

Congratulations! To Our Bishop



Souvik Das: The Church of North India organised its XVI General Synod at St. Thomas School premises in New Delhi from 30th September to 3rd October, 2017. 12 of us represented the Diocese of Durgapur at the Synod. The assembly was centred on the theme of "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few" (Luke 10:2).

The Synod

meetings started everyday with a prayer session, Bible study and group discussions. The XVI General Synod was historically a significant milestone for the Church of North India. For the first time, the lay members of the churches participated and voiced their opinions which were taken into account and consideration at the meetings. Every diocese

and Committee read their reports.

This General Synod has a special significance for the Diocese of Durgapur. Our beloved Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta, was elected as the Deputy Moderator for the Church of North India. It was feeling of great joy for us as we celebrated the win of our Bishop. Every one has seen the work he has

done in order to turn around the failing diocese at Durgapur. It was his work ethic and dedication that made him a favourite at the elections that were held for the post. As witnesses of this immensely important moment in the history of the Diocese of Durgapur, we were awed and very grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to be present there to

celebrate this momentous victory of our Bishop.

We invoke the Lord's blessings on our newly elected Moderator, The Most Rev. P.C. Singh, Deputy Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta, General Secretary, Mr. Alwan Masih and Treasurer Mr. Jayant Agarwal and we wish them luck as they embark upon another journey of leadership. ■

AWAZ KARO ...



Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu: I have been to 69 different countries before but never to India. It was very historic for me to visit India as a 70th country in the year that India has been celebrating its 70th independence anniversary.

I visited in my capacity as a new Programs Coordinator for South East Asia and Southern Africa at the United Church of Canada General Council office based in Toronto,

Canada. My visit was underpinned by an overarching objective of a deeper orientation to the India based UCC partners. I was in the country to learn how our partners carry out their missions and the context in which they live and carry out their work. I was in the country to listen good news stories as well as to deepen my understanding of the challenges or difficulties that our partners face.

I left Toronto on Monday September 18th just after 22:00 at night Canadian time and 14 hours and 57 minutes later I landed in New Delhi. I first visited the south. I spent quality time with the Human Rights and Advocacy Foundation. I

also attended the 70th anniversary celebration of the Church of South India. The experiences with those two organizations are a story for another day.

For the purpose of this article, let me focus my short write up on my visit to the Diocese of Durgapur. I should admit that I did not do my thorough assignment prior to going to India in terms of studying distances. I was therefore pleasantly surprised that after landing in Kolkata I had to be driven for about two and half hours before reaching the diocesan head office and guest house.

This diocesan compound

has several facilities which include the Bishop's office and residence, the Cathedral, an eye hospital, a boarding facility for a child development center and a school. The center is giving hope and chance at life to vulnerable poor children from tribal communities and other disadvantaged communities. In the words of one boy, 'I am so happy to be here. They look after us so well and I am glad to go to school and participate in all the extra-curricular activities. My home village is a four days' journey by train'.

After a night's rest at the guest house I was accompanied by Raja

Moses the Project Coordinator for the diocese and the lead person for the Anti Human Trafficking Project, Ankita the diocesan communication secretary and our faithful driver Tarun.

Our drive was long but very exciting for me. I had an opportunity to observe so many things on the way. This included the rice paddies all the way, the very active and vibrant community or village market places and roadside businesses where people are trying to eke out a living. I saw a very interesting modes of transport for many rural people and their merchandise. These were mostly tricycles made using a water

Editorial

#Me Too

- Ankita Bhattacharjee

We walk differently in market places. We stand differently in the buses with our bags as the armour. Most of us try to avoid the front seat of the auto or the middle seat in the back. There is a reason. We aren't just throwing tantrums, you know. Even at homes girls are not safe. If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote "Me too" as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem.

In the wake of allegations against Harvey Weinstein (the man behind famous Hollywood production company Miramax) several women have come forward with stories of their survival and daily struggles.

A popular yoga instructor on Instagram, typed out the several instances of harassment she and her friends suffered just because of their gender. She says how she had pushed all of it to the back of her mind because it is an everyday occurrence, so mundane that "it wasn't even worth remembering". Many of us face such instances of harassment and we have learned to adapt to these situations, so that it doesn't even seem bizarre and evil to us anymore. I don't know any woman who hasn't faced harassment.

I had a sheltered upbringing, in boardings, and even I can not claim to not have faced this. I walk around with a knife, a taser and a mace in my bag, because I never feel safe. I have had to take up self-defense classes because it is not safe for me to walk around after dark, after all I am a woman and it's my fault if I am out of my house after dark! I have had to learn to use my hands and my bags as shields in front of me; I have had to learn to make myself small in certain situations in order to avoid attention and I still say I am more sheltered than a lot of my friends.

Harvey Weinstein and people like him are what is wrong with our society; Weinstein might be one

among a million other people who feel they are entitled to another human being's body. My FaceBook wall may have been covered with the "me too" hashtag, but at the end of the day we all know these are accounts of only a handful of women (and men) who have dared speak up. There are several numerous people out there who do not have access to social media, or even to another person to confide in. These are children who are preyed upon by paedophiles and women who are abused at home among others. In India, marital rape is not even recognised by law! There are so many people out there who cannot open their FaceBook or Instagram and type out a simple "me too" for fear of retribution from their abusers.

The Harvey Weinstein scandal should make us all realise that abusers hide amongst us and that it is high time we all came together as a society to protect the dignity of one another and especially the downtrodden. It is time we came forward and stood together, and lent a sense of solidarity to our friends and neighbours so that every one knows that they are not alone.

To conclude, I would like to quote Rev. Ray Schellinger, who is a dear friend and works with trafficked women: The problem is...everything we have done to create a culture of rape, objectification and violence against women. We need to dismantle it.

I hate the idea that someone would be afraid of me because I am a man. I hate even more the probability that real things I have said, things I have done might have made you doubt me. I hate that my cowardice has kept me from stopping and vigorously challenging every tasteless joke, every sexist comment, every instance in which a woman was objectified while I stood and said nothing. No more." ■

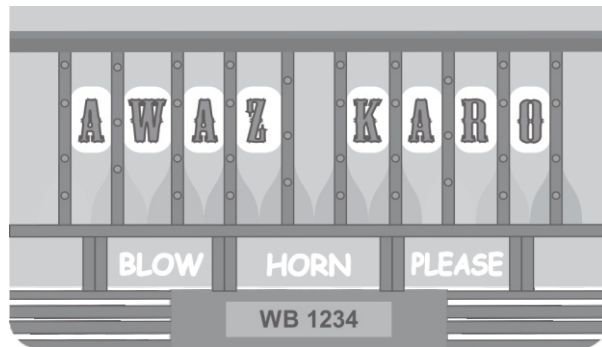
pump engine. Oh my! That is ingenuity and creativity at its best. The roads were very noisy and it seems expected to be like that.

So many trucks going back and forth. The notices at the back of the trucks seem to invite for noise. Written very boldly, clearly and in many cases with bright colors saying 'awazkaro, awaz do, horn do, sound do, please blow horn, hello please blow horn please, check the dippers blow horn, some were even begging, please please blow horn please.etc and quite obviously every driver including our own Thurun was busy blowing the horn upon overtaking the tricycles or trucks or other road users.

This is the only country I have been to where animals and particularly goats, and cows and it seems dogs too have learnt the trick, have their rights and so they move at their pace and are not easily deterred by the awazkaro notices and sounds. Sometimes they even take their time and seat right in the middle of a busy highway or village road. The drivers too are extremely cautious and very alert.

But I am digressing though not seriously so because I needed to put a context to the noises I became accustomed to during my entire stay in India. I am here to share my impressions of the visit to the safe house and how I connect the awazkaro noises to that safe house.

I felt deeply humbled by the welcome gesture. The young girls washed my feet and garlanded me with flowers. That was a very rare gesture. I have never been welcome like that anywhere in the previous 69 countries that I visited prior to coming to India. It felt like I was living out the



bible story of Jesus giving them food and washing the feet of his followers. Those children were truly Jesus to me.

I heard stories from volunteers about their work to rescue people from human trafficking. Our partners are doing an awesome job in the Anti Human trafficking campaign. In that town near to the border with Bangladesh very heartbreaking things are happening.

Wonderful and beautiful children have been rescued from human traffickers. Some of them are kidnapped, others are sold by relatives especially when they are orphaned while others are sold by parents and others.

Some are used as bonded laborers they work as slaves the pay is given to the one who sold them. It is a pity that some have lost their lives as they are trafficked for harvesting of human organs.

The volunteer workers face a number of challenges including threats and what seems to be a complicit attitude by the security wings especially the local police and local politicians. Sometimes it has been the politicians who have pleaded with the volunteer workers to withdraw court cases.

The good workers have not been deterred, they continue to fight this evil and have succeeded to rescue some who are now in safe hands at the safe house. The children are given a home they would not otherwise have. Apart from them

giving them food and a place to sleep the boarding facility also gives them chance to go back to school.

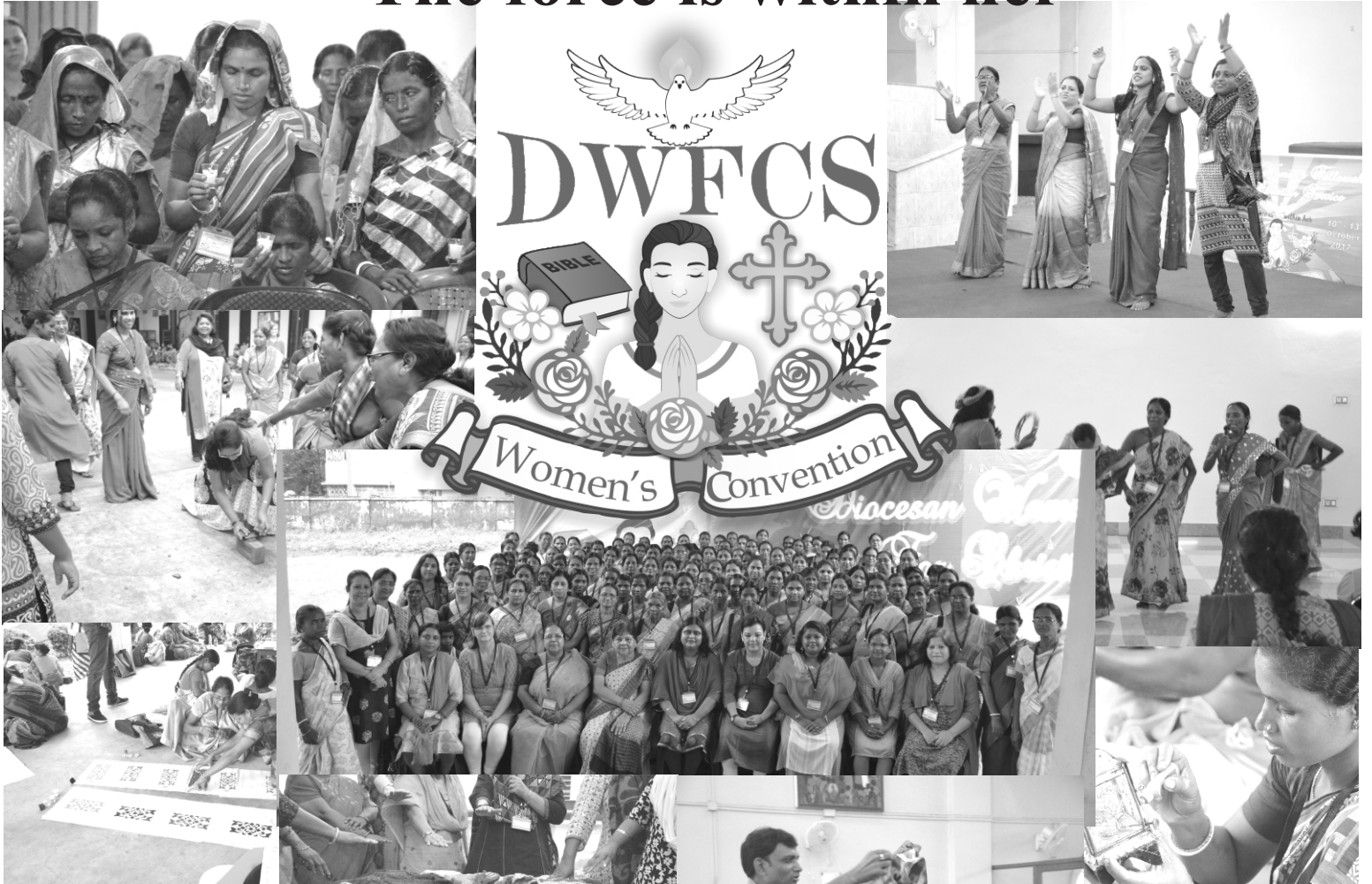
Work is also taking place to help adults who have been rescued. The staff pass on income generating skills such as hand woven carpets which are sold through fair price outlets facilitated by the diocese. These are efforts which need to be supported by all people of good will. Human life deserves dignity and our partners are working to defend and protect the dignity of all without segregation. No one deserves to be trafficked.

Human trafficking as defined by the UN is, "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or service, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

All people of good will should rise up and **AwazKaro** against human trafficking. Advocacy and more

campaigns until this evil horn, please, please, against human house and child and others. ■
 is destroyed. Blow the please people of good trafficking and support development centers by
 horn, awaz do, sound will sound the horn the work of the safe the diocese of Durgapur

The force is within her



Psalm 46:5 (NIV)
"God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day."

Caroline Tan: "The force is within her" was the theme of this year's Women's Convention of the Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service held at St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral, from 11th to 13th October.

The three-day convention began with a spectacular opening ceremony held at St. Michael's school auditorium, at 5pm on 10th of October. The ceremony blazoned the empowering aspects of being a woman, through the different and vibrant dance performances by the children of the study centres under DWFCS and the guest performance of Mr. Farooq and his troupe, the former runner up team of India's popular dance reality show, Boogie Woogie and the dance teacher appointed at the Child Study Center, Adra. The

DCSDC String Orchestra led by Mrs. Ruth Pugh, gave an overwhelming musical performance. The occasion was graced by our special guests, our friends from the Disciples of Christ, USA. Votives were lit as symbol of enlightenment by all the women from different pastorates participating in the Convention. Each day began with a spiritually rejuvenating session of pranayam led by Mrs. Archita Sen, the principal of St. Peter's School, Purulia. The pranayam was followed by joyful praise and worship leading to the Bible study session conducted by Revd. Papiya Durairaj, professor of Theology at Bishop's College, Kolkata. On day one she explained the passage from Psalms 46:5 stressing on God's omnipresence within us and with us, He shall not

let her fall and will help her at the break of dawn, (Ps 50: 15) "and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." He is



Revd. Papiya Durairaj & Mrs. Dipti Gine

with us in times of trouble within our family, political, financial, social or cultural situation. An art and craft session was also part of the first two days, all the women from the different Pastorates eagerly participated in creating beautiful lanterns, vases, and turning old t-shirts new through tie-and-dye, using the craft materials provided by an

art and craft expert from the Fevicryl company.

In the evenings the women got together in prayer for the Prayer

Shawl workshop led by Mrs. Supra Sinha. Knitted garments were laid on the table as the women together blessed and prayed over for all those who are sick and suffering.

Day two began with a childhood reminiscence of kanchi (game of marbles), gilli danda, kit-kit (hop scotch), seven stones, duck duck goose, kabaddi etc. The women

re-lived the blissful moments of childhood games with glee and vigour that with time had been put away with innocence. The day was followed by a thought provoking session conducted by Mrs. Dipti Gine, Assistant Professor for Ministry Special Pastorate care and counseling, on the "Role of a Christian mother". Unless a mother does not know her faith well, she cannot raise a family strong in faith, 2 Timothy 1:1-14 and 2 Timothy 3:14. After a day of thoughtful and thought provoking sessions the day commenced with the cultural program held in honour of all the different roles performed by women in their daily lives and how they derive strength from their faith in Christ. There was a special performance by the ladies of the Women's Convention organising committee, dancing to the golden melodies of yesteryears "Chuda liya hai tumne", "Chin chin chu", "Sayonara" etc.



bringing the day to a thrilling end.

The third and final day of the convention began with pranayam, followed by a

session on Health and Hygiene by Nurse Soren and beauty tips by Mrs. Kakoli Paswan. A session on 'the Role of Christian women in our society' was conducted by Ms. Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary of Women's Concern Ministry, NCCI. Her words echoed the very tenets of DWFC's foundation: for the

betterment of our society we should express our love and concern. We should extend our helping hand to the needy and poor people. We should love one another because God created each of us in His own image. Our God is love, whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. While the women were engaged in

another day of art and craft workshop, the existing Executive Committee elected the new Executive Committee for the next 3 years.

The three day Convention ended with an overwhelming response from all the women coming from the different pastorates of

the Diocese participating with their mind, body and soul, sharing their testimonies, singing and praying together in praise and asking for grace for all the women in the world, for we all stand united in womanhood, empowered by God's force within us. ■

DWFCS' New Executive Committee



Names of the Executive Committee members:

President: Mrs. Rita Dutta
 Vice President: Mrs. Supra Sinha, Purulia
 Secretary: Mrs. Archana A. Dey, Durgapur
 Treasurer: Mrs. Alka Lakra, Adra
 Members: Mrs. Archita Sen, Cathedral
 Mrs. Kakoli Paswan, Burdwan
 Mrs. Sudipta Das, Bankura
 Mrs. Budin Murmu, Gangarampur
 Pastorate
 Mrs. Mitali Tudu, Sarenga
 Sister Sovona Soren, Sarenga

Names of the Project Committee members:

President: Mrs. Rita Dutta
 Vice President: Mrs. Jhampa Ray
 Secretary: Mrs. Sangeeta Lippert
 Treasurer: Mrs. Supra Sinha
 Members: Mrs. Paromita Das
 Mrs. Dipali Nag
 Mrs. Mamata Kashyap
 Mrs. Bijay Lakra
 Mrs. Nita Pyne
 Mrs. Sanghita Gorai
 Mrs. Archita Sen

A journey to Forever After



Manju Tudu: I am Manju Tudu and I am a child of the Diocese. The Diocesan family has been taking care of me since I

was a little child; they held my hand and taught me to walk on the right path. It has now been 10 years of walking on the

path shown to me by Bishop Sir and Rita Ma'am. Before I arrived here I used to roam around aimlessly on the streets, did not have any interest in studies or school. My days revolved around collecting kindling and foraging for food. I am the same Manju whom Ma'am and sir took under their wings and taught how to live a life of purpose. If I hadn't been lucky enough to be spotted by Ma'am and brought into the Diocese, today I would have become another number in the missing/trafficked statistic. I might have survived and grown up, but I wouldn't have had a life worth living. The Diocese gave me an opportunity to study and to grow into an independent woman today; I am an Assistant Librarian at St. Peter's School and I am proud of how far I have come.



Nath, who also works in the Diocese. On the eve of my engagement, I was very excited and jittery about the whole thing. I was worried about things not going right! But, nothing went wrong, to my relief on the day of the event! There were make-up trials from the night before the event and that was when a surreal feeling overtook me; I couldn't believe I was going to be engaged the next day. The next day I got my hair done at the parlour for the event and that was another first in my life. In the

evening when everyone started pouring in, I was amazed to realise that these people were my family. I lost my mother several years ago; but on that day I didn't feel alone. I had this huge amazing family given to me by God and now I was going to be joined to another family, Lucas' family. Ma'am stood by me like my mom would and all my jitters vanished at that moment. I felt like the luckiest girl in the world at that moment.

The ceremony was a celebration of the first steps towards the union of our two families and we began this journey with the blessings of God and our family members. Rev. Samuel conducted the solemn ceremony where Lucas and I exchanged rings. After the ceremony we met the family members and



Today I have reached a marriageable age and Ma'am and all the members of the Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Services has once again banded together to aid me in crossing another milestone in my life. On 24th September, 2017, I was engaged to Lucas



touched their feet for blessings before everyone headed out for snacks in the adjoining Parish hall.

The engagement ceremony

was a reminder to me again of all the ways in which God's hands have touched my life and guided me. The wedding date has been fixed for 20th December, 2017, and while I am all jitters

and nerves, this time I know that everything will go smoothly and I can rely on my family to care for my happiness on one of the biggest days of my life. ■

A Trip to Remember



Joanines Adorno: Arriving in India I did not know what to expect. Everything is so different –different sights, smells, sounds and textures; needless to say that all my senses were working and running at the *same* time. Coming from the “outside” I did see a lot of garbage in the streets, cows, pigs, goats, dogs and a lot of people and I mean *a lot* of people. I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed, very overwhelmed.

When we arrived at the Diocese we felt very welcomed, everyone was so nice and welcoming. That night the women had a program and we attended. It was all so BEAUTIFUL. All the girls looked so gorgeous; their clothing, the dances, the performances, they invaded my senses. Even though I was fighting my sleep I was able to stay awake and see them all. It felt like a dream to me because I would never have imagined being in India and seeing this in person.

The next morning we visited the slums, and this was a reality check for me. Even though I knew that people live this way, seeing it in person gives you a whole new perspective. It made me happy to see

even though people live in these conditions, of utter poverty, they still carry a warm smile. They have a roof over their head and a place to sleep. The children were my favourite part; at first they looked at us like “Who are these people?”, but later on they were playing with us, running thinking we were chasing them and sticking out their tongues; that made me smile, seeing those children being happy in what may seem to an outsider as a “sad” place. What bothered me was that literally right in front of the slums there are wealthier people living there in their huge homes and they do not do anything to help. It's heartbreaking and it makes me feel angry.

Later on that day we headed to Malda, we took the train- which was an exciting adventure for me. The next day we headed to a Safe House. What an experience that was! The way we were received was just so....*beautiful*. It left me speechless. The girls were lined up ready to dance; everyone else was in line waiting to toss flower petals at us. Then we proceeded and the girls washed our feet, and that was so humbling. I have to

admit it was hard to “receive” what they were doing because they are young girls. But it reminded me when Jesus washed the feet of his Disciples, so I received that blessing and sent a blessing of my own.

The program was just so nice, knowing the work that's being done, seeing all the different dances, the beautiful clothing and all the beautiful faces with such warm smiles was just great. It felt unreal. One of the highlights of the day was when we got to dance; dancing is so much fun and liberating. Even though personally I was a little shy, it was still fun. Everyone looked so happy. This spoke to my heart. Even though a lot of these kids, youth, young adults, adults and elders may have had a rough life and unfair things may have happened to them that was not in their control, their bodies radiate beauty and their smiles warmth.

The work being done in the Diocese and the Safe House is admirable. There is HOPE in these places. They themselves have Hope in their hearts, giving out hope to the kids, hope to families and hope to their cities for a better life. ■

Workshop on Behavioural Change



Tarun Pal: Daniel Buckingham, who is the Project Coordinator for South Asia in Uniting World, Australia, had visited the Diocese of Durgapur from 27th – 29th September, 2017. As a partner of the C o m m u n i t y D e v e l o p m e n t Programme run by the Diocese of Durgapur, Uniting World, has always been a helpful partner.

During his visit, Mr. Buckingham hosted a workshop for the core staff of C o m m u n i t y D e v e l o p m e n t Programme. In his workshop he focused attention on using Behavioural Change to

affect long-term desirable behaviour in the target groups in order to promote sustainable development. He also focused on Monitoring and Evaluation and their process. Due to his workshop, several terms became clearer to us; we also developed a better insight on certain terminologies and their usage in our reports.

This workshop has paved the way for us to develop better a better understanding of human behaviour and to use that knowledge in our planning, monitoring and evaluation in order to effect significant change. ■

Vacational Bible School in Purulia



Dhiraj Kashyap: Autumn in West Bengal heralds the arrival of “Durga Puja”. There is a festive mood throughout the state. Saint Barnabas Church, Purulia, used the Puja holidays to organise a Vacation Bible School for the young children of the Sunday School. The three-day programme was organised from 27.09.2017 – 30.09.2017. Everyone was very excited to be

attending this programme. This year around 150 students were part of this camp who had come to learn about the Bible along with good manners and behaviour.

We, at the church believe, that good-manners should be instilled into a child from a young age, because manners maketh a man. The children were

divided in to six groups and were taught by several teachers. On the last day, we had several cultural programmes; but before that we had organised a test to determine how much the children had learnt over the course of the past three days. ■

Teacher's Day Celebration in St. Barnabas Church



Dhiraj Kashyap: There are certain days in a year when we celebrate and thank God for certain people in our lives; these people are the builders of the nation and the developer of the human mind; these people are our teachers. 5th September is one such day in the life of every Indian; this is the day we celebrate the gift of our teachers and express our gratitude to them for their contribution in our lives.

The birthday of one of the foremost thinkers and educationists of our country, former President, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's is commemorated as a celebration of the contributions made by our teachers in shaping us and our society. This day is not only special for teachers but for students, guardians and for every other citizen it is a day imbued with special significance and fond memories.

Teachers are the backbone of civilisation; they are the ones who are instrumental igniting the minds of little children and giving wings to their aspirations and dreams. Teachers are the guiding force behind the

development of an individual and the society at large. Teaching is not only a job, it is a calling. A teacher plays a very significant role in the development of knowledge in a student's mind; as we have grown and developed as a society and as individuals, our thirst for knowledge has grown and so has the need for greater teachers. Teachers are an individual's most selfless friend, closest friend and the best mentor.

It was with this thought in our mind that we celebrated Teacher's Day in our church with a prayer service. We thanked the Lord for the gift of our teachers and invoked His blessings on every teacher who crosses our path; so that He could guide them to be the best mentors they can be in their attempt to develop an individual's mind. Teacher's Day is celebrated in remembrance of a man who was one of modern India's brightest academician and teacher; it is with this man's image in mind that we invoked upon our Heavenly Father to shower the gift of understanding and patience on all our

teachers so that they can better shape our society. ■

Anglican Leadership Conference-2017



Rev. Rabindra Nath Ray: In the month of September, this year I had the opportunity to attend a conference on Leadership, organised by the Anglican Leadership Institute in USA. The conference was organised at the Focus Study Center in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence, Bishop of South Carolina and the Very Rev. Dr. Peter C. Moore, Founder of Focus Study Center conducted the conference.

Two Arch Bishops, eight bishops and seven rectors from different parts of the world were present at this conference. Rev. Dr. P.C. Moore held several different sessions at the conference for the duration of three-days. Mrs. Paige Miller, Mrs. Sandra C. Moore, Rev. Stockton and Rev. Barbara Wulsin were the other speakers who gave us their testimonies about church leadership.

Andy Stanley taught us that every leader should have Vision. Vision is about what could be and should be and the five things one can do to significantly increase vision, according to him were:

1. State the vision simply,
2. Cast the Vision convincingly,
3. Repeat the vision regularly,
4. Celebrate the vision systematically, and

5. Embrace the vision personally.

These steps, he argued were necessary for every Church leader (Pastor) to develop a vision for the extension of the kingdom of God.

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Clarke, Bishop of N. Ireland, enlightened us on the teachings of the Bible. He spoke about a true Leader and his/her leadership in the light of the life of Epaphras. A Leader must be a herald of faith, hard worker and prayerful person in order for the Church to grow; a growing Church is a praying Church, a growing leader is praying leader he said before concluding with, "Therefore, today in the Church every leader's life must be the same as Epaphras."

Rev. Moore explained leadership in terms of the lives of Biblical characters like Joseph, David, Esther and Peter. He showed us how Joseph is a classic example of a Church leader—someone whom God used for the redemption of his people. He also enunciated about the characters of a leader which includes compassion, clear vision, integrity, shrewdness and a positive, helpful attitude.

Rev. Al Zadig who is the rector of St. Michael's Church, Charleston, SC,

taught us about "Evangelism in the Local Church." He spoke to us about the different kinds of obstacle which generally arises in the local church like "It is my not my job," doubt (Did Jesus really say the "Wage of sin is death"?), embarrassment (going door to door) fear of rejection, and shame. He warned us, "If you will not share the gospel your Church will dry and die. Therefore, we need to preach the Gospel in order to keep our Church alive in this world."

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence who is the Bishop of South Carolina, spoke to us about "Ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit". He emphasized that without the power of the Holy Spirit we can't do anything. He also taught us about Anglicanism.

Dr. Paul Marshall in his teaching focused on the troubling times that the church is facing in this century. He emphasized on religious freedom, Christian-Muslim conflicts, patterns of contemporary anti-Christian persecution. He focused light on the issue of tribulations and persecutions faced by Christians in most countries around the world and posed a grave question – Today the Church faces a big challenge and how will it stand against the persecution?

This conference gave broadened my horizon and perspective about the role of the church in today's Christian life. It also taught me how to use our faith to grow and develop as a Church and to hold firm when we face trouble. ■

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician presents 3 days Immersion Bible Study 18-20 September, 2017 At Bankura Central Church, Bankura

The fourth OSL (Order of St. Luke) Training Program was held for three days from 18th - 20th September, 2017 at Bankura Central Church. There were 31 participants at the training sessions.

The first day started with praise and worship which was followed by a session by Rev. Sumanta Naru who is the director of OSL. During the course of the three days we were able to learn about 26 lessons from order of St. Luke Syllabus book. Rev. Sumanta Naru taught us how to pray for the sick, pray for those who are possessed by demons, and how to use consecrated oil. During the first two days, through demonstration, we were taught how to

pray for the sick. The third morning started with a thanksgiving service at the Central Church, Bankura after which Rev. Naru gave us consecrated oil to use for the sick while praying over them. The three-day programme came to its conclusion with benediction followed by lunch.

Through this training program participants realised that OSL ministry is a fruitful Healing Ministry through which we can access Jesus's healing to overpower the work of Satan. The people of the region have welcomed this ministry with arms open wide and they are witnessing the power of Jesus's healing every day in



their lives.

Testimony:

My name is Subhas Ranjan Sarkar, I am 66-years-old. For a long time I have suffered from a terrible shaking of my hands when I write. I learnt about

"healing" and praying for the sick in this OSL training program. In the workshop while we were praying for a person by laying our hands over him, I felt something work within me too. Afterwards, when I started writing again I realised that the shaking in my hands was gone. This was when I realised the healing power of God's touch in my life and was wanted to testify to this miracle and express my gratitude to the Lord. Then I promised to myself and to God that I would pray for the sick with more fervour and dedication.

Testimony:

My name is Philip Das. I had been suffering

from stomach pain for quite a while before it became severe; to the point where I thought I couldn't even sit anymore. In the meantime Rev. Sumanta Naru called me to pray for a participant who was not keeping well. In my mind I found this situation funny because I myself was not keeping well, but here I was going to pray for another sick person. I did not tell anyone about my stomach pain but I started to pray for the sick person. When I finished my prayer I could feel God's miracle work in my life. After the prayer was over I realised that my stomach pain had vanished too. Then I lifted my hands and gave thanks to my Lord Jesus Christ. ■

*I will not fear
bad news.
My heart is steadfast,
trusting in the Lord.*

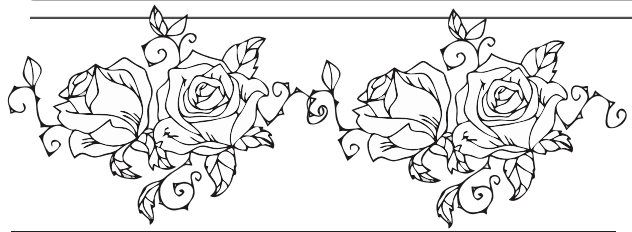


Psalm 112:7

*Let all that
YOU DO
be done in
LOVE*



**1 Corinthians
16:14**



Chief Editor: Ankita Bhattacharjee
Editorial Board: Caroline Tan, Tarun Pal, Prosenjit Chowdhury
Editorial Assistance: Rev. R.C Kisku, Raja Moses
Published by Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta on behalf of Diocese of Durgapur, CNI, Diocesan Bhavan, Dr. Martin Luther King Road, Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur - 713212, District Burdwan, West Bengal, India.
Ph. & Fax: +91-343-2536220
newsletterdeep@gmail.com

*God holds
my hand when
I am afraid.*



ISAIAH 41:13