The Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) is an old friend and partner of the Diocese of Peshawar. Its church cooperation extends to nearly 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America implemented through 300 different projects. The FELM itself does not plan or implement projects directly, but always in cooperation with its partners. Therefore, FELM helps its friends and partners in the Capacity Building through various trainings and programmes.

A three (3) day Partner Training Workshop was held at Donga Gali, Pakistan. Around 12 participants from Diocese of Peshawar, Open Theological Seminary, Lahore, Christian Hospital, Tank, and Risalpur Health Centre attended this highly professional and technical workshop to enhance their capabilities and capacities as Planners and Administrators of various projects and institutions.

The day use to start with devotion & prayers, followed by formal sessions. The keynote speakers included; Mr. Nadeem Gill, Secretary Finance, Diocese of Peshawar and Mr. Shahzad Bashir, Deputy Administrator, Mission Hospital, Peshawar. This workshop training content was divided in two modules.

The 1st module was about Project writing and reporting, whereas the 2nd module included Finance, Budgeting, Planning and implementation of projects, their monitoring and feedback.

Apart from lectures participants were also given group assignments to be presented in the main sessions. This was to pin-point strengths and weaknesses of the presentation for further improvement. These methods enhanced the teaching/learning process and the participants felt illuminated.
June 27, 2-16: Summer Camp of the Diocesan Women Desk was held at the Diocesan Retreat Centre, Donga Gali, organized by Mrs. Noreen Altaf, Coordinator, Women Desk, Diocese of Peshawar. The theme of the camp was “Relationship” between the family members and with God.

The keynote speakers and trainers included; Mrs. Alice Gerick, Women Coordinator, Raiwind Diocese, Lahore and Mrs. Shazia Saleem, President Women Syndical, Diocese of Hyderabad. There were around 40 participants from various parishes of the Diocese.

The day used to start with prayer & devotion, followed by formal sessions and skills training. Both the speakers stressed upon good relationship with family members, including parents and children.

They mentioned that blaming each other does not correct the faults; rather it further deteriorates the relations. Therefore, one needs to be forgiving and tolerant towards others, as per an ideal Christian character to promote a stronger faith and bond between relatives, children, parents and the neighbors which is dear to God as well.

During the skill development training the participants were taught to make income out of their hobbies, such as Pottery Painting, and Make-Up skills to uplift their economic status. In addition, the participants were also taught business techniques and budgeting both for domestic and business purposes. Overall, it was a good camp which promoted faith, positive attitudes/relations and created awareness regarding worldly business.

June 20-24, 2016: The Diocesan Evangelism Summer Camp, 2016 was held at Diocesan Retreat Centre, Donga Gali. The main organizer and coordinator of this camp was Revd. Fayaz Masih Channa, Priest Incharge Tarnab Farms, Peshawar. Evangelists and libertarian of various parishes of the Peshawar Diocese were among the participants.

The theme of the camp was “Apologetics” Golden Verse: 2- Timothy 3:16. The keynote speakers were Revd. Razaq Barakat, and Pastor Aslam Nazak who in their messages and teaching sessions discussed all aspects of evangelism in detail. During the programme participants were also divided into groups and were given written assignments, presented by the group leaders.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters also spent a day at the camp and encouraged both the participants and the organizer for their efforts and dedication. He also spent some times in devotion with them and blessed the camp. At this occasion, the honorable Bishop also participated in a birthday ceremony of a minor at the camp. Since this camp was especially organized for the Evangelists and the libertarians. The Bishop advised the participants to read books and use the libraries for their research, study and self education to enhance their knowledge.
Ecumenical approach through Sports

The National Sports Collation, Pakistan (NSCP) organized a Basketball Tournament for the Christian sportsmen in Peshawar. Seven teams of young Christian sportsmen participated in this tournament and exhibited their skills and discipline. This event was held at the International Qayume Stadium, Peshawar.

The National Sports Collation often organizes such events for the Christian youth and their aim is to develop healthy habits and discipline among the young men and women to prevent them from the culture of drugs. It also encourages the sportsmen to show good Christian character through sportsman spirit which was witnessed throughout the tournament.

The tournament opening ceremony was conducted by Col (R) Kanwal Isaac, Treasurer, Diocese of Peshawar who himself used to be a basket ball color holder in his youth. As the tournament progressed the teams competitive level was raised game by game. The Grand Finale of the tournament was played between Mission Hospital and Christian Welfare Trust which the Trust team won after very tough competition.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S Peters was guest of honour at the closing ceremony who also distributed trophies among the winners and encouraged the organizers for holding such a wonderful event and applauded for all the teams who participated in the tournament. The NSCP holds its Desk in the Diocesan Centre Peshawar.

Diocese of Peshawar in partnership with World Relief Deutschland and Faith Friends Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, initiated small grant activities for the worship places of Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christian communities in six districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The purpose of this grant distribution was to promote and strengthen understanding, acceptability and working relationship between different faiths at grass root level.

In this regard, one of the distribution event was held on June 30, 2016 at Gurdhwara (Sikh Temple), Mohallah, Jogan Shah, Dabgri, Peshawar. Various religious leaders from different faiths were present in the Sikh temple; the local Sikh community welcomed the participants and briefed them about their temple and religious practices. The materials bought from small grants were handed over by the religious leaders to each other.

Mr. Ashar Dean, Country Representative, World Relief thanked Diocese of Peshawar, Faith Friends Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and religious communities for their cooperation to promote peace and religious harmony in the Province. He hoped the faith communities will continue to visit each others worship places and send a brotherly message of communal harmony globally. At this occasion, different religious leaders also expressed their gratitude and assured their cooperation to build a culture of peace and tolerance in the region for global peace.
Bilateral Relations with China

A high level delegation of the Church of Pakistan (COP) went to China on a Goodwill Mission. The Rt. Revd. Samuel Azriah, Moderator Church of Pakistan, the Rt. Revd. Mano Rumal Shah, Coordinator, Church of Pakistan, Bishop John Samuel, Faisalabad Diocese, Col ( R ) Kanwal Isaac, General Secretary Synod, Church of Pakistan, Dr. Mrs. Sara Safdar, Vice Chairperson, Diocese of Peshawar, Dr. Sydney, Karachi Diocese, Mr. Imran Titus, Lahore Diocese, Revd. Aslam Gill, Sialkot Diocese were among the participants. This was the first ever visit of the Church of Pakistan to enhance bilateral relations and establishment with a non western church/region.

Historically speaking, the religious liberty in China used to be at a limited level, but now the times have changed and now they have a Special Ministry for Religious Affairs. Thus, the purpose of this visit was to promote the church influence in all walks of life and promote religion. The delegates from Pakistan were welcomed and facilitated by the Revd. Kan Baoping. He took them to shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing, where they visited various churches, seminaries and historical places.

The Col ( R ) Kanwal Isaac, General Secretary Synod told the Frontier News correspondent that there are too many churches but the number of trained clergy is lot less. Therefore, the Seminaries in China do not charge any fees for clergy training to overcome the shortage of priests. The Chinese Church’s Youth Development and Women promotion programmes are at much higher scale, despite the lack of trained personnel.

The group from Pakistan discussed various church’s promotional programmes including; Exchange programme of Clergy and Youth between the two friendly nations. As China and Pakistan are marching on the “Economic Corridor” approach. Therefore, it is essential that the church of the both neighboring countries should become closer to each other to promote ‘Good News’ and the concept of Salvation.

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