



# THE FRONTIER NEWS

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Diocese of Peshawar – Church of Pakistan



Participants of the Counseling programme

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## “Fight-out the Social Stigmas”

The Diocese of Peshawar in collaboration with the World Relief launched a Project concerning “Community Directed Rehabilitation of Special Children”. This programme is implemented through Diocesan Mental Health Centre,(MHC) Peshawar.

The **project aims** to improve the **quality** of life for **disabled children** and their **families** in the **province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar, Pakistan**, irrespective of faith, creed and color. The project strives to:

- i. Build the capacity of parents of disabled children to care for their children at homes, and at a basic community level.
- ii. Capacity building of health professionals
- iii. Creating structures for parents to connect, communicate, and advocate for their children
- iv. Provide rehabilitative training and equipment for caregivers and medical professionals.
- v. Create awareness within the community on issues of **disability**.

Most of the services for the Special Children around the world are basically child oriented. But Mental Health Centre through this project cares for the parents as

well. In this regard counseling sessions are specifically designed to console the parents and to encourage them to speak about their mental stress and how they cope with it.

Recently, a group counseling session was arranged at MHC, Peshawar. Mrs. Promilla Isaac and Mr. Oliver Caleb were the resource persons. Mr. Oliver Caleb welcomed the parents and said that day to day management of a handicapped child at home is not an easy task. Parents go through lots of family stress, including social, economical and psychological problems and anxiety which leads to distress. Thus, parents were encouraged to speak openly and share their spiritual and psychological problems.

This session was dominated by female parents. Lots of mothers mentioned that in beginning it was difficult for them to accept the reality of having a disabled child, once they started accepting the child, rest of the problems started disappearing. Moreover, they mentioned that their social life and psychological wellbeing is also affected, which has started improving ever since they started attending the counseling sessions.

Mothers also mentioned issues like family relations, guilt feelings and social stigma attached to the disabled persons.



Usually when parents are busy in counseling sessions their accompanying special children are involved in various activities by the staff and volunteers



## **Bravo Junior Church!** **Another New Foundation**

## **Special Children Fun Activity**



Group photo of the newly formed Sunday School



Special children at Bagh-e-Naran

It was a nice sunny day; children were picked from their homes in two school vans. Whereas a few came with their parents. The school vans and a hired bus took the children and staff to “Bagh-e-Naran”, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

On arrival, the management of the venue insisted on paying money to them as they charge visitors in routine. When Principal of the school explained them that they are all special children and their staff, they let us a free entry.

At the park the children played cricket, the ball games and a few enjoyed playing with building blocks in the shade. Children also enjoyed zoo visit at the park and waved at the birds and animals.

Later, special lunch boxes from McDonald’s arrived as a special treat. The lunch boxes also contained ‘toys packs’ which they loved to play with, and later took the toys to their homes.

In the late afternoon it was decided to go back to the pavilion, as it was getting a little hot. All the children enjoyed their day-out and their parents were grateful for providing such a wonderful opportunity for their special children which is normally an unusual sights in the society.



Service in Progress



Children in images

essential, rather a sacred duty to lay a strong Christian faith foundation for the children who are our future. Thus, their character building needs to be nourished with Biblical teachings.

Three female members of the parish of Yousaf Abad volunteered themselves to be the Sunday School Teachers. All the children enjoyed their Sunday School Service and were very happy about the new development, and so were their parents.

The Revd. Alexander Mehboob informed the *Frontier News Correspondent* that their next step will be to form and establish a Youth Group for the Yousaf Abad Parish, Peshawar.



A couple of months ago around 30-35 families from Pentecostal denomination joined Diocese of Peshawar due to excellent conduct of the Revd. Alexander Mehboob who often used to visit the area.

Recently, Mrs. Naveeda Razaq, Coordinator Junior Church Desk accompanied the Revd. Alexander Mehboob and conducted a special prayer service.

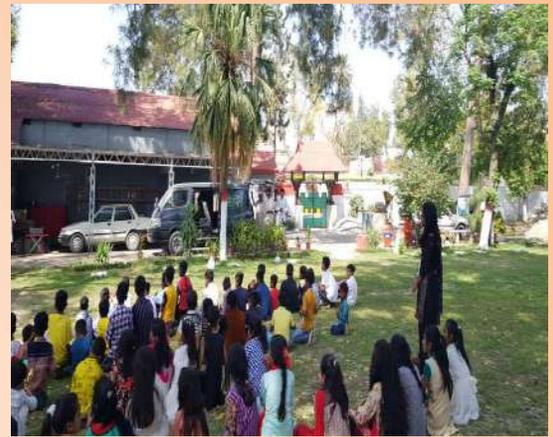
At this occasion, they jointly set the foundation of the Junior Church, and all the children present joined their new Sunday School. Mrs. Naveeda Razaq explained aims and objectives of the Sunday School and said that this is an

## A massive HIV/AIDS Awareness



HIV/AIDS campaign at Nowshera

## “Sports”... A symbol of morale building



The Bishop's Core Group keeps on working on spiritual growth and physical wellbeing of the Christian Youth in the Province. They often organize seminars for their education and training in faith matters. Whereas, sports tournaments are organized for their physical fitness, which promotes discipline and Sportsman Spirit.

Recently, Mr. Bakht Buland H. Peters, Event Coordinator, Diocese of Peshawar along with the Revd. Shahid Younis, Priest Incharge, St. Augustine Church, Kohat organized 'The Kids Games' at Kohat. Around 80 children along with their parent and guardians actively participated in the event.

It is pertinent to mention that in this particular event children from Balmike faith of Hindu community were also among the participants. Objective of the event was to equip the children with the Word of God through Sports.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan was the Chief Guest at this occasion. In his short speech he appreciated organizers of the event, and promised the children that the Bishop's Core Group will organize more KIDS Games in all the regions of the Diocese of Peshawar.



Campaign at Pabbi



The Revd. Shajeel presenting shield to Mrs. Kanwal

Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan, in collaboration with Church of Scotland and Community Empowerment, National AIDS Programme, Government of Pakistan, has launched a two years massive HIV/AIDS Awareness programme for the Christian Communities living in Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Risalpur, Swat, Bannu and DIK. The first year's targeted areas are mentioned above.

However, when the Nowshera and Pabbi Christian community heard about the programme they insisted on having a seminar in their parishes on priority basis. It is pertinent to mention that the organizers had to drop Swat for a short while, instead they included Pabbi in their programme as Nowshera

and Pabbi Parishes are next door neighbors. Moreover, it was easier to cover the large area and population turn by turn.

We feel happy to mention that Mrs. Kanwal Anjum, who used to be a trainee of the Diocesan Ultrasound Training Course, got a Job in Government set-up. During this programme she was sent by the Government to conduct the female session as nowadays she is Charge Nurse, Government Hospital Pabbi. She conducted her session with commitment and zeal. The participants listened to her with interest and concentration. Their attitude change was obvious. Thus, the seminar was a huge success!

## Authenticity and Significance of the Bible Seminar at Tank Parish



Seminar in Progress



Deacon Khusbakht in his session

## Diocese for the Brilliant Students (CMS Scholarship)



Honorable Bishop presenting award to Ali Habib

Edwardes College, Peshawar is one of the historical and prestigious Educational Institution of the Diocese of Peshawar. Its hallmark is that the institution promotes merit and never compromises anything less than the best. Therefore, most of the people holding the top slots in the Government and Private Sector are from Edwardes College, Peshawar and call themselves 'The proud Edwardians'.

Recently, Mr. Ali Habib a student of the Edwardes College, Peshawar received Church Mission Society, CMS-UK award of PKR. 100,000/- for securing top position in BS Computer Science external examinations throughout University of Peshawar. This scholarship has been initiated to remember the services of CMS(UK) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan while presenting the award to Mr. Ali Habib said that hard work and sincerity always pays. Therefore, all students need to concentrate on their studies for brighter future of the nation. He also congratulated the Principal, and staff of the college for their hardwork and for maintaining the high standards of the Edwardes College, Peshawar.

The Diocesan Open Theological Seminary (OTS) is actively working in all the Parishes of the Diocese of Peshawar.

Over the years it has trained and educated hundreds of people all over the Province in Christian Theology. There are many who want to understand Word of the Lord but they don't want to become Priests and they prefer to stay as a layman and continue with their own professions. Most of the teachers of the OTS are layman but are closely

connected with the ordained priests of the Diocese.

Recently, an OTS seminar was organized at Tank Parish, attended by a large number of people who felt spiritually nourished through the seminar. The keynote speaker was Mr. Inderyas Ilyas and the Deacon Khusbakht John. The participants present at the occasion requested the organizers to hold such seminars more frequently in different areas as they love to hear the Word of God.

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