

27 September 2013

The Right Reverend Humphrey S Peters  
Bishop of Peshawar

Dear Humphrey

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Even though we in New Zealand are many miles away from Pakistan, we have watched with deep sadness some of the events that have happened in your country in recent days.

We are deeply saddened by the news of the bomb attack on your All Saints Church which has claimed so many lives: men, women and children who had gathered for worship and to sing the praise of God. We have heard your call for the Christian community around the world to pray for the affected families. I assure you of the prayers and support of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected. As with the Kenyan shopping mall massacre, we realise that though the perpetrators use religion as a reason for their destructive actions against humanity, it is at heart all about people who are seeking to do wrong. We can only pray that our Lord will change the hearts of people who carry out these suicide attacks 'to love their neighbour even more than they love themselves'.

We pray for peace in your country in the days ahead. We join the cry of prayer, "God of Life – Lead us to Justice and Peace" that is rising from the Christian Community around the world as we prepare for the forthcoming Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, Korea. May God bless Pakistan with that fervent prayer; may God bring life out of death in your country and in your church.

Our television screens have also shown us the destruction and sadness following the 7.7 earthquake in Awaran, Baluchistan, South West Pakistan. New Zealand is a country that also experiences severe earthquakes. We identify with your pain and join you in prayer for the families of the many victims. We know that the pain and suffering following an earthquake goes on for many years after the event. May God's grace and love sustain you all in this time of grief and loss.

Yours sincerely



Ray Coster  
*Moderator*