



From the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Norman Hamilton

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### **Moderator's Appeal for Flood Victims in Pakistan**

Dear Colleague,

The situation in Pakistan caused by phenomenal monsoon rainfall has become increasingly worse as the resulting flood waters have worked their way down the country. Lives and livelihoods have been swept away. Families and communities have lost everything. They have been left marooned in the midst of the swirling waters, without the necessities of life and prey to disease.

Mr. Sawan Khan captures something of the experience of ordinary people when he shares, "My wheat and cotton crops have been washed away, my house has collapsed, and everything I ever owned has been taken by the flood."

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 14 million people had been affected by the floods. That number is rising. Media sources suggest that the impact of this disaster is as bad as that of the Asia tsunami, plus the Kashmir and Haiti earthquakes.

In light of this and out of my conviction that the God we worship in Jesus Christ has a heart of compassion for all people, I am writing to ask your support for a special Moderator's Appeal. Over the next month please give your congregation the opportunity to play their part in reaching out in compassion and solidarity to women, men and children who are in desperate need.

Your contributions will primarily be channelled through our partners in Tearfund and Christian Aid. Both agencies have been working in Pakistan for a long time (Christian Aid since 1954) and are already providing emergency food and medical assistance through their well-established networks.

A portion of your contributions will also be donated to the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, a partner of PCI through the Board of Mission Overseas. This symbolises our standing alongside our suffering sisters and brothers in a time of particular need.

Please send your donations to the Financial Secretary in Church House. Individuals should give to their congregations under Gift Aid and congregational treasurers, having worked out the Gift Aid, should send the total amount, cheques payable to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and marked "Moderator's Appeal for Pakistan."

Our God is the One who calls order from chaos, and life from death in the resurrection of Jesus. Chaos has come upon the ordinary people of Pakistan in a terrible way. There is a pressing and poignant need for order and life. That is what this Appeal will help bring about. To this end, we have sent today a preliminary £50,000 to Tearfund, Christian Aid and the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan as a token of our good faith. I ask you to give generously, as you did to the Haiti Appeal earlier this year and as you also did for the World Development Appeal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Hamilton".

NORMAN HAMILTON

