they showed in the tragic events in the international educational institution.

## Mission Hospital, Peshawar

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Oldest Hospital of NWFP



Historical Chapel of Mission Hospital, Peshawar

The Mission Hospital, Peshawar is an activity of the Peshawar Diocese. It is one of the oldest hospitals of the N.W.F.P, established in 1901 by the British missionaries. In old times, people not only used to come from the far flung areas of the N.W.F.P but also from Afghanistan. The hospital's old name was 'Afghan Mission Hospital'.



Out Patient Department (OPD)

Over the years, times and trends have changed and so has the concepts of health, illness and disease.

The Mission Hospital has passed the test of times and has survived over a century till present day. The rich and the poor are treated without any discrimination, and still the emphasis is placed not only on treatment but on 'healing' as well.

This is the only hospital where people are treated at an affordable price, thus accepted and approved by the masses. Those who can't pay are given 100% concession. The provincial government extends its help to the hospital by providing equipment and funds, on request, but it is only a token of appreciation and recognition.

Under the new administrative set-up, led by Mr. Pervaiz Ghouri, the hospital is flourishing; emphasis is placed not only on quantity but on quality as well, by improving the *quality of life* of its patients and clients.

**1) Administration:** It has three main sections, i.e. Establishment, Accounts and Store.

In the year 2005, total amount of salaries of the employees was only one lakh rupees, but today it is over 5 lakhs, which is a big achievement.

**2) Staff:** The total number of staff is 80, including doctors, nurses, technicians and other para-medical staff. The staff is trained and qualified.

**3) Services:**

i) Out-patients department (OPD)

ii) In-patients, Wards and Rooms

iii) As it is an eye hospital, so the main focus is on eye-surgery

iv) Medical facilities (General)

v) Pediatrics (child care)

vi) Gynaecology

vii) T.B control programme

**4) Facilities:**

i) Operation Theatre: The operation theatre is fully equipped with latest machinery and equipment.

ii) General lab: Facility available for various tests at affordable price.

iii) X-Rays, ECG and ultra sound facility also available.

iv) Wards and Rooms: Medical and surgical wards are available, including Gynae-wards and private rooms which are fully furnished and equipped.



Medical Laboratory

**5) OPD:** 80% patients seen at the OPD are the eye-patients, whereas, 17% are medical and 3% are of Gynae.

\* Ambulance Service: The hospital has two ambulances, in the recent past, well over 15 million rupees equipment and instruments have been purchased by the hospital.

**6) Staff Development:** The hospital staff gets government pay-scale, i.e. The National Pay scale, and promotions. Their houses have also been renovated and their pay-cheques have thrice been revised by the administration.

The staff also benefits from the double pension scheme, i.e. EUBI and EFU schemes.

**7) Coordination with other sectors**

i) T.B Control Programme: The hospital runs a T.B control programme in collaboration with the Provincial government. Free medical services and tests are extended to the patients.

ii) Extended Out-Reach Programme: The hospital also has its out-reach programme for the local communities, holds medical camps and follow-up facility is extended as well.



X-Ray Room

The hospital also extended its services for the Earthquake victims of 2005, plus extends its medical facilities to the Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

iii) Helping the Parishes: If the parishes hold a medical camp, anywhere in the N.W.F.P, the Mission Hospital's administration provides them free medicines, and/or any other facility as per request/requirement.

iv) Risalpur Health Clinic: This clinic has been provided a labour-room facility.

v) Mental Health Centre: MHC was given three rooms by the Hospital to run its Physiotherapy Clinic at its premises.



A view of Hospital from the top of the Chapel

**(Development & Relief Sector)**  
**Relief Packages for Swat and Malakand**



**Distribution of Relief Package in Malakand**

We are thankful to God that the law and order situation of Swat and Malakand is improving and Peace prevails. Our Christian inhabitants of Swat and Malakand are now also settled. Due to the destruction caused by militants and the military operation they have lost their belongings, but since the infrastructure is developing they are also getting compensated.



**Distribution in Swat**

The Diocesan Development & Relief Sector is still helping them by providing relief packages. The first relief package was distributed among one hundred Christian and Muslim families of Swat and Malakand, at the occasion of Eid (a Muslim festival), on 22 -24 September 2009. The package contains food, crockery and other household items.



Another relief package for the people of Swat and Malakand was delivered on 6 – 7, Oct, 2009. This package contained only food items, distributed among 100 families, including 70 Christian and 30 Muslim families.

**Free Medical Camps in Swat/Malakand**



**Risalpur Clinic Staff during Medical Camp**

Free Medical Camps were organized in Swat and Malakand with the help and cooperation of the Diocesan Health Clinic, Risalpur. Free treatment and medicines were given without any religious discrimination. This is a facility much needed after the recent operation in Swat and Malakand.

The Risalpur Health Clinic has decided to hold this kind of free medical camps more often for the communities of Swat and Malakand.

**Programme Officer from Development Sector visited the Earthquake Affected areas**

On 21 – 24, October 2009, Mr. Rabnawaz, the Programme Officer visited Pateka and Shawal, Balakot to see the Diocesan run projects, for the Earthquake victims 2005.

He conducted a meeting with the Community Based Organization (CBO) and reviewed the ongoing projects and programmes for uplift of the local community.

He also conducted a meeting with the staff of the New Light School, Pateka and held discussions regarding uplift of the School. The 'Government Registration' of the New Light Public School, Pateka is approved by the Government Education Board, Abbottabad, and the documents will soon be handed over to the School's administration.

The Programme Officer also visited the Shawal Health Clinic and met the staff there, and showed his satisfaction, as the clinic is running nicely and serving the communities of the surrounding villages.

**(Mission & Ministry Sector)**  
**Youth and Women Coordinators visited Risalpur parish**

Risalpur parish of Peshawar Diocese is one of the important parishes of our Northern Deanery.

Youth Coordinator Mr. Insar Gohar and the Women Coordinator, Mrs. Reena Patrick visited the Risalpur parish on Sunday, 11 October 2009. They both were warmly welcomed by the congregation at the St. Mary's Church, Risalpur. Both the coordinators were given an opportunity to speak about the importance of their ministries in present tense situation and scenario, at the Sunday Service.

After the Sunday Service, women and youth meetings were held separately and both the coordinators led these meetings. They motivated the women and youth to establish strong groups and arrange weekly fellowships, and to start small projects and programmes for community development in their parish.

On this occasion, the Women fellowship and the Youth group of Risalpur parish presented their reports and informed about their future plans, which was appreciated by the visitors.

**Junior Church coordinator visits Bannu and Kohat parishes**

Our Junior Church (Sunday School) Coordinator, Mrs. Noureen Altaf visited two parishes of our Southern Deanery, Bannu and Kohat in the month of October 2009. She gave sermons in the Churches and motivated the parents to send their children to the Sunday School and to give their children more and more religious education, as it is a dire need of the time, as our children studying along with the Muslim students in schools and colleges, and need to be aware of their own religion.

She also visited the Sunday schools in these parishes and shared the word of God through stories, with the children. She met the Sunday school's teachers and told them about the new methods and techniques of teaching in a Sunday school.

(Inter-Faith Column)

## Faith Friends' Meeting with NCA Representative

October 27, 2009: 'The Faith Friends' organized a special meeting in the honour of Mr. Arne Saeveraas, the Special Advisor for Peace & Reconciliation, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), at the Chateau Royal Guest House, Islamabad.

The Chief Coordinator of the Faith Friends, Mr. Qarri Roohullah, plus, Prof. Hafiz Abdul Ghafoor, Dr. Qararvi, Rev. Joseph John, Mr. Haroon Sarbdial, Mr. Charin Jeet Singh, and Mr. Mauzam were also present in the meeting, whereas, Rt. Rev. Mano Rumalshah and Rev. Humphrey Peters could not attend this meeting, because of their previous engagements, but they did send their best wishes and regrets.

During the meeting, office bearers of the Faith Friends gave a briefing about their Inter-faith activities in the country, which was much appreciated by the special guest.

Mr. Arne Saeveraas in his speech expressed his sadness over the present tense situation in Pakistan and said that he was deeply sorry for the loss of the lives of innocent civilians, and prayed for peace and interfaith harmony in the region, especially Pakistan. He also praised the courageous leadership of the Faith Friends who are working hard for Peace and religious harmony in such difficult situation and times.



Faith Friends Members

In another get-together, at the Diocesan Centre, the Faith Friends office bearers and members welcomed Bishop Mano on his return from the UK, after a successful By-pass operation, and praised the Lord for his recovery.

## Carnage in Peshawar 'Peshawar Diocese Condemns attack on innocent civilians'



Destruction after the Bomb Blast

**Oct, 28, 2009:** The extremist hit Peshawar once again, this time it was the most busy market area, the thickly populated Pipal Mandi and Meena Bazar. An explosive laden vehicle was detonated by a remote control device during rush hours.

The Meena Bazar is a 'women shopping market', therefore, a high number of women and children were killed in this blast, whereas, the Pipal Mandi is a whole sale market.

Atleast six building were completely destroyed and scores of people were trapped under the rubble. Later, another building collapsed while the rescue workers were trying to help, it is believed that foundations of the other buildings in the vicinity are shaken as well.

More than hundred people have been killed and over two hundred people were injured, the death toll number and the injured persons number is still rising, as it is feared that people caught under the rubble could be dead as well. Thus, the injuries and disabilities are adding to the miseries of the people. Eight people of one family died in this recent blast. It's the saddest day of the history of Peshawar.

So far, only in the month of October, 2009, 155 people died and 345 people have been injured. Peshawar is once again in the frontline of the terrorist soft target, which is a reaction to the Military Operation against Taliban in Waziristan (Tribal Area).

***The Diocese of Peshawar strongly condemned the attack on innocent civilians, and held special prayers for the deceased and injured.***

## 'Faith Friends' show solidarity with Blast Victims



Faith Friends Members along with Information Minister, NWFP

Nov, 1, 2009: Members and office bearers of the Faith Friends went to see the site of the bomb blast at Pipal Mandi and Meena Bazar, where hundreds got injured and 119 got killed as a result of a remotely controlled/detonated bomb blast. This is a thickly populated area with shops and houses. Most of the buildings are double or tripple storey, and old as well.

This is the most tragic incident of bomb blast in Peshawar, as large number of women and children were killed. The people of Peshawar are still traumatized by this incident, whereas the government, religious communities and civil society strongly condemned this act of cowardness by the extremists.

The Faith Friends members and office bearers also paid a visit to the sight to show solidarity with the blast victims and their families, the Provincial Information minister, Mian Iftakhar and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



Faith Friends praying for the deceased and the injured

They prayed for the deceased and praised the workers who are still engaged in rescued & rehabilitation of the injured. They prayed also for the Peace in the country and region, and stressed the need to promote inter-faith harmony and culture of tolerance for durable World Peace.

## St. Matthew's Church

### Nathiagali



The Nathiagali Church

N.W.F.P is blessed with nature's beauty, and Nathiagali is one of the most beautiful places in Pakistan, a hill station near Murree where people go to escape the heat of the plains in Summer.

Nathiagali has tourists resorts, huts, homes and all kinds of hotels for visitors, but anybody who visits Nathiagali cannot miss the most historical land mark of this hill station covered with pine trees, is the 'Church of Nathiagali', situated in the heart of the town over a small hill and visible from all directions.

This historical church was built in 1914 by the British, infact all the hill stations were developed during the British Raj.



The Interior, Nathiagali Church

This particular church is totally constructed with local wood, a marvelous structure. It also has two small rooms and a kitchen for those who want to spend a day or two for prayer and meditation.

**St. Matthews Church belongs to the Peshawar Diocese, and it comes under the Abbottabad Parish.**



## Junior Clergy Study Day

Oct, 29, 2009: The fifth and the last Junior Clergy Study Day of this year was held at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. About 25 clergymen participated and learnt a lot. The topic of this study day was "**Liturgy**".



Junior Clergy, Prayer Session

The junior clergy was taught how to follow the Liturgy in a proper way and sequence. The sequence and proper way of reading Collect during the service and the importance of the Intercessory Prayers was explained.

It was a full-day programme, started with the Holy Communion Service, led by Rev. Yousaf T. Azam and a Sermon was delivered by Rev. Razak Barkat.



Clergy Teaching Session

Bishop Mano led a session about the "Liturgy", whereas, Rev. Nazir Sheerazi led other two sessions on the same topic. He shared his experiences of studying theology from the Texas University, USA.

The teachings enhanced and equipped the Junior Clergy with new knowledge and skills. It was a wonderful learning experience for junior clergy to refresh their commitment and zeal to serve the Lord. The Programme ended with a Prayer & Meditation Session.

(Courtesy 'The News Int'l, Oct, 28, 2009')

## 'Tank Mission Hospital not to be shut down'

Tank: A spokesman for the lone missionary hospital in the district Tuesday said the hospital won't be closed down and that the downsizing was carried out owing to lack of resources.

"The downsizing of staff was decided due to the lack of resources and the volatile security situation in the area," said acting director and spokesman for the Christian Hospital, Helen A Khan.

"The decision about staff reduction was made in a meeting of the Board of Directors on October 16, 2009," she said.

She said the decision was taken due to the shortage of expert human resource as doctors were reluctant to work in the district owing to security concerns.

However, she hoped that in the near future the hospital would again be fully operational as they were in contact with the donors to seek funds to keep the institution running.

Another senior doctor, Dr. Rebecca said: "The hospital will never be shut down. Rather it will continue to provide healthcare in the capacity of nurseled hospital."

She added that beside mother and childcare service, the hospital would provide 24 hours first aid to the patients.

The Mission Hospital, later renamed as Christian Hospital, was established during the British-era in the subcontinent in 1868. Dr John William, who established the hospital, died in 1891 and was buried on the hospital premises.

Recently the hospital lost a dedicated staff member, Dr Ursula, a German national.

She was highly respected and loved by the local tribal people and perhaps that was the reason that she desired in her will to be buried in the hospital instead of being shifted to German for burial.

She died two days before the government of Pakistan nominated her for the President's Pride of Performance Award. The award was to be given to her on March 23 next year.