



# *Diocese of Peshawar*

Church of Pakistan



## *The Youth Newsletter*

(October 2010)

### **An Ecumenical Approach towards Youth Empowerment**

**T**here is one body and one Spirit -- just as you were called to one hope when you were called --" (Ephesians 4:4).

#### **Unity in the Body of Christ**

Many youth activities are being held particularly in Peshawar, and in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province. The Youth Desk of Peshawar invited the youth leaders from various denominations/churches at the 'Diocesan Centre', to join hands for the glory of God and to spread the Kingdom of God among the young generation.

The youth leaders were invited to mark 2<sup>nd</sup> Birth Day celebration of the Youth Bible study & Counseling Class. This class is held on every Friday, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. About 20 – 25 youth members participate from various churches and receive the Biblical teachings, and sometimes spiritual guidance and counseling, if needed. The youth through this class the youth got motivated to establish a Youth Resource Centre.

This year, the Diocesan Youth Desk organized many activities to promote Ecumenical Movement, in which the youth of different churches actively participated.

The 'Youth Sports Camp' in Murree (Aug. 2010), and the 'Youth Empowerment Conference' in Peshawar (Sept. 2010) are the two main examples of 'Ecumenical Approach towards Youth Empowerment'. Both the events showed unity in the Body of Christ, when the youth from different denominations participated in these events and cooperated with each other.

The Ecumenical Approach is a dire need of present times, as the youth is facing many challenges, such as, the drugs, sexual immorality, and other trends of sinful nature. So, it is very important to join hands with each other to address these challenges and to bring the youth into the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Vision of the Diocesan Youth Desk**

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ". (Ephesians 4:11-14)*

## ***“Over View on the recent Youth Activities”***

### **Prayers Change the Situations**

**T**he Youth of Peshawar Diocese often organizes prayer meetings and has established a ‘Prayer Chain’. In this connection, a ‘Watch-night Prayer Meeting’ was held on 28 August 2010 at the newly formed ‘Youth Resource Centre, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The focus of this prayer-meeting was to pray for the youth and the church in Pakistan, for the uncertain situation of the country.



The Youth of Peshawar Diocese has also established a collaboration with the ‘Prayer Network of Pakistan’ (Intercessors Network of Pakistan) and playing its role in building a ‘Prayer Wall 24/7 Prayer Chain’, a 24 hours Prayer-Chain. The National Prayer Network is also intends to start a ‘40 Days Prayer & Fasting National Campaign’, from 1 January to 9 February 2011. The Diocesan youth will actively participate in this prayer movement.

Our youth also participated in the ‘Prayer Camp’, organized by the Intercessors Network of Pakistan, at Murree, from 19 to 26 September 2010. They also got motivated to start prayer movements in their respective areas.

**Health Awareness Seminar:** 18 Sep. 2010: The St. John’s Cathedral Youth Group

organized a ‘Health Awareness Seminar’ at Peshawar, as various contagious diseases are spreading rapidly due to the recent floods.

The Youth Group invited two young Christian lady-doctors, Dr. Khushbakhat H. Peters and Dr. Kiran for this purpose. They both gave briefings on the causes of the various diseases, and taught how to overcome this problem. They also talked about the preventive measures, diagnosis and treatment of the contagious diseases. A good number of people were invited from different churches of Peshawar. People from the flood affected areas were also invited to the seminar. They understood the message, and were equipped with the knowledge to overcome the problems by implementing the preventive measures.

**Seminar in Tarbella:** The Youth Group of Tarbella parish is one of the active groups of the Diocese. They have started different programmes in their parish to uplift the youth and the community.



The Tarbella Youth Group organized a ‘Seminar’ in their parish on 5 September 2010. Mr. Insar Gohar, the Diocesan Youth Officer was invited as a facilitator in this seminar. Theme of the seminar was ‘Affects of the Media on our young generation’. Mr. Insar Gohar talked about the negative effects of the media on youth, and how to overcome and how to use the modern technology for our own development, and glory of God. A similar kind of youth seminar was also held in Risalpur parish on 12 September 2010.

# Youth Sports Camp 2010

## Youth & Sports Together



The Youth Desk of Peshawar Diocese in partnership with Pakistan Sports Coalition organized a Youth Camp on 6 – 11 August 2010, at the Retreat & Renewal Centre, Murree. 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 the vision to strengthen and unite the body of Christ, and to reach the un-reached.
- Share the newest training techniques and content.
- Remain a laboratory of new thought and advanced training in the sports arena.
- Help leaders to prepare plans according to their context and implement it accordingly.

About 60 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 “Christian Leadership - a Servanthood Leadership”. He presented the Jesus’ model of Leadership by quoting (Mark 10:1-10). “Sports is an healthy activity to overcome various kinds of temptations and promotes positive attitudes.” He said.

The facilitators from Pakistan Sports Coalition Mr. Zahid and Mr. Imran led different sessions on Sports, and taught the youth “how to relate the Bible with Sports”, and how to promote

“Evangelism through Sports”. All the sessions were activity-based and the training course was much enjoyed by the Youth.

The participants were divided into six groups, different tasks and activities were assigned to them. Various sports activities were also organized, in which everyone took part actively.



In the concluding session, groups presented proposals about implementation of what they learnt at the Camp. Winners of the various Sports activities were also given prizes. During the Prayer Meeting, special prayers were offered for the flood victims. The youth also committed themselves to help the Diocesan Development & Relief Sector in ‘Relief Project’ for the flood victims.



In the end, the Course Completion Certificates were distributed among the participants. The closing ceremony was led by the Rev. S. P. Asghar, Secretary, Mission & Ministry, DoP.

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

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

## ***“Unleashing the Potential”***

### **Youth Empowerment Conference**



The Diocesan Youth Desk with the kind support and collaboration of IMPACT (International Mission for Poverty Alleviation and Community Transformation) organized a ‘Youth Empowerment Conference’ Peshawar on 10 – 11 September 2010, keeping in view the theme “Unleashing the Potential”, Empowering the Less Privileged.

This was a two-day conference, about 150 young people participated and were equipped with the knowledge of ‘Empowering the Youth’. It witnessed a great unity as the ‘Body of Christ’. The youth from all the denominations/churches and various para-church organizations were present in this conference, i.e. The Church of Pakistan, Roman Catholic Church, Assembly of God Church, Orthodox Church in Pakistan, Ealoheem Pentecostal Church, Full Gospel Assembly (FGA) Church, and students from PFES (Pakistan Fellowship of Evangelical Students), SCM (Students Christian Movement), CCC (Campus Crusade for Christ). The unity to cross all the bridges together was much visible for the overall development of the community.

It was also a part of an exchange programme between the youth of Karachi and Peshawar, as a team of young people from IMPACT organization came from Karachi to help in arrangements, and to participate in the conference.

The inauguration ceremony was led by Mr. Safdar Messey, the Diocesan Secretary, DoP, Dr. Mrs. Rabia Shaheen Peters, (Bishop’s wife, DoP), Pastor A. R. Hushmat, Chairman, Assembly of God Church, Mr.

Zeeshan James, Executive Director, IMPACT, and Mr. Insar Gohar, Youth Officer, DoP.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Session was led by Pastor A.R. Hushmat on ‘Christian Living’. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session was about “the role of youth in the Church”, was led by Rt. Revd. Ernest Jacob, Bishop of Orthodox Church in Pakistan. The session on “Fellowship with God” was led by Revd. Shahid Anwar from Karachi.



The second day’s 1<sup>st</sup> Session was led by Dr. Sarah Safdar, Dean, Social Work Deptt., University of Peshawar and the topic was “Importance of Education for Youth”. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session on “Time Management” was led by Revd. Sunil from Karachi. The 3<sup>rd</sup> session was led by Mr. Insar Gohar on “Sexual Immorality in our young generation”. The 4<sup>th</sup> Session was led by Miss Sarah Lawrence from Karachi, she talked about “Personality Development”.

The ‘Panel Discussion’ was held in the last Session. The participants were also given opportunity to put questions and share their opinion on different topics of the conference.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar led the Closing Session. He encouraged the youth to step forward and take responsibility as leaders, and to serve the Lord, His people, and to work hard to develop the Christian community in Pakistan.

He also thanked the joint efforts of the IMPACT, and of the Diocesan Youth Desk for organizing such an important conference.

He also encouraged and motivated the youth leaders to organize this kind of youth gatherings more often.

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