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The Frontier News

Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan



The All Saints Church, Peshawar



two thousand rupees, but still three thousand short of the estimated cost. Later it was borrowed from various friends and returned as promised.

The foundation stone of this Church was laid by Mrs. Grave (not much is known about her) in the year 1882, and within a year the "All Saints Church" Peshawar came into existence. It is a treat for the eyes, as piece of marvelous architecture and beautiful designing, rather a unique design for a church building.

As this church was built by a Muslim architect, the exterior looks like a Mosque, but the presence of a Cross on top of its main dome, bears a unique testimony.

The Rev. Warthington Jokes came to Peshawar, NWFP in the year 1879-80 as a CMS Missionary, and fell in love with the Old gated city of Peshawar. As a token of his affection he wanted to do something for the Locals, especially for the Christian community of the area.

One day, all of a sudden a thought came to his mind and he said loudly, 'Yes' I need to build a beautiful Church in the old city of Peshawar, and he started working straight away on the project.



Rev. Jokes made an application to the British India Government for financial help and moral support, and also started raising funds at a community level, later the fund raising campaign was extended upto Srinagar, (now a days, on the Indian side of Kashmir). He organized a Charity Fair (mela) there, and took Peshawari handmade pottery, drapes, and other local handicrafts. This idea of fund raising was a success and all the Peshawari items were sold like hot cakes, besides people/participants gave donations for the construction, everybody was talking about the new Church at Peshawar.

The day, 'the Cross' was erected the British Army heavily guarded the church and its premises. When the job was completed, somebody fired at the cross to bring it down, but that didn't happen instead the bullet penetrated through the left wing of the cross leaving a 'hole mark' forever. Even today it is visible and it hasn't been repaired in order to commemorate the hostile days in which the "All Saints Church", Peshawar was born for the greater Glory of God.

Today, the All Saints Church Parish is one of the largest Parishes of the Diocese of Peshawar, which covers the city area of Peshawar, with a membership of more than 1000 families.

The Church building does not have enough space for the growing parish, anyhow, people still remember its founder and the sacrifices of the builders of the All Saints Church, Peshawar.

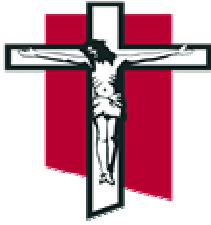
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Visit us at
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Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests



Diocese of Peshawar is grateful to God for His blessings and Mercies and also to the Donors for their financial and prayer support.

Please Pray for;

1. Those living in the hostile areas of NWFP, especially the Pakistani Christians and their institutions.
2. The Earthquake victims of the Balochistan, Pakistan.
3. The Christians in Orissa, India who are facing persecutions.
4. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot, so that God may help the Diocese to work more effectively for the development of the Earthquake victims.
5. The Development Sector DoP, as it is running short training courses for its youth development. These courses are about Computer Software, Hardware, Beautician, Vehicle Driving, Radio & TV Repair and Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Trainings.
6. The Youth Desk, DoP has started Email & Mobile SMS Ministry to share the Word of God and exchange the Prayer Requests.

Special Prayer requests;

1. Please remember Pakistan, and especially the N.W.F.P, that peace and stability may prevail in our region. The country is passing through a very difficult period, because of Suicide Bombings and Terrorist Attacks.
2. Also 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.

Over 175 Killed in Balochistan Quake, on 29th October 2008

(Source The News International, October 30, 2008)



Quetta: Over 175 people, mostly women and children were killed, and more than 500 injured when a severe intensity earthquake struck Ziarat, Pishin and Qilla Abdullah districts of Balochistan in the wee hours of Wednesday.

The death toll in the catastrophe may rise as a number of people are still buried under debris of mud-houses particularly in Ziarat Valley and its surrounding areas.

Hundreds of mud-houses were razed to the ground and people were forced to stay under open sky in severe cold as rescue and relief operations could not gain momentum due to inaccessibility of the areas till our going to the press.

The intensity of the earthquake was recorded in the range of 4.4 in the morning to 6.4 in the evening (5.30pm) on the international Richter scale.

The worst affected areas were Ziarat, Khanozai area of Pishin, and parts of Qilla Saifullah, Mastung, Loralai and Sibi districts. All the government and private educational institutions were closed for two days in the provincial capital, Quetta. People in deep sleep, came out of their homes in total scare as the earthquake struck parts of the province early in the morning.

Roads connecting Quetta with Loralai via Spira Raha and other link roads between the villages were blocked by big stones following the jolts.

Frontier Corps sources said that the all of its corps and commands were put on high alert in different parts of the province to come to the rescue of the victims.

Peshawar Diocese held special prayers for the departed souls, and for the people living in miserable conditions, as a result of the earthquake.

Trouble in the Tribal Areas, for Christians

The Pakistani Army has started a wipeout operation against the Millitants (Talibans) in the Tribal Areas of Pakistan, including North & South Waziristan, Kurram, Bajour, Khyber and Malakand Agencies, and the Christians living in these areas are facing trouble due to this war against terrorism. The normal life has been put on halt and people cannot move freely due to prolonged curfews, as a result communities face scarcity of food and other necessary/daily life commodities.

Please remember these people, and especially Christians in your prayers.

Bishop Mano Condemns attack on Christian School

Christian School burnt by Taliban

The local Taliban blew up the Convent School Sangota, Swat run by Apostolic Carmelite Sisters from Sri Lankan, at Swat, NWFP. According to media, the school building was damaged completely.

A loss of life was prevented because the Sisters had closed the school and vacated the Convent a few days ago due to threats.

In late evening, some local militants entered the school and asked the workers on duty to leave the building as they were about to destroy the school. It was bombed later. Last year also, the Convent administration was threatened by the local Taliban to shut-down the school.

Pakistani Taliban have so far attacked more than 150 girls schools using explosives in the North West Frontier Province in the past two years.

Bishop Mano and the Diocese of Peshawar had strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Christian Schools in our region. Bishop Mano said "we pray for regional peace and for the safety of the Christians and their institutions in this part of the world".

LAMBETH CONFERENCE-2008

A Statement by the Bishops from South Asia



We, the Bishops from the united churches of South Asia which include the Church of South India (1947), Church of North India (1970), Church of Pakistan (1970) and the Church of Bangladesh (1972), present at the Lambeth Conference 2008 have embodied the unity of God's Church in fulfillment of our Lord's high priestly prayer "that they may all be one". We represent nearly a quarter of the human race practising and living all the major faiths of the world. We are grateful for heritage of different church traditions which have contributed to our formation. The Anglican Communion, being the one common thread, connecting us all.

As united and uniting churches and full and integral members of the Anglican Communion we wish to say that:

1. We bear witness to the Triune God and to the unity of His Church as one, holy catholic and apostolic.
 2. We applaud the initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury in organizing the *Walk of Witness* on the London day highlighting urgent issues of poverty, deprivation, exploitation and disease in the world and demanding speedy implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
- We call upon the Anglican Communion to seriously take up this challenge and help to restore the dignity of the exploited and abused humanity. This will certainly mean an equitable sharing of resources within the Communion.
3. We urge the Communion to stand in solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed religious minorities and work



for equitable justice to all especially to the women, children and the dalits of South Asia and in other parts of the world as members of the one Body of Christ; *for if one member suffers we all suffer*. This needs to be expressed in tangible terms through living and supporting relationships.

4. However, we are saddened and disturbed by the fractured nature of the Anglican Communion today which seems to have been primarily caused by the issue of human sexuality. We do feel pain of the absence of some bishops who have kept themselves away from this fellowship. We acknowledge the biblical norms on human sexuality and urge that within the Anglican Communion this may be upheld for the effective witness of the Gospel.

We desire that the matter may be resolved by a continuing process of listening and healing where we may be willing to forgive and accept one another generously and move towards true reconciliation.

5. So, we invite the whole Communion to do some heart-searching and in humility *walk the Calvary road* so that our differences, self-justifications and arrogant attitudes may be crucified and that we all experience the power of the resurrection for the transformation of our life together in the Communion.

Signed on behalf of the participating Bishops at Lambeth Conference 2008

Church of South India
The Most Revd. John Wilson Gladstone

Church of North India
The Rt. Revd. Brojen Malakar

Church of Pakistan
The Most Revd. Dr. Alexander John Malik

Church of Bangladesh
The Most Revd. Paul S. Sarker

The 12th Triennial Women Synodical, Church of Pakistan was held on 31st October & 1st November 2008 at Lahore. The theme was "The women's role upholding the dignity and integrity in the God's creation".

A Women Delegation from Diocese of Peshawar went to participate in the Synodical, it included Mrs. Benita Rumlshah, Mrs. Noureen Altaf, Mrs. Margrete Walter, Mrs. Perveen Ajmal, Ms. Salomi and Mrs. Reena Patrick. Mrs. Noureen Altaf, who served as Synodical Treasurer received special recognition for her services.

For the new term, Mrs. Reena Patrick from Peshawar Diocese is chosen as the Secretary of the Women Synodical, for next three years.

Women's Seminar

"It was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, Lord of his entire house hold and ruler of all Egypt."

"God sent me" was the theme of the Women's Seminar held in Tarbella Parish on 24th of October 2008. The cabinet members of the Diocesan Women Council and the Women Coordinator were specially invited on the Seminar.

Rev. Akmal and Mrs. Neelam Akmal warmly welcomed and garlanded them. The church was decorated beautifully. Mrs. Elizabeth (Secretary) presented a report on the activities of the Women Fellowship of Tarbella, which was appreciated by the Women Council.

Mrs. Reena Patrick delivered the Word of God emphasizing that in the current circumstances we need to follow the attitude of Joseph who was sold by his brothers to an Egyptian Courtier, but when his brothers went to Egypt, he did not take revenge, instead he showed his love and sympathies in their hard time. As we all are facing hard times now a days, so we also have to show our love and sympathy to each other, to promote peace and harmony among our family, nation and church.

Mrs. Gammer Javed (Vice president) told the young girls about the harmful effects of getting married with non-Christians.

Inter-Faith Activity in Abbottabad

On 6th of October 2008, the Priest In-charge of the Abbottabad Parish, Rev. Riaz Mubarik organized an Inter-faith Seminar at the Nazim-e-Alla Hall, Abbottabad, Theme of the Seminar was "Respect of the Religions", and about 50 people from various religious communities attended the seminar, mostly the priests from different religious communities of Abbottabad. The Speakers presented their respective religious teachings on the theme of the Seminar.

They also emphasized on promotion of Inter-faith Peace & Harmony in the region.

It was a good initiative taken by Rev. Raiz and the Abbottabad Parish, to start Inter-faith Peace & Harmony programme at the grass-root level.

Special Sports Activities

The Abbottabad parish has also started a regular Sports programme for the youth in the compound of the St. Luke's Church. This programme is not only for the youth of the 'Church of Pakistan', but also for the youth of all the denominations in Abbottabad. At present, the church has arranged Cricket and Badminton matches for the youth, but they are trying to conduct other games as well in near future.

The aim and objective of this programme is to promote some healthy activities among the young generation rather being involved into unhealthy activities.

(Mission & Ministry Column) Follow-up Programme (Youth Summer Camp 2008) Leadership Training

The Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese organized a Leadership Training for the youth of the Diocese, on 24 – 26 October 2008 at Peshawar. It was a Follow-up Programme of the Youth Summer Camp held in July 2008. Only the youth leaders among the campers from the different parishes of the diocese were invited on this programme.

About 35 youth leaders from following parishes participated in the programme:

Abbottabad: 2, Tarbella: 2, Malakand: 2, Swat: 1, Mardan: 1, Risalpur: 2, Nowshera: 4, Charsadda: 1, Hangu: 1, Thall: 3, Bannu: 4, D.I. Khan: 2, Tank: 2, St. John's Cathedral Peshawar: 4, All Saints Church Peshawar: 5.



The theme of the programme was "Preparation for the Kingdom of God" and the theme verse was "For many are Called but few Chosen".



The topics of the Youth Summer Camp 2008 were further discussed in more details during this follow-up programme. The Topics and Speakers were as follow:

1. Comparative Religions Studies: Pastor Sadeeq Paul from Lahore.
2. Evangelism: Rev. Jeffery Samuel from Peshawar
3. Social Development & Career Counseling. Prof. Shahid Mahmood, Peshawar University
4. Inter-faith: Mr. Insar Gohar
4. Preparation for the Kingdom of God Mr. Naeem Nazir from Peshawar
5. Sinful Nature & Spiritual Warfare: Mr. Insar Gohar

Bible Study Syllabus: A special workshop on "How to lead the Youth Bible Study" was held, during the programme. In which the Methods of leading the Youth Bible Study were explained and a new Bible Study Syllabus was introduced by the Youth Desk during this workshop. Sets of Bible Study Notes (Ten Lessons on different Topics) were handed over to the Youth Leaders from different parishes, which they will use in their youth groups' Bible Studies.

A special activity on **Art Work** was also conducted, in which the youth took keen interest and made so many things.

Prayer Meeting: It was held on the last night, in which all the participants knelt before God and prayed to God in a Spiritual atmosphere. The Praise & Worship songs were also presented to the Lord our God.

The youth leaders were prepared to serve in their respective youth groups and lead the Bible Study. Follow-up visits will also be conducted in the parishes to further promote the youth ministry.

Prison Ministry (among Women)

Thanks be to the Lord for Lorraine, Nora and Theresa who went back to their country after being released from the Peshawar Jail.

Attention Please:

The Winter Season has started, there are 12 foreign women prisoners who are in need of warm clothes, sweaters, and blankets urgently, at Peshawar Jail, your generous donations are much needed, and please hurry!

Being a Christian Community in a Post 9/11 Islamic Society

by Rebecca C. Asedillo

What does it mean to be a Christian minority in the context of a post 9/11 Islamic society?

Christians in Pakistan 'live and move and have their being' in a context of increasing uncertainty. Sometimes that environment turns hostile. Yet there is no stopping their faithful witness and service.

* On October 28, 2001, in Bahawalpur, Multan province, a congregation sharing worship space at a Roman Catholic Church was suddenly attacked by armed men. Sixteen people died, including several children.

* On August 5, 2002, armed gunmen attacked the Murree Christian School located in the Himalayan foothills about 30 miles north of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, killing six adults but leaving the students unharmed.

* On November 12, 2005, a mob angry at a perceived insult against the Qur'an, (later found to be baseless) set on fire three churches, two houses of priests, a convent, one high school and the houses of three Christian families in a place called Sangla Hill not too far from the city of Lahore. Almost 400 Christian families had to evacuate their homes before the situation could be put under control.

* On February 6, 2006, following the publication of the Danish cartoon which many Muslims saw as ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad, mobs with sticks, chains and stones attacked institutions run by the church, including Edwardes College, Elizabeth Girls School and College, St. Pauls Church and School, the Mission Hospital and the Pennell High School and College in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP).

* On May 16, 2007, BBC News reported that the small Christian community in a place called Charsadda, also in the NWFP, was threatened with violence if they did not become Muslims.

Despite this condition, the work of the church continues.

The Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) is perhaps one of the areas in Pakistan in which the Christian communities daily experience an extraordinary level of tension and sense of vulnerability. The Diocese of Peshawar whose territory coincides with the NWFP is one of the eight dioceses that make up the Church of Pakistan (CoP). This diocese originally belonged to the Anglican tradition, but with the merger of the Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans (Norwegian) and Scottish Presbyterians in 1970, it is now a part of the united Church of Pakistan (CoP). The Church of Pakistan is the official church partner of The United Methodist Church in the USA.

Servanthood ministry: The catastrophic earthquake of October 8, 2005 in Pakistan killed an estimated 86,000 people. The diocese responded to the emergency by adopting a cluster of six villages in an area known as Pateka. Besides the immediate response to provide food, clothing, shelter and medical aid right after the earthquake, the diocese is now involved in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of these villages. It facilitated the creation of a community-based organization (CBO) to address the various needs of the communities for livelihood recovery, health, education, water and sanitation, house repair and other communal needs.



A sewing center in the village of Pateka, Pakistan.

Interfaith relations: Trust among Christians and Muslims in these communities has been developing, according to Ashar Dean, the diocesan staff overseeing communications and evaluation of the program. "If we give them respect, they will give us respect," he said. In the NWFP, the majority of the people are pashtuns (or Pathans)

while most Christians are Punjabi descendants of the camp-followers of the British Army during the late 19th century. In a society that has traditionally looked down on Christians not only for their adherence to what is perceived as a 'foreign/western religion,' but, also, for majority of them coming from the lower castes of society, the development of trust is a very significant achievement. Seventy-five year old Mohammad Ayub, a highly respected elder of Pateka testified, "During the relief and recovery phase, the diocesan staff maintained our self-respect, dignity and honor.



At no point did they let us feel we were dependent on them..." "In interfaith dialogue, we try to make our Muslim neighbors understand that we too are Pakistanis," said Ashar Dean. In the past, he explained, Pakistani Christians had followed the isolationist model of the British who did not interact with the majority community. This is now changing. "I want the two societies – Muslims and Christians – to come together."

In the midst of uncertainty, Christians in Pakistan are busy – indeed, extremely busy, in ministry.

What does it mean to be a Christian community living in a post 9/11 Islamic community? It means no less than to be faithful to the call of discipleship and service as it is true in any other situation in which Christ's followers are called to witness to his love and grace.

For more information: the website of the Diocese of Peshawar – www.peshawardiocese.org.

Rebecca C. Asedillo is Executive Secretary for Connectional Relations Mission Contexts and Relationships Unit General Board of Global Ministries The United Methodist Church.

(Development & Relief Column)
Driving Training

Venue: Rauf Driving School, Peshawar



The Diocesan Development and Relief started Vehicle Driving Training for the young Christians of the Diocese. The training commenced from September 14, 2008.

Twenty-five (25) participants were selected through Diocesan Parishes. They are provided both theoretical and practical experience under the supervision of qualified and government approved Driving Instructors. These beneficiaries are also provided with Learners Driving License which after a period of six month will be replaced with a proper Driving License. During the training the trainees are also provided with basic knowledge of:

- Driving Rules and Regulations
- Engine Problems
- Wheel Changing
- Brakes
- Oil Check
- Electric Faults

The emphasis is to enable the Christian boys to earn a respectable livelihood through this skill. The Course Completion certificate will be awarded to the trainees on October 31, 2008.

The other Skill Development courses that are near completion are:

- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning on November 7
- Beautician on November 13
- Computer Software on November 14

We trust these trainings will help to reduce unemployment, and poverty.

COMPUTER HARDWARE TRAINING
VENUE: CDP COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE, PESHAWAR
From: September 15 to October 14, 2008

The Development and Relief Sector of the Peshawar Diocese, successfully accomplished another intensive course for the Christian boys and girls. The training course was designed to enhance the Computer Hardware skills and knowledge of the Diocesan Youth. The training started from September 15 and finished on October 14, 2008.

The objectives of the training were to:

- Enhance their skills
- Enable them to find a better job and
- Earn respectable livelihood for their families.

Development and Relief Sector selected girls and boys from the following Diocesan Parishes:

1.	St. Johns Cathedral	08
2.	All Saints Church	15
	Total	23

The trainees were briefed on the following topics:

- Introduction of Computer Hardware
- Assembling of Computer Parts
- Partition Creation
- Formatting of Hard Drives
- Computer Setup
- Booting and Installation
- Virus Removal
- Trouble shooting

In the last week of the training, the trainees were evaluated practically. The **twenty-three (23)** successful trainees were awarded Course Completion Certificates by the Diocesan Senior Officers.

Development and Relief Sector thanked the Diocesan Directorate of Education, Senior Management of the Diocese, Incharge Priests of the Cathedral and All Saint Churches, the local Christian community of Peshawar, and the Computer Training Institute staff for their support and cooperation in organizing this short intensive course.

Shahwal Health Centre



Shahwal Health Care Centre in October 2005



Shahwal Health Care Centre in 2008

The Diocesan Health Centre at Shahwal was started in response to the October 8, 2005 earthquake in tents. On the request of the people of Balakot the Diocese continues its health care service in the earthquake affected area. The earthquake resistant building is the Diocesan commitment, and to provide health care services to the under privileged and vulnerable people of God.

Edwardes College School Boys Camp 2008

The Edwardes College School (main campus) Boys Camp went to Jubilee Campus at the Khanpur Dam. It is an Annual Programme of the School. Every year, the students of class 8, along with their teachers, go for this camp and spend a week at a lovely sight of the Khanpur Dam and its lake. It is a co-curricular activity, which provides exposure and refreshes the students. The students were involved in various sports activities throughout the camp.