



Diocese of Peshawar

Church of Pakistan



The Youth Newsletter (July 2011)

The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” (Matthew 9:37).

The youth is our present and the future, we should bring them closer to God and help them to prepare for the Kingdom of God. Therefore, we need to prepare youth leaders/workers to work among the youth involved in drugs, immorality and other social evils.



In this scenario, The Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese has started a programme to develop the youth leadership and formed a ‘Youth Task Force’, which will work among the youth for their social and spiritual development. The youth leaders are taken from different parishes and they are being given leadership trainings to polish their talents/skills and abilities. They are

also being given assignments to launch small projects for their community uplift in their respective parishes.



The first training programme of this ‘Youth Task Force’ was organized this year in March, at Murree. After the training programme follow-up visits and programmes are being conducted in our various parishes. Some trained youth leaders have already started small projects for the growth and development of their youth and community.

Kindly pray for our ‘Youth Task Force’.

Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare the workers among the youth, who can work in the harvest. And we initiated this mission with the formation of ‘Youth Task Force’.

“Over View on the recent Youth Activities in different Parishes”

Youth Seminars in Parishes

After having received the Leadership Training, the young leaders have started organizing awareness seminars in their respective parishes. Aim of these seminars is to share the teachings and experience with other youth leaders and to develop awareness.



Youth

Programme in Harripur: Harripur is a sub-Parish of the Abbottabad Parish, and it is showing good progress.

Recently, an active youth group has been formed in Harripur. The youth group organized a programme to celebrate the Maundy Thursday in their parish. The ritual of feet-washing was also performed on this occasion.

The youth members recited passages from the Holy Bible and presented short messages regarding the Lent Season, Holy Week and Resurrection & Ascension of Lord Jesus Christ. It is worth mentioning that the youth members studied the Holy Bible and prepared short messages/sermons during the Lent Season.

Seminar in Tarbella: St. Peter's Church, Tarbella Youth Group is also one of the active youth groups. They organized a 'Youth Seminar' on 29 May 2011, the topic was 'Bring unity in the Church'. The youth members were equipped to work for bringing unity in the Church and to work together. They were taught, 'how to cross the bridges and boundaries and promote the ecumenism'. The Tarbella youth has already organized various activities in which they work with the collaboration with the youth of other denominations.

Seminar in Thall Parish: On the Pentecost Day, the Youth Group organized a Youth Seminar in their Church. The Church was decorated with beautiful verses regarding the Pentecost Day by the youth.

The St. Paul's Church Youth Group, Thall, especially invited Mr. Insar Gohar, the Diocesan Youth Officer and Mr. Kamran Younas, the President, Diocesan Youth Council. Both of them after a hard and tensed journey finally reached there and led the Youth Seminar.

Mr. Insar Gohar's session was about "Our Identity as Christians". He mentioned that We are God's chosen people and God loves and protects us. He quoted the parable of 'Prodigal Son', who left his home, but on his return his Father rejoiced. "Similarly, we need to mend our ways and get back to our Heavenly Father, as He loves and cares for us more than any biological father on earth. He blessed us with the gift of Holy Spirit to help and guide us". He said.

Mr. Kamran Younas in his session taught, 'How to run a better Youth Group'. He taught new methods and techniques for the Youth's "Bible Study". The youth actively participated in his session, as he used different games and activities as teaching-aids.

In the end, the Youth Group and the Thall Congregation thanked both the guests, and said that their visit was a source of encouragement for them.

Youth Programmes at Swat, Nowshera, Charsadda & Abbottabad Parishes: The Church Youth Groups of Nowshera and Abbottabad Youth Groups also organized youth programmes in their respective churches, in which they invited Mr. Insar Gohar, the Youth Officer. He motivated the youth members to come forward to serve the Lord, plus His people and strengthen the Youth Task Force.

The Current Tense Situation affected our Activities

We have limited our youth activities due to present tense situation of our province. We are avoiding big gatherings, thus emphasize on out-reach programmes in our parishes.

Leadership Training for Youth

Youth Task Force Formed

The Diocese of Peshawar is spread all over the NWFP, including the Tribal Areas, where the Christian Community remains under-developed, and most of the

Christians are doing menial jobs. The war on terrorism has further deteriorated their living conditions.

We don't know when the situation will improve in our region, anyhow, it will take a long time in their rehabilitation.

We are fortunate that there is a good number of Christian Youth, who are working their respective parishes' youth groups.

We are trying to organize a series of leadership training programmes for the young leaders in the 'Task Force', so that they could start new projects for community uplift, such as Poverty and Unemployment, Drugs prevention, Awareness on HIV/AIDS, and Seminars on Religious and Social issues.

The Diocese of Peshawar always try to develop its youth and works for their capacity building. A special Leadership Training Programme was organized by the Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese on 11 -13 March 2011, at Camp Mubarik, Murree.

This special training was organized to equip some young leaders to form a 'Youth Task Force' in the Diocese of Pshawar, which will work through the Diocesan Youth Council and work for the development of the youth and christian community at large in the



whole Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The trained youth leaders were assigned to develop projects for the uplift of their youth and community in their respective parishes.



The youth leaders from almost all the parishes of the Diocese participated in this 3-days leadership training programme. Even the participants came from the far flung and hard areas of the province, i.e. Tank, D.I. Khan, Thall, Swat. Some youth leaders also came from the last year's flood affected areas, like Charsadda, Risalpur, Nowshera, Swabi etc. The participants enjoyed the Biblical reflections, training, and teachings about 'Christian Leadership'.

Mr. George Boota from the Ibadaat Trust, Lahore, was the keynote speaker. His session was about 'Leadership & Project Planning', he involved the youth in various activities and group discussions during the learning process. The participants enjoyed the teachings and equipped themselves with the new knowledge and learning.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was especially invited to this training programme, to encourage the young leaders. The Bishop led a session on the 'Role of Youth in the Church'. He taught the youth to adopt positive attitude and development thinking.

The Youth Officer, Mr. Insar Gohar led Bible Study and talked about the leadership of Nehemiah. How Nehemiah motivated his people to build the wall and gates of the Jerusalem. Same like, we should also get up and build and develop our community with joining hands with each other.

Social & Spiritual Growth of the Youth

After the first level of the 'Leadership Training', now we are looking forward to organize the second level of the Training, meanwhile, the follow-up visits in different parishes will be continued.

The Risalpur Youth Group

Some Impressive Initiatives

The Youth Group of the St. Mary's Church, Risalpur is running good programmes and activities in their respective parish.



Group photo of Risalpur Youth Group with the Bishop

The Follow-up Programme: In March 2011, the youth group organized follow-up Seminars of the Leadership Training Programme held in March 2011, organized by Diocesan Youth Desk. Youth leaders taught the young members, how to make development projects/action plans.

Youth Seminar in Risalpur Parish: St. Mary's Church Youth Group, Risalpur organized a 'Youth Seminar' on 15 April, 2011, for the Moral and Spiritual uplift of the Youth.

A large number of young people from all other denominations also participated in this Seminar. Youth members from Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan and other parts of the province participated in the seminar.

The theme of the Seminar was "Present Situation and Temptations for the Youth", whereas, "....." (1-Peter 4:18) was selected as the theme verse.

Revd. Riaz Mubarik from Abbottabad was the keynote speaker. As a reference he used the Epistle of James, and explained the difference between 'Temptation' and 'Trial'.

Second session was led by Mr. Insar Gohar, the Diocesan Youth Officer. His session was about 'Prevention of Immorality among the young generation', and he used 1-Thessalonians 4:3-18, as a reference.

The third Session was led by Revd. Rafique Javed, the Priest in-charge, Risalpur Church, he talked about the preventive measures for 'Drug Addiction'.

Counseling Ministry: The Risalpur Youth Group has started visitations in various localities of the Christian residential areas. The youth leaders work among the youth, who involved in drugs, immorality and other social evils. They have started Counseling Ministry for this purpose, they also work in collaboration of the Operation Mobilization (OM) Team. The OM Team members helped in counseling, as a result many young people from Risalpur were invited to the OM Summer Camp at Murree and their life has changed, which is a good example.

Youth Resource Centre: The Risalpur Youth Group also established a Youth Resource Centre in the premises of the St. Mary's Church, Risalpur. They have started a 'Computer Centre' and also provide computer training to the youth. The Diocesan Youth Council members also donated a 'Computer' to this newly formed Resource Centre. The youth of Risalpur is benefiting from this Resource Centre by learning computer skills.



Junior Church Ministry: The Youth leaders in the Risalpur youth group also lead the Sunday Schools in their parish and teach the children.

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