

Leaders yet Servants



Group Photo of the Clergy Conference

17th to 20th of August 2011: The Mission & Ministry Sector, Diocese of Peshawar organized the 'Annual Clergy Conference', at O' Spring Estate, Murree Hills. This year, theme of the Conference was "Administrative Measures", all the clergy and the catechists attended the Conference. The Conference started with Holy Communion Service led by the Priests of the Central Deanery of the Peshawar Diocese.

In the first session, an inspirational movie about responsible leadership was shown. It was about a National sports team manager, and his leadership which led his team through a number of ups and downs, thus he kept the weak and the strong intact and together, and eventually led them to win the World Cup. It was a message for the priests of the parishes, to work with their full potential and zeal, to carry-out the ministerial work in their respective parishes.



Group Work in progress

During the Conference, the priests were divided in various groups for Bible study, whereas, the senior priests were appointed as the group leaders. The groups were assigned to study the life of the King Josiah, from the books 2-Kings chapter 22 & 23, and 2-Chronicles chapter 34 & 35, and were asked to answer a number of questions.



Bishop Humphrey during his teaching session

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters led various sessions during the Conference, on "Church Leadership, Administration & Financial Management". He taught how can a priest in-charge maintain check & balance, and transparency in his accounts, and how to carryout other businesses of his parish. Different matters regarding Faith & Order and Liturgy were also discussed. The Bishop said that, "the Priests should carry-out their ministerial work with integrity and loyalty".

During the Conference, the clergy felt being equipped with new knowledge, and a spirit-filled experience. Thus, they returned with anointment of the Holy Spirit, and new zeal to serve the Lord our God with true Christian spirit.



Prayer Session at Conference

The Bishop also presented 'Clergy Collar' to the priests, which they can put-on while wearing a Shalwar Kameez, which happens to be our National dress.

In the closing session, the Archdeacon S. P. Asghar thanked the bishop for holding such a wonderful conference, and for his personal input. The Archdeacon also appreciated them on active participation and punctuality of the clergy during the whole conference.

The conference ended with prayers and a Holy Communion Service, which was led by the Bishop and his staff.

Individual Highlights	P
Clergy Conference	1
The National Scenario	2
Worship at 9000 Feet (Thandyani Church)	3
Youth Sports Camp 2011	4
Christians & Muslims attended induction on 9/11	5
Floods in Sindh	6

Other Highlights:

* Prayer Requests	2
* Quest of the Masses	5
* Sanctification of Thandyani Church	3
* The Church Heals – NGOs Leave (News from Earthquake areas)	6
* Joint efforts for Youth Development	4

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 Donors/Partners for their financial and prayer support.

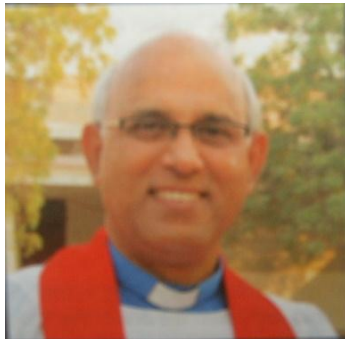
Please Pray for;

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. Now a days, Pakistan is facing the Dengue Virus threat, hundreds of people are suffering from this fatal epidemic, and many have died. Kindly pray for the victims, and eradication of the cause.
4. Pakistan, Minorities and Inter-faith harmony in the region.
5. Kindly pray for newly Bishop elect of Hyderabad, 'Revd. Kaleem John', and the Diocese of Hyderabad.
6. Pakistan, as terrorism and the War against it has intensified after the death of Osama Bin Laden.
7. Monsoon rains have caused floods in Sindh, and some parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province once again, hundreds of villages are destroyed, and people are in dire need of help.

Special Prayer requests;

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.

(The National Scenario) **New Bishop Elect of Hyderabad Diocese**



Revd. Kaleem John, Bishop Elect of Hyderabad

Thanks God that the election process of the new Bishop of Hyderabad completed successfully and Revd. Kaleem John is the new Bishop Elect of Hyderabad.

We congratulate the new Bishop and pray for him and for the Diocese of Hyderabad.

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(Extract from 'The News Editorial', dated 14 Sep. 2011)

No let-up

The 2011 monsoon is proving as disastrous, if not more so, than the Great Flood of 2010 – particularly for Sindh which has seen over 200 deaths and counting. In hinterlands of Sindh the situation has worsened considerably. Badin is likely to be 90 percent inundated in the next two days, with a massive loss of crops, livestock and housing. Unicef points out that children are being doubly hit, suffering the second set of flood-related trauma in less than 12 months with many of them not yet recovered from the events of 2010. Around 2.5 million children are currently affected, and even if we get through next year's monsoon relatively unscathed, an entire generation of children in southern Sindh has had their lives blighted perhaps for decades.

The US and the UN are both saying they will be 'on the ground in days' and the desperate people of Sindh may be relieved to see them. Once again the world comes to our aid, but there is a sense that it would come sooner and with more in its hand if we used the resources we already have to better effect.

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(Extract from 'The News Editorial', dated 14 Sep. 2011)

Dengue disaster

It flares up quickly, only semi-predictably, and brings panic in its wake. The dengue virus is a phenomenon to send a shiver through any government. The Punjab Health Department

has confirmed more than 4,044 cases, 3,576 in Lahore alone. It has also confirmed eight deaths, including two on Monday. Cases also continue to rise in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the number of patients testing positive has increased to over 25 while 60 are suspected affected by the virus. The fever has already taken two lives in the province. These are all official figures and hence one can be almost certain that the reality is much grimmer.

Indeed, the virus has already had severe social and economic effects. There is a price tag Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 million on platelet kits at private hospitals and the government has ordered to close schools in Punjab for at least ten days. Experience also shows that many excess deaths that arise during epidemics are of people who do not actually have the virus but whose treatment is compromised by the strain on resources caused by the pandemic.

That is why the government has to work out a system of national triage to ensure that the most needy get the treatment they require.

The response to dengue has been ad hoc, ex post, and therefore reactionary at best. Health policy in this country is defined by damage control, not prevention. Thus, once the central and provincial government have fought off the virus – which one can only hope they will – they will have some serious thinking to do about tackling the ad hoc nature of health policy in Pakistan.

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(Extract from 'The News Editorial', dated 15 Sep. 2011)

8 countries on US religious freedom blacklist

Ten, including Pakistan, on watch list

Washington: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged governments Tuesday to do more to defend religious freedom as Washington released report citing eight countries with troubling records on the issue.

The report named China, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, Sudan and Uzbekistan, a list unchanged since 2009, as "countries of particular concern" regarding religious freedom.

The other countries were cited for failing to sufficiently protect religious rights: Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The report, previously published annually, detailed actions such as active state repression, violence against religious groups apostasy and blasphemy laws, anti-Semitism and restrictions on religious attire and expression.

Clinton praised Turkey for taking "serious steps to improve the climate for religious tolerance" with a decree in August that invited non-Muslims to reclaim churches and synagogues that were confiscated 75 years ago.

Worship at 9000 Feet

"I lift up my eyes to the hills --- where does my help from? My help comes from Lord,...." (Psalm 121:1-2)



St. Xavier Church, Thandyani

Worship on the mountains is always a spirit-filled experience. During the British reign in the Sub-continent, many churches were built on the hill stations, as the British Army Officers and Missionaries used to spend the hot summer season in hilly areas. The St. Xavier is one of those churches, which were built by the Britishers at hill stations, in the Himalayan range. Thundyani, near Abbottabad, is around 9,000 feet above the sea level. The St. Xavier Church was built in 1914, with the rock stones and the floor of the church is made of wood. The church gives an awesome look up on the mountains and many people experienced a spiritual touch during worshipping in the Church.

The Earthquake 2005 hit a very big area of the Hazara Division, including Thandyani. The St. Xavier Church and the Comb edge cottage of the Diocese of Peshawar were also badly damaged. One of the walls, pillars, ceiling and floor were badly damaged, due to the horrible earthquake. Due to lack of resources, the Diocese couldn't take any quick action to re-build this church.

In the year 2009, Revd. Riaz Mubarik, the Priest In-charge of Abbottabad & Hazara Parish, along with the representatives of the Diocesan Youth Fellowship surveyed the St. Xavier Church, and estimated the cost of the construction work of the church. The Diocese of Peshawar, the Diocesan Youth Fellowship and the congregation, plus, the parish committee of the St. Luke's Church, Abbottabad assured Revd. Riaz Mubarik about their support and helped him in taking the initiative to re-build the Church building.

Finally, the construction work started in July 2009, along with some expert builders, the youth volunteers also took part in the construction work.



Bishop Humphrey with priests, at the entrance of the Church

Although it was very hard work, as the working conditions and weather in the hilly area were harsh, it was an uphill task, in the real sense of the word. But the team kept their spirits high, worked hard and steady worked and completed the task in Aug, 2011.

A special thanksgiving and sanctification service for the renovation of the Church was held at St. Xavier Church, Thandyani, on Sunday, 18 Sep. 2011, was led by the Bishop of Peshawar. This special Service, at the hill top Church in Thandyani, was attended by the congregation of St. Luke's Church, Abbottabad, Christian community of Peshawar, the Diocesan Officers, Head of institutions and the Diocesan youth fellowship members.



People gathered, at the entrance of the Church

The believers gathered in front of the St. Xavier Church, Thandyani on Sunday morning, the Bishop and the priests opened the door of the Church with thanksgiving and prayer, and led the people into the Church while singing hymns and Psalms.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters led the Holy Communion Service at St. Xavier Church, Thandyani. In his message, the Bishop quoted references from (Luke 2:40-49), focused on verse 49, where Jesus said "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" the Bishop said that God's children are always eager to be in His Temple, but more than that we need to become God's living temple, so everyone could notice God Himself dwelling in us. .

He especially mentioned about the St. Xavier Church that this Church on the hill top is to glorify God's name, and is a great witness/testimony for the people of this area. The Bishop motivated the people to use the Church for His glory by conducting regular Worship Services.



Bishop Humphrey with Clergy, in front of the Church

After the Holy Communion Service, Revd. Riaz Mubarik gave a Power-point presentation, in which he explained the whole process of the construction work. He also mentioned the Diocese, youth fellowship, and other people who helped in reconstruction the Church, and thanked all of them for their kind support. He also thanked the Bishop of Peshawar for his help and guidance throughout the process.



Revd. Riaz giving a Power-point Presentation

After his presentation, the Bishop said the words of thanks, he specially thanked Revd. Riaz Muabrik and his wife for their efforts, commitment and dedication. He also thanked the congregation of Abbottabad, which stood side by side with their Priest in-charge. The Bishop also acknowledged the hard work of youth fellowship. He thanked all the people, who gathered at Thandyani for the Consecration/sanctification of the St. Xavier Church, and the parish of Abbottabad for organization such a nice programme. After the Bishop's address, the Archdeacon S. P. Asghar led the closing prayer.

The programme ended with a fellowship Lunch organized by the Parish, St. Luke's Church, Abbottabad.

Joint efforts for the Youth Development

Youth Desk of the Peshawar Diocese works for social and spiritual uplift of its youth, thus, leadership development is its main objective. The Diocesan Youth Desk through the Diocesan Youth Council focuses on, Faith Awareness, Leisure & Sports, Education, and Community Development. The Youth Task Force works through the Parishes' youth groups for the development of the youth.

The Diocesan youth is also establishing working relations with the National and International youth organizations and networks. This will enable us to bring youth in large numbers to the feet of Lord Jesus.

The Youth Desk also organizes various activities with the collaboration of different para-church organizations, like National Prayer Network of Pakistan, Scripture Union, Pakistan Sports Coalition, Pakistan Fellowship of Evangelical Students (P.F.E.S.).

The youth desk has successfully established a strong working relationship and our youth desk is a part of the Ecumenical Youth Parliament (EYP), which works under the umbrella of the National Council of Churches in Pakistan (NCCP), and part of the South Asian Christian Youth Network (SACYN) and the International Anglican Youth Network (IAYN). In last couple of months, our Youth Officer, Mr. Insar Gohar, attended meetings/conferences of all three above mentioned networks, i.e. EYP Meeting at Lahore in July 2011, SACYN Core Group Meeting at Srilanka in August 2011, and IAYN Conference at Hong Kong in August 2011.



Core Group Members of SACYN

We hope that he will apply the new ideas and knowledge in the youth ministry of Peshawar Diocese and that with joint efforts for the youth development will bear good fruit.

Youth Sports Camp 2011



Youth in action

The Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese in partnership with Pakistan Sports Coalition organized a 'Youth Sports Camp' on 23 – 27 August 2011, at the NCCP Camp Centre, Khanspur (Ayubia). The Pakistan Sports Coalition is comprised of various para-church organizations in Pakistan.

Aims & objectives of the camp were to;

*Train and equip young leaders for sports ministry with a vision to strengthen and unite the body of Christ, and to reach the un-reached.

*Share the latest training techniques and content.

*Remain a laboratory of new thoughts and advanced training in the sports arena.

*Help leaders to plan projects about Sport activities according to their context and to implement it accordingly.



Group Photo of Campers with Archdeacon

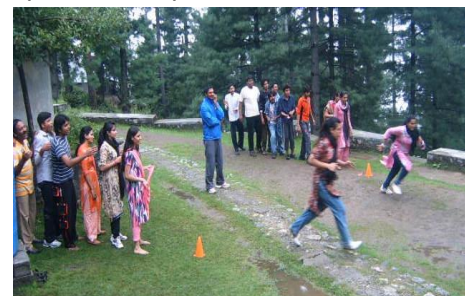
About 50 young people from different parishes of the Diocese participated in this camp. Mr. Insar Gohar, the Youth Officer of Peshawar Diocese led the Bible study sessions during the camp on "Our Identity, as Christians & Our Christian Character". He quoted the reference (1-Peter 2:9-12) about Christian Identity. "Sports is a healthy activity to overcome various kinds of temptations and promotes positive attitudes." He said. Another session on 'Youth Ministry' was led by Mr. Kamran Younis, the President Youth Council, who taught about interesting ways and methods of Bible study.

The facilitators from Pakistan Sports Coalition Mr. Zahid Johnson and Mr. Imran Tariq during various sessions and activities taught "how to relate the Bible with Sports", and how to promote "Evangelism through Sports".



The Youth involved in activities

The participants were divided into six groups, and different tasks and activities were assigned to them. All the sessions were activity-based and were much enjoyed by the participants. During various sports activities the facilitators also gave some moral lessons and talked about Sportsmanship.



Sports activities in progress

This Sports Camp also developed a motivation among the youth 'To Reach, the Unreached Youth through Sports'.

A talent night was held in which the campers presented various skits and funny items. Later, in a prayer meeting the participants committed to serve the Lord our God.

In the concluding session, various groups presented proposals and future plans for their respective parishes.

The closing ceremony was led by Revd. S. P. Asghar, the Arch-deacon, DoP, who distributed certificates among the participants. In his closing remarks, Revd. Asghar thanked the Pakistan Sports Coalition and the Diocesan Youth Desk for organizing the Sports Camp. In his closing prayer, he blessed the participants of the Camp.

Christians & Muslims attended induction on 9/11

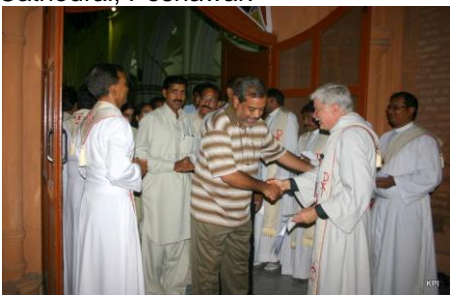


Bishop administering the oath to Revd. Titus

While the world media was overwhelmingly covering the grand ceremonies to mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, thus special reports and commentaries were aired to mark the occasion. A unique ceremony was held in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan.

The Diocese of Peshawar, in a graceful Induction and Unification Service, held on Sep. 11, 2011, at the St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar inducted the Revd. Dr. Titus Leonard Presler, Principal, Edwardes College, Peshawar was officially installed in the Holy office of the Priesthood in the Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan.

Dr. Presler, apart from being an Educationist, also held various degrees in theology and is a committed priest, as well. It is expected that he will be leading the English Service at the St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar.



People congratulating the Revd. Titus

This Special Service was led by the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, and was attended by a large number of people, including the Priests of Peshawar Diocese, Diocesan Officers and Staff, Heads of Institutions, and Faculty members of the Edwardes College, Peshawar. Thus both the Muslim and Christian community members witnessed this Induction & Unification Service.

The Service started with the English hymns and a special Order of Service for the occasion was followed; The Archdeacon S. P. Asghar presented Revd. Titus Presler to the Bishop, to be accepted and admitted as a Priest in the Diocese.

After the due examination, the Bishop said to the congregation that "we find not to the contrary, but that he be lawfully called to the function and ministry, and that he meets the requirements of the Diocese for the same".



Revd. Titus being blessed by the Bishop

The Bishop further said, 'God has chosen us even before we were born – like Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5). So, whatever, we are today, we are not because of our own choice, but what God has planned for us. And remember that we are the chosen ones. Therefore, never feel pride, instead feel humbl in God. And do not let your false ego overtake you, because if it does, it will take you away from God'.



Oath Ceremony in progress

After the Sermon, the Eucharist was celebrated, in which Revd. Titus assisted the Bishop. On this occasion, Revd. Titus Presler, prayed for the 9/11 victims in New York, and for the victims of the war on terror in Afghanistan, and Pakistan, for the civilians died in war and the soldiers who died while defending their respective countries.

A Reception party was also arranged after the Service, in which the Parish leaders garlanded and greeted the Revd. Presler.



Revd. Presler garlanded by the Priest in-charge of Cathedral

The Programme ended with tea and refreshments.

Quest of the Masses

The Christian Foundation with the collaboration Mission Hospital, Peshawar organised a seminar on the topic of 'Holy Trinity' at the Mission Hospital's Chapel, Peshawar. About a hundred people of the Christian community, including the Archdeacon S. P. Asghar, and the Diocesan Secretary Revd. Rasheed Nazir participated in the Seminar.



Seminar in progress

The key-note speaker of this seminar was Revd. A J. Paul, who happens to be a scholar of religious comparative studies, speaks fluent Arabic, Urdu, Persian, English, and has good understanding of Hebrew and Greek languages.

In his lecture of 90 minutes he explained, and described in detail about the 'Holy Trinity'. It's an inclusion in various Christian creeds, and described the Holy Trinity as a foundation of the Christian Faith and belief.

After the lecture, a session on questions and answers was also held. The audiences raised a number of questions, and made several comments as well. The speaker answered the questions. The common expression of the audiences was that a single session, and once in a blue moon is simply not enough to cover the topic comprehensively, so such sessions to educate the community should be organized on regular basis.

News from the Earthquake areas
The Church Heals – NGO’s Leave

New Light School, Patteka



A child at the School’s entrance

The School’s students, after their Summer Vacation, have started their studies.



The newly added classrooms

The school’s construction work is also in progress, and new classrooms have been added to the building. Recently, the Diocese provided ceiling-material for the classrooms, and we hope that 5 new classrooms will be ready, soon.

Shawal Health Clinic

The Shawal Health Clinic is working very nicely, many patients visit the clinic daily, and get treated by the efficient staff of the clinic. Although most of the NGOs have left the Earthquake area, but the local Church is still with locals irrespective of creed, colour or ethnicity.

As the work load has increased, in the near future, the Diocese will work with the cooperation of FLAME Organization. One year agreement has been signed by the Diocese of Peshawar and FLAME for working together. The Development Secretary, Mrs. Bimla Yousaf and Programme Officer, Mr. Rabnawaz visited the Clinic on 6 September 2011, and signed the agreement with FLAME.

We hope that this partnership will further develop the work and efficiency of the Shawal Health Clinic, and it will become more beneficial for the people of Shawal, Balakot.

(Courtesy, USPG enews September 2011)

Flood waters submerge a main road.

USPG has sent an emergency grant to Pakistan where major flooding has submerged villages, claimed lives and destroyed crops.

Continuous heavy monsoon rain has been falling since mid-August, causing flooding in nearly 1,000 villages in the Diocese of Hyderabad.

After visiting the area this week, the Rt Revd Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar, reported: ‘The entire diocese has suffered from heavy rains. Eight of our churches have badly damaged, and many Christians have lost their houses. There is about six to eight feet of water standing in some of the rural churches.’

The USPG emergency grant – from our **Rapid Response Fund** – will provide food, soap and mosquito nets for 100 families.



People traveling through flood water

66 killed during flooding

A total of 66 people have died, including nine children. Deaths were caused by collapsing buildings, electrocution and fever.

Crops and livestock have been lost, and there is a severe threat of epidemics spreading, including typhoid and cholera.

Communications systems and power lines are down in many areas.

The diocese is catering mainly for vulnerable Christian communities, who are often last to receive aid from government and other agencies. But will help as many people as they can.

The flooding is an additional tragedy in a country where the risk of terrorist attacks are a part of daily life in some parts of Pakistan.



People waiting for help

In the Diocese of Peshawar on Tuesday, three children and a teacher were killed when Islamic extremists opened fire on a school bus.



Ariel view of the flood area

Bishop Humphrey said: ‘There is a strange curse on the country, but we are praying. Kindly tell your friends to remember us in special prayers. Thank you for all your concern.’



View of the floods

Your donations to our **Rapid Response Fund** enable us to provide emergency support at times of crisis and natural disaster.

Posted on 16.09.2011

