



# ***Diocese of Peshawar***

**Church of Pakistan**



## ***The Youth Newsletter*** (December 2009)

### **Jesus gave a lesson of Humbleness on Christmas**

**W**here is the one Who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2:2).

This was the question asked by the Magi, who came from the east to Jerusalem. The question was, “**Where the King (Jesus) has been born?**” Obviously they were looking for the new-born King in the Palace, as kings always born in palaces. Jesus was a King, long before he was born. Although He is the King of the whole Universe and His kingdom is endless, but he made Himself very humble, thus born in a manger.

Where should we find Jesus, in a palace or at a very luxury apartment?

So where should we find Jesus, today? We should make ourselves humble to search Him, and He will find us where ever we may be. Jesus gave us a lesson of humbleness and to lead a simple life . Are we ready to adopt the humbleness or we want to live a life of luxuries and comforts?

Jesus said that my Kingdom is not of this world. He asked us to prepare ourselves for the Kingdom of God and search for His Kingdom rather go after the worldly things.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, ....., unholy, ....., lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” If we look around in this world today, most of the people are lovers of pleasure, and want to enjoy their lives by all means and go after money, and they never think about the Kingdom of God and its preparation.

This is a big issue for all of us that today, our youth is also after money and pleasure, and going away from the Church. A big challenge for us is to bring them back to the Church. Now a days, the youth is also getting involved in drugs, sexual immorality and other trend towards the sinful nature. So the focal point of our ministry is to work for the Spiritual growth, and to promote righteousness among the youth.

### **Search Jesus on this Christmas**

We can not search for Jesus in a pleasurable and comfortable life, rather search for Him outside the hustle bustle and chaos of this world, at a very ordinary place.

## ***“Over View on the Youth Activities(Aug-Nov 2009)”***

### **Youth Prayed for Peace**

**Y**outh of Peshawar gathered once again for the ‘Watch-night Prayer’ on Saturday, 10 October 2009, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The focus of this whole night prayer-meeting was to pray for Peace in our country, as the terrorism is growing day by day. May God bring peace to our region.



**Prayer Chain:** The Youth of Peshawar formed a 24 hours Prayer-Chain, they pray daily for 30 minutes for the tense situation of our area, because of suicide bomb blasts.  
**Youth Seminar in D. I. Khan:** Dera Ismael Khan is one of our important parishes in the Southern Deanery. This town is passing through difficult times due to terrorism, and sectarian violence. Bomb-blasts and firing is everyday routine. The Youth Coordinator, Insar Gohar visited D.I. Khan parish on 13 September 2009.



The youth group of St. Thomas Church, D.I. Khan arranged a Youth Seminar, and about 35 young people participated in the seminar. Mr. Insar Gohar led session from (Ephesians 2:19-22), regarding “Our preparation for the

Kingdom of God”. Special teaching of comfort and consolation was shared from the Holy Bible for the youth of D.I. Khan, as they are living in a very tense situation.

**Visits to Parishes’ Youth Groups:** During last two months, visits were made by the Youth Coordinator to the following parishes’ youth groups: Nowshera, Risalpur, D.I. Khan, Kohat, Abbottabad and University parish, Peshawar. These visits were made to motivate the youth groups and to discuss new projects for development.

**Seminar in Peshawar:** A Bible Seminar was held in the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar, in which the youth from both the parishes of Peshawar participated. Mr. Naeem Nazir taught on ‘Christian Baptism’.

**Counseling Class:** We are thankful to God that the Youth Counseling Class is running well at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. It is a Bible study class for youth leaders, held on every Friday, about 20 to 25 young leaders attend the class. The main purpose of this class is to prepare youth leaders for counseling ministry. Some topics related to counseling are being discussed in the class and teachings are given from the Bible about practical issues of daily life, where counseling is needed to a person. Sometimes, it is an Open-discussion on religious or social topics related to youth or about any new challenges faced by the youth. Those who intent to seek counseling, spend some time in prayer, and are also given separate time for sharing their problems, worries and concerns.

**Follow-up Seminar:** We are planning to organize a Follow-up of the Summer Camp 2009, in which some selective youth leaders will be invited from all our parishes and the topics of the Summer Camp will be further discussed.

### **The Current Tense Situation affected our Activities**

We have limited our youth activities due to present tense situation and due to some financial crisis. Instead of big gatherings, we organize small scale activities, mostly at parishes’ levels.

# Youth Summer Camp 2009

**Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16)**



The Diocesan Youth Desk organizes 'Youth Summer Camp' every year, since 1995. The 'Youth Summer Camp' is a unique opportunity for the youth to refresh their commitment with God, and to gain the Biblical knowledge to develop their talent, ability and skills. During these camps, the youth also discussed new challenges and share their ideas for the youth development.

This year the Youth Summer Camp was held at Murree Hills from 4 to 8 August 2009. Keeping in view the present situation of our region, the Camp theme was set as, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16). As we are trying to prepare our youth to face new challenges due to current tense situation of our region, for which we may say, 'the days are evil'. The youth delegates from our various parishes participated in this Camp and learned from the 'Bible Study' and other sessions during the camp, in a spiritual atmosphere. They also spent some time in Prayer and Meditation. As our youth is facing a lot of new challenges due to current tense situation in our region, the camp equipped and enhanced the youth with the Biblical knowledge and teachings and taught them how to conduct themselves during these testing times.

## Details of Teaching Sessions:

### **1. Present Situation & Challenges:**

The Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Humphrey Peters, in his session talked about the

Present situation and challenges for Youth and how can we prepare ourselves to face these challenges for our survival in this country.

### **2. Terrorism & Violence:**

Rev. Irfan Jamil, from St. Thomas' Church Islamabad was the keynote speaker. He led a session about "Terrorism & Violence".

### **3. Immorality & Addiction:**

"Biblical teaching regarding Sexuality", this session was also led by Rev. Irfan Jamil. In this session, the youth also asked some questions about their sexuality issues, which were responded by the Speaker. Rev. Irfan Jamil also took a session on "Drug Addiction" and its negative effects on youth.

### **4. Out-reach in Present Situation:**

Mr. Naeem Nazir, the OTS Teacher from Peshawar also led two sessions;

- 1) "Ways of presenting Gospel in Present Situation",
- 2) "Our Response, to the Invitation of other religions for conversion".

### **5. Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus:**

Mr. Shahzad Bashir, from Diocese of Peshawar led a Bible study session about the "Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus".

### **Bible Study 'the book of Daniel':**

Mr. Insar Gohar led Bible Studies from the Book of "Daniel".

**6. Project Planning:** A workshop was led by Mr. Shahzad Bashir on Project Planning.

**A special Prayer Meeting** was held to offer special prayers for the 'Gojra' incident. The Youth knelt before God and felt blessed by the touch of the Holy Spirit.

**Recreational activities:** Some recreational activities like Quiz, Songs and Speech competitions were also organized, which were enjoyed by all. The winners received Trophies and other prizes.

### **Testimonies Sharing:**

In the last session, the campers shared their testimonies and their life-changing experiences. The Youth was also motivated to start 'Small Projects' in their respective parishes for Youth and community development.

The Youth Summer Camp always refreshes and renews the zeal of our youth. It always brings some life-changing experiences among the youth. It is also a source of encouragement which promotes their positive personality traits, such as 'leadership qualities', etc.

## ***Renovation of St. Xavier Church, Thandiani***

### **Youth Work Camp**

The youth of our Diocese give their volunteer services time to time for any church work. This summer, they took a huge task, i.e. 'Renovation of St. Xavier Church, Thandiani', which is situated in a hilly area. The Abbottabad parish runs the affairs of this comparatively small church.

During the horrible earthquake of 2005, the famous St. Luke's Church of Abbottabad and St. Xavier Church of Thandiani were badly affected. The Abbottabad Church is almost renovated.

Somehow, the Thandiani's small church didn't get the same attention, as it is situated in an almost exclusive but remote mountainous area, 9,600 ft above the sea level. This church has been built in 1920, from the carved rocks, thus expensive to repair.



Recently Rev. Riaz Mubarik (the Priest In-charge of Abbottabad Parish), and Mr. Insar Gohar (the Youth Coordinator, DoP), along with a youth leader, Mr. Waqas Quyyam paid a visit to the site, and were deeply grieved by the condition of the Church. So, it was decided that the Youth Coordinator will motivate the youth members to repair and decorate the Church on 'Self-help basis'.

In August 2009, a team comprising of youth members, under the supervision of Rev. Riaz Mubarik and Mr. Insar Gohar started the repair and renovation of the Church, which is going well. Before starting this challenging task, a special prayer meeting was held in the ruins of this old church's

building, and this had happened after a long time. **After prayer, the team felt that the power behind them is far greater than the task ahead of them.**



The youth of St. John's Cathedral and some youngsters from Mission Hospital, Peshawar, along with the youth from Abbottabad parish took part in this great work of renovation and decoration of the Thandiani Church.

It is worth mentioning that the local Christian community of the Abbottabad Parish raised major share of funds for this purpose, however the youth collected some donations from the Christian community of Peshawar and Mardan. Hopefully, this work will be completed in a month or two, before the harsh winter comes and hinders the work, as the road to the Church is completely blocked in winters because of heavy rains and snow fall.



Courage of the youth is highly appreciated who are working their guts out, to once again make this house of God fully functional, as the working conditions in that area are challenging, and tough.

### **Youth Desk, Diocese of Peshawar**

Mr. Insar Gohar, Youth Coordinator  
1 Sir Syed Road, Peshawar Cantt., Pakistan.  
Email: [youthdop@hotmail.com](mailto:youthdop@hotmail.com)

Ms. Saima Walter (President Youth Council)  
Mr. Arif Boota (Secretary Youth Council)  
Web: [www.peshawardiocese.org](http://www.peshawardiocese.org)