

# peacemail

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 9

POSTAGE PAID  
OFF PEAK  
AUSTRALIA

**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities



**A**ct for Peace project partners, Church World Service, Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) have struggled to meet the immense needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) from the war with Taliban insurgents. The Pakistani government has tried to convince about three million people that it is safe to return home. Some have done so, only to be faced with problems of homes destroyed and acute food shortages. Others have fled to camps when war has moved into their region. According to the UN and other agencies, the vast majority of IDPs remain in camps or with host families. Living conditions are very poor, and it is common that about 25 people share a four-room house with one toilet.

Many mothers fled the conflict areas alone with their children. Obtaining relief items and other services has been difficult as they are not accompanied by their husbands and are culturally unaccustomed to leaving their homes. Being on their own in camps or host communities proves a challenging task for survival. Severe flooding in some areas in August last year exacerbated problems where homes, infrastructure, crops and livestock were lost. Education has been disrupted as many IDPs are temporarily housed in schools. Only one third of eligible students have recommenced schooling.

**\$60** can provide 15 mosquito nets for displaced Pakistani families

**\$150** can provide blankets for a family

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

*"The Christmas Bowl People!"*



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**THANK YOU Partners** for your commitment to Act for Peace through your regular gifts. Thank you for your generosity, especially those who have chosen to increase the amount of their giving. Together, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict and extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Jordan on **1800 025 101** or email [hgraham@ncca.org.au](mailto:hgraham@ncca.org.au). Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

If you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to join this special group of committed givers, or would just like to help this project, your call or e-mail will be welcomed! All gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

## Flight from the War against the Taliban in Pakistan

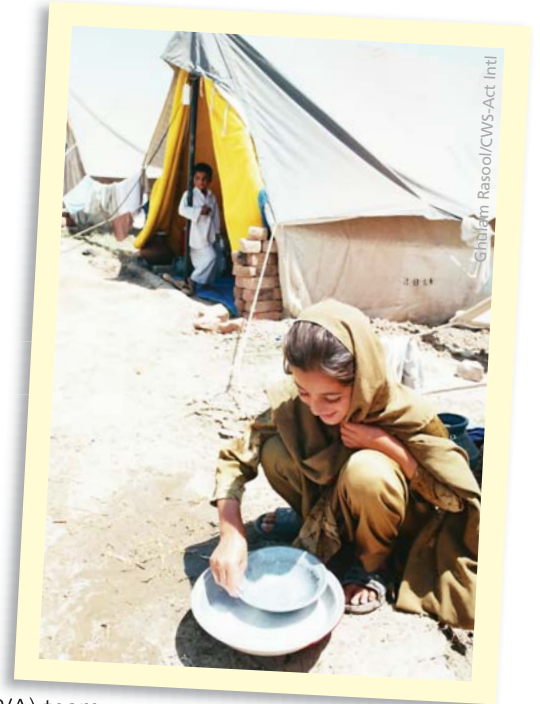
*Dear Act for Peace Partner,*

My name is Nazia Bibi. Since my birth, I have lived in Swat Valley. Due to the frightening situation because of the Taliban and the war, I had to run with my two younger children to Mardan two weeks ago. When the shelling started, my husband was killed in front of my eyes. Two of my elder sons were out of our home; I did not know what to do except to run with the younger children.

While running away I injured both legs, but I knew that if I did not try to run, even after that painful accident, that I would meet the same fate as my husband.

Allah knows how I got the courage to leave my dead husband and two children behind. I pray that some of the remaining people in the valley performed his burial ceremony.

It took us four days to finally reach Mardan. Once we finally stopped running, I became numb to all that was happening around me. So much suffering and unshed tears for my husband and elder sons lie deep somewhere inside my heart.



Ghulam Rasool/CWS-Act Intl

We finally received proper food when the Church World Service, Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) team distributed it. I was surprised that their distribution process also provides relief items for women. At other distribution points, there are scuffles and men don't let women get near any of the food.

At least for now, I won't have to worry that my children will go hungry, but I don't want to go to the hospital and leave my children unattended. What if someone kidnaps them? Therefore, I am bearing the leg injuries and praying that the army will win the war against the Taliban, and we can go back and try looking for my missing sons.

Although Saleem Dominic from CWS-P/A tells me that there is no danger in this camp and I should go see a doctor, I still worry. Would you feel comfortable leaving your young children behind? I can't be selfish right now; my children's safety is most important to me.

All we people of Swat want is peace, restoration of stability in our land, and all the terrorists, especially the Taliban to be removed so once more we can lead our lives with dignity in our own homeland. The form of Islam that the Taliban tried to teach us is not right, and we feared for our lives for a long time. It has to end now.



Ghulam Rasool/CWS-Act Intl

Women receiving CWS-PIA food parcels.

### Partner's Prayer Points:

**People displaced by conflict and those affected by flooding, drought, cyclones and earthquakes in Pakistan.**

**Government stability and the ability of different groups to work with one another.**

*Nazia*