



Devastation by Flood  
at Tarnab Farm

## Diocesan Team visits Flood Victims



Bishop Humphrey praying for the flood victims

31.07.10: The Rt. Rev. Humphrey S. Peters paid a visit to the Tarnab Farm (Parish) where more than 40 Christian families have been badly affected by the deadly monsoon rain and floods. Although the roads and communication systems are not yet fully functional, but the Bishop and the senior management of the Peshawar Diocese, including Col. (R ) Kanwal Isaacs, Diocesan Treasurer and Mrs. Bimla Yousaf, Secretary, Development & Relief, somehow managed to reach the people to console them.



Damaged houses at Tarnab Farm

The flood victims were provided with food and non-food items. The team also conducted a survey of the area to assess the damages caused by the floods.

Still there are many areas of the province where Christian community is affected by the floods but at the moment it is impossible to reach there by any means. As soon as the roads are opened the Diocesan teams will get there for their rescue and relief, anyhow the Diocese is in contact with people trapped in the floods.

Bishop Humphrey Peters and the Diocesan team went to visit every single family and household, they distributed aid packages, and special prayers were offered for the flood victims. The Diocese assured the Christian community that they are with them in their difficult times and the Church will

never abandon them in the time of Crisis.



Col. Kanwal (middle) walking through the muddy streets

The Tarnab farm community welcomed the guests and expressed their happiness and satisfaction over the Diocesan visit.

## SoS Call from Peshawar Diocese, Church of Pakistan



People walking through the flood waters

The monsoon rains have caused havoc all over Pakistan, but the Khyber Pakhtunkwa province has been hit hard by the floods. Thousands of villages are under water and hundreds of people are either dead or missing. All road links within the Province have been cut down; relief workers are trying to reach through boats or on foot.

The Diocese of Peshawar has launched an emergency Relief and Rescue programme for more than 1300 Christian and Hindu families affected by the floods, including the other minorities and some Muslim church workers. A good number of Christian families have been rescued and accommodated at St. Mary's Church & School, Risalpur and also at Christ Church & School, Nowshera.

The Diocese is putting all its efforts to reach the unreached caught in the floods.

The affected families are being provided with food items.

**Any possible help will be appreciated.**

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## Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests



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

### *Please also pray for;*

1. Kindly remember the people affected by the deadly monsoon rains and floods and for the Diocesan Relief & Rescue efforts for the victims of this natural disaster.
2. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
3. We need your prayer support for those who are living in hostile areas of NWFP, especially the Pakistani Christians and their institutions.
4. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot. May God help the Diocese to work more effectively for the development of the Earthquake victims.

### *Special Prayer requests;*

1. 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.
2. Military operation against the Taliban in South Waziristan is at its full swing. Thousands of people have evacuated the area and are getting themselves registered as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in D.I. Khan and Bannu.

## Bishop's Visit to the Southern Deanery

Tank is a remote parish of Peshawar Diocese, situated in extreme south of the Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province, it is adjoined with the South Waziristan, which is now a days under the strong hold of Taliban, and operation against the militants is in progress.

In fact, Tank is situated to the north-west of the [Indus River](#) and close to the [Takht-i-Sulaiman](#) Range. Tank is hot and humid in summer. It's a minor yet thriving city at the west bank of the Indus River.

To the far western side of the city lies the [Federally Administered Tribal Areas](#) abbreviated to [FATA](#) making Tank the gateway to the *no-mans land* as the FATA is commonly perceived. The mainly [Pashtun](#) tribes that inhabit the area are fiercely independent.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, went on a three days visit to Tank parish on 17 – 19 July 2010, his visit was a source of inspiration and encouragement for the congregation of Tank. The Diocesan Treasurer Col. (R ) Kanwal Isaacs also accompanied the Bishop.



During his visit, the Bishop first went to the Christian Hospital, Tank, which is run under an independent Board of Directors, and is serving the tribal population of the area of Waziristan. The hospital is under the Pastoral care of the Diocese of Peshawar.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters was given a warm welcome on his first visit to Tank as the Bishop of Peshawar. Traditional head-wears were presented to the guests by the hospital staff. He visited the hospital and appreciated hard-work of the staff.

The Project Director Ms. Jennie and the Administrator of the Hospital Mr. Simon Nadeem briefed the Bishop about the facilities and services provided by the Hospital. The Bishop highly appreciated their efforts for serving so boldly in a highly 'tense and risky area'. On this occasion, the Bishop assured them of the Diocesan Support for their projects.

On Sunday, the Bishop was warmly welcomed by the congregation in the Tank Church. The parish committee presented the traditional turbans to the guests and garlanded them. The Holy Communion Service was conducted by the Bishop.

During his sermon he encouraged the people of Tank and emphasized not to be disheartened. He also talked about Christian ministry and our role as Christians to serve the humanity in the most difficult situations.

After the Sunday Service, the Sunday school's children presented skits and songs; their performance was much appreciated by the audience. In a separate meeting the youth discussed their issues with the Bishop and were encouraged by him. The Parish committee also held a meeting with the Bishop.

On his way back, the Bishop also visited the Bannu Parish, the Church, Pennell High School and Pennell Hospital. The Bishop held separate meetings with the staff and administration of the institutions in Bannu.

It is worth mentioning that the Bishop held a special meeting with the Army Station Commander of Bannu. In this meeting the security situation of Bannu, especially the protection of the Christian community and security of their Churches and institutions was discussed.

The station commander assured Army's support and cooperation towards the Christian community, the Bishop appreciated the services of the Army, regarding security of the Christians and their property.





(The National Scenario)

**Two Christian brothers killed in the Court of Law***Local mosque launches protests against Christians*

Muslim community protesting against Christians

Waris Pura, a sub-urban area of Faisalabad (Punjab) is a former Christian ghetto, population about 100,000. A large number of Christians are fleeing the area for the fear of anti-Christian violence, as the local Mosque has launched protest action against Christians, as two Christian brothers, Sajjid and Rashid were accused of blasphemy and were arrested on July 1, 2010 for allegedly writing insulting words in a booklet against Prophet Muhammad (PBHU). Both brothers rejected the accusation and said that they were innocent.

Pamphlets against Christians were distributed calling for mass action against Christians. During the procession, the angry mob stoned a Catholic Church at Faisalabad, and the situation is getting more tensed and dangerous by every passing moment.

Both the brothers had to face 'Death Sentence' according to the blasphemy law in Pakistan. Report said that Police had produced accused Rashid and Sajjid in a court of law to obtain their remand and were about to leave the place when they were attacked by a group of gunmen. As a result both the brothers got killed, and the investigators wing inspector was injured and taken to the hospital.

Later, exchange of fire was also reported between the two groups in the area. Now, there is a ban on any sort of rallies and demonstrations to control the escalating tensions between the Christians and Muslims.

Now, the Christian community is protesting against this incident, but everybody knows that after a lot of hue and cry, this matter will also be swept under the carpet, buried forever. The persecution of Christians and other

minorities will continue, unless, the laws which are discriminatory in nature are scraped from the constitution of Pakistan. The situation in Warispura, Faisalabad is very tense and the Christians are in a great fear. Kindly pray!

The Bishop of Peshawar and the Diocese condemn this act and request all the partners to pray for this whole situation and protection of the Christians of Pakistan, especially of Faisalabad.

**Doctor rapes Christian Nurse***Sexual assault and violence adds greatly to minorities vulnerability*

The rape victim (nurse) in critical condition

A third-year Christian nursing student in the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), Karachi was found unconscious with a head injury near Doctors' Backyard Mess after a Medico-Legal Officer (MLO), Dr Jabbar Memon allegedly raped her, the media reported on Wednesday. Dr Jabbar was also found with a fractured femur (hip bone) just besides the girl.

The media further reported that the initial reports have confirmed that the girl was raped by the MLO. Muslim doctor threw her from fourth floor of Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center Karachi after allegedly raping her.

The visitors of patient saw a girl in nursing uniform being thrown from fourth floor by a person in 'white coat' of doctors and called hospital security.

The victim is a Christian Nurse, aged 23, belongs to a humble family background. Her condition is critical. It has been pressurized to drop the charges against the accused.

In Pakistan, under reported cases of rape and torture of religious minority women and girls presents an ever present human rights crisis. A larger pattern of violence directed not only at Christian women, but at other religious minorities women throughout the country. Pakistan's blasphemy laws are so vaguely formulated that they encourage, and in fact invite, the persecution of religious minorities.

Religious minorities need more than just fair treatment under the law, they also require visible cooperation from the police and authorities, to halt this sort of further incidences especially related to religious discrimination, punitive action should be exemplary.

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**The Diocesan team participated at the Population Welfare Day**

Population Welfare Day was celebrated all over the world on 11 July. Different seminars, rallies, conferences etc. were held all over the world with the aim to develop awareness among the people, so that they may cooperate to control the population growth rate.

In this connection, a grand conference was held in Islamabad on 11 July 2010, which was organized by Population Welfare Ministry, Govt. of Pakistan. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani was the honourable chief guest on this occasion. Members of the parliament, civil society, media and other high dignities were also invited; a special invitation was also given to the minority communities.

A delegation of 15 people, including Col. (R) Kanwal Isaacs (Finance Secretary) and Revd. S.P. Asghar (Secretary, Mission & Ministry) were invited from the Diocese of Peshawar, and was the largest group among the minority communities in the conference.

The conference emphasized on awareness campaigns for the masses on this issue, as population is growing day by day and Pakistan has become the 6<sup>th</sup> largest country in terms of population. The present growth rate, in population is causing so many problems in this under-developed country, such as poverty, unemployment, and scarcity of resources. Besides, Pakistan is one of the six countries of the world with the highest maternal mortality rate.

Different programmes and strategies were planned and presented in the conference to control the birth rate in the Country. A special documentary film was also shown, which highlighted major issues/problems due to rapid increase in population.

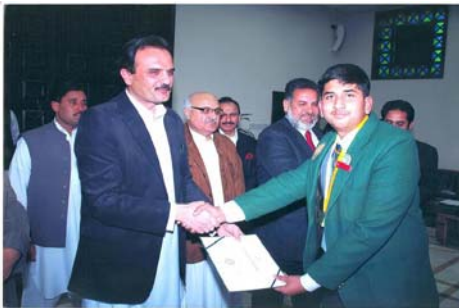
(Education Sector)  
**Distinction**

Edwardes College School is one of the most popular 'School Systems' of the Province.



Governor (middle) with staff & students

Recently, the 'Directorate of Science & Technology' Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province organized a competition involving all the schools of the Province. This Competition was about 'Exhibition on Computer Projects', which was won by Edwardes College School (Main Campus), Peshawar's two students, i.e. Janan Khan and Syed Hassan Zulfiqar obtaining 1<sup>st</sup> position in District and at Provincial level, respectively.



The Chief Minister presenting awards

In a graceful ceremony at Khyber Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar, the Governor and the Chief Minister of the Province distributed the trophies to the winners.



The Governor presenting awards

Peshawar Diocese congratulates the winners and their teachers on this remarkable achievement.

**Training & Resource Centre for the Youth**



Computer training class in progress

A Training and Resource Centre for the Youth has been established at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar.

Today's Youth is overwhelmed by the modern technology, i.e. mobile phone, internet (computer), cable channels (TV) etc. One cannot deny the beneficial factor of this technology, and especially for the youth, but there is a flipside as well, as the misuse of technology is spoiling the youth world over.

Our struggle as Youth Workers (Ministers) is to save the youth and take initiative to bar against various evil activities generated through the use of modern technology and bring them closer to the Lord Jesus, and to serve Him and His people.

The youth desk of the Peshawar Diocese has taken initiatives to divert the youth's undesirable use of technology, into something more rewarding and has started an SMS & Email Ministry. Biblical messages are being sent out to the young people, and instead of sending rubbish messages to each other they now exchange the Word of God.



Youth group meeting in progress

The Youth Groups in their parishes are also working hard to bring down the culture of drugs, sexual immorality and other trends which lead to destruction. Especially, the Youth Groups of Thall, Tarbella and Risalpur parishes are very active for this cause.

**Youth Resource Centre**

Another remarkable initiative being taken is to establish a Youth Resource Centre at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The purpose is to provide opportunity to the youth to indulge in healthy activities, so that they may remain safe and protected from drugs and other evil activities, and to bring them more closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

The Resource Centre initially provides Computers training programmes, indoor games, a place for holding discussions, sharing their opinion & ideas and Bible studies, and a small library.



Group discussion of the trainees

In June, 2010, The Youth Desk, with the collaboration of IEARN (International Education and Resource Network, Pakistan) organized an Online Computer Course about Internet Programmes, for the Christian youth of Peshawar. A class of 10 students was equipped with the latest knowledge of Internet Programming. At the end of the course, the students were awarded Certificates by the IEARN Head Office, Karachi, Pakistan.



The successful candidates of the training program

"Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 11:9,10)  
***"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,...."***



## (Interfaith Column)

## Different Faiths participate in the Essay Writing Competition



Rev. S.P. Asghar delivering speech

July 10, 2010: The Pakistan Council of World Religions (Faith Friends) organized a Function for distribution of prizes among the winners of the Essay Writing on 'Interfaith Harmony'. Qari Roohullah (Coordinator, Faith Friends), Dr. Qibla Ayaz (Muslim Community Leader), Mr. Rev. Joseph John (Christian Community), Mr. Haroon Sarbdiyal (Hindu) and Charan Jeet Singh (Sikh) were present in this special function along with their other community members. A special representative of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Mr. Rizwan also attended the function. The Winners of the Essay Writing Competition attended the function along with their family members.

The Diocesan delegation was led by Rev. Joseph John (In-charge Priest of Cathedral), along with Rev. S.P. Asghar, Rev. Naeem Patrick, Mr. Asher Dean and Mr. Insar Gohar.

This 'Competition' was held in the months of May-June 2010, and about 25 students of various religions and different universities of Khyber Pakhtunkwa province were among the competitors.

The programme started with the recitation of Holy Books, and Qari Roohullah welcomed the participants. Dr. Qibla Ayaz while briefing the aims and objectives of the Essay Writing Competition said, "the purpose of this competition was to develop awareness among our young students about 'Inter-Faith Harmony', friendship and brotherly love", he further added that students should study and understand other religions, as none of the religions of the world teaches to fight, but to tolerate and respect other's beliefs and faith.

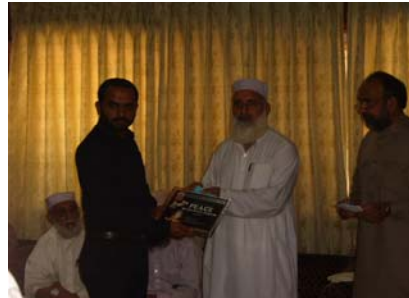
The Prize distribution ceremony was led by Qari Roohulla and Rev. Joseph John, and the winners were;

1<sup>st</sup> Position : Ms. Sumia Naseem (from Mass Communication Deptt., Gomal University, D.I Khan)

2<sup>nd</sup> Position : Ms. Sabrina Elvin (from Khyber Medical College, Peshawar)

3<sup>rd</sup> Position : Mr. Nadeem Haider (from Mass Communication Deptt., Gomal University, D.I Khan)

Consolation Prize: Ms. Amberian (from Psychology Deptt., Peshawar University)



Qari Roohullah presenting awards

The winners after receiving prizes expressed their views and said that due to this competition, they studied other religions and understood that all the religions teach 'Peace and brotherhood'.

The programme ended with prayer and a fellowship lunch.



Qari Roohullah presenting awards

**The Diocese of Peshawar congratulates all the winners and appreciates their efforts in writing Essays on this important subject, our special congratulations and sincere appreciations to Ms. Sabrina Elvin (2<sup>nd</sup> Position holder), who belongs to the Christian Community.**



## 'National Inter-Faith Council to be formed'



Bishop Humphrey with conference participants

July 12, 2010; In a high level meeting at Islamabad, it was decided to form a 'National Interfaith Council' to promote brotherhood, harmony and co-existence among various faiths.

More than 50 Ulema, Scholars, religious leaders and intellectuals from various schools of thought attended the Conference organized by the Ministry of Minority affairs. Representatives from the Church of Pakistan were The Rt. Rev. Alexander John Malik (Bishop of Lahore) and The Rt. Rev. Humphrey S. Peters (Bishop of Peshawar).

The session unanimously decided to launch a Country-wide Campaign to promote interfaith harmony and ensure peaceful co-existence.

The declaration said, no religion of the world allows taking lives of innocent people by carrying out subversive activities, so we all condemn the acts of extremism and terrorism, declaring them forbidden.

Although the conference was about interfaith harmony but the focus was more on terrorism & Intra-faith harmony, thus declaring the suicide attacks religiously forbidden. Nevertheless, it was decided that a hotline would also be setup in the Ministry to listen to the problems of minorities, and that the Prime Minister Gilani would inaugurate the hotline. Besides the hotline formation, committees would be established in all Districts to promote Interfaith, and intra-faith harmony.

In this conference, The Rt. Rev. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar, in his interview with TV Channels appreciated the idea of 'National Interfaith Council', "We need to work on legislative issues as well, especially scraping the laws which are discriminatory in nature, as some elements in the majority exploit those clauses of the constitution", he said. The Bishops statement turned out to be the 'highlight' of the news that evening.



**Pictorial Report**

A view of broken roads &amp; bridges



People migrating to safer places



Chaos on muddy &amp; broken roads



The Bishop inspecting damaged houses

**Bishop visits the Flood Victims at Charssadda**

August 2, 2010: Now-a-days, traveling to Charsadda is not safe, as the roads are flooded thus dangerous to travel. The Bishop and the Diocesan Development & Relief workers risked their life and reached there, to help the Christian community trapped in floods. They visited every home and held special prayers for the flood victims. It is worth mentioning that special prayers were offered in the middle of Charsadda Bazar, many Muslims also participated in it.



Registration by Dio. Relief Staff



A view of Charssadda main bazar



Visit of the damaged houses



Prayer Meeting held on a roof top



Home visitations of the Diocesan Team



Bishop &amp; his team visiting houses



The Bishop consoling the flood victim