

## Bishop Dutta Appointed as Moderator's Episcopal Commissary to Calcutta Diocese

Tarun Pal: On 27th August, 2018, Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta was appointed as the Moderator's Episcopal Commissary to the Diocese of Calcutta by the Church of North India. Bishop Dutta will be taking over the duties from the outgoing Bishop, Rt. Rev. Ashoke Biswas who had been on extension since his retirement two years earlier, in 2016. Bishop Dutta will be over-seeing the Diocese's smooth functioning. In his position as the interim diocese

head he will be fulfilling the duties of the Bishop until a new Bishop is elected.

Bishop Dutta will also be carrying out his responsibilities as the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India and as the Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur. Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta had been elected as the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India in October 2017. He had taken over the role of Bishop in the Diocese of Durgapur in 2003. Since

his transition to the helm of this diocese he turned it around from an ailing diocese which was to be annexed into the Bishopric of the Diocese of Calcutta, into one of the most active dioceses in the Church of North India.

As members of his congregation we are very happy for his success. His work ethic and dedication is unparalleled. We invoke the Lord's blessings on him and wish him all the best as he takes on another role as a leader. ■



### Teacher's Day Celebration in Diocese of Durgapur

Priyanka Goswami: On 2nd September, 2018 (Sunday) St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral organised a Teacher's Day commemoration. Teachers and Principals of all the educational institutions under the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI) were invited. The celebration was preceded by Sunday Eucharist Service at the Cathedral. It was followed

by games and lunch which was organised for the teachers in the Parish Hall.

On this occasion the Sunday school children of the Diocese put up a skit to emphasise upon moral and ethical values for teachers. There was an unusual excitement as all the teachers and principals met with each other. ■



### Healing with Jesus

Sandipan sinha : "bread of life". It was followed by a lesson on Christ's healing and healing prayers for all believers and those of other faiths who were in attendance. Rev. Rabinendra Nath Ray and Mr. R. Prasad helped me lead the prayer session which witnessed many people coming up to the dais for prayers and blessings. The session was a big success with the believers who requested for more such sessions in the future. ■

The congregation of All Saint's Church, Kharagpur, along with the Order of St. Luke, Diocese of Durgapur, organised a Healing Ministry event on 19th August. The people assembled as believers who believed in Christ as the Redeemer who will release them from their sufferings.

The healing ministry program began with Holy Eucharist. The theme for the service was "Jesus is the



# Editorial



## Where is the Love ?

- Ankita Bhattacharjee

I recently read a story posted by my friend who works with cross-border immigrants in USA. In his post he talks about having run into two sisters from Honduras at Friendship Park which lies at the US Mexico border. They were escaping from their abusers, a gang which controlled their town and made the girls work as drug mules and slaves to the men. Refusal was met with heavy punishment, as the girls' expression and behaviour informed my friend. As the two stared at the impenetrable wall they were in tears because they were told to wait for at least two-months for an appointment by the border officials who spoke very little Spanish. They had no money or shelter or protection. My friend took them to a shelter at Camino from where they later left. This story calls attention to the fact that love is dwindling, and very fast, from the world. It brings to mind a 2003 song by the band Black Eyed Peas, "Where is the Love". In their song they question, "What happened to the values of humanity?" This line rings true

more today. While Trump builds a wall to keep immigrants out and perpetuate racism, Syrians are struggling to re-establish themselves after losing their entire lives. While in India we have the Central Government refusing to help out flood-victims because "they are Muslims and Christians". All these instances highlight how human beings are slowly losing all humanity. Our governments are a reflection of our times and our choices. When we elect politicians who refuse to acknowledge human needs and afflictions, it says a lot about us. However, not all hope is lost. There are still many of us who would go out of our way to help those in need. The recent viral video of a young man providing homeless people with things they need through Amazon, warms the heart and let's us know that hope for humanity is not dead yet. But, in order to keep this seed of hope alive, we need to constantly pray and ask God's guidance for not only our souls but for our leaders so that they can learn to embrace their humane sides instead of just chasing glory and money. ■

## Bible Learning Seminar in Christ Church Burdwan

Rev. Sumanta Naru: Christ Church Burdwan hosted a two-day seminar on Bible Learning from 21st to 22nd August, 2018. This seminar was led by the Order of St. Luke (OSL) team. The two-day Bible learning session was followed by the diocese's Stewardship Campaign. Thirty members of the congregation attended the seminar.

The first day of the seminar began with prayers and hymns after which we preached lessons in accordance with the OSL directive book. Rev. Rabindra Nath Ray led the sessions along with me. Rev. Swapan Darman and I teamed up the next day to preach according to the OSL guid-

elines. In the course of the two days we were able to teach the twenty-six lessons from the book to the congregation.

Rev. Darman was anointed as the leader of the healing ministry prayer team that was formed in the congregation at the end of this seminar. In the course of the two-days we taught the congregation how to pray for the ailing and the sick. At the end of the seminar we also presented them with

holy oil. The seminar came to an end with a prayer service in the evening. Several attendees and believers reported feeling the presence and touch of the Holy Spirit during the prayer session.

During the Stewardship Campaign every member family came forward to present their offering for the diocese's ministries. The congregation reported feeling very overwhelmed and grateful for having attended this seminar. ■



## Teacher's Day Celebration in Wesleyan Methodist Church

Suresh Gorai: On 9th September, 2018, the congregation of Wesleyan Methodist Church, Raniganj, commemorated Teacher's Day after the day's Communion service. Fifteen congregation members who work as teaching professionals were present at this celebration where they were honoured. The congregation gifted them with flower bouquets and pens.

Presbyter-in-charge of our church, Rev. Rabindra Nath Ray

spoke about the significance of Teacher's Day in his address to the gathering. He also touched upon the topic of Jesus as our true teacher, mentor and guide who instructed his followers in being the ideal human being. Rev. Ray said, "If teachers follow in

the footsteps of Christ they will be transformed into instruments of blessings for their students." At the end of the ceremony, children from the Sunday school performed dances for everyone's entertainment. ■



## Teacher's Day Celebration in Raniganj

Rev. Rabindra Nath Ray: Raniganj Child Study Centre, run by the Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service, celebrated Teacher's Day on 5th September, 2018. Mrs. Jhampa Ray, who is in-charge of the centre,

was present at the occasion along with Kalpana Hem-brom, who is a teacher at the centre. The parents and guardians of the children were also present for the celebration.

The programme began in the evening

with a short prayer. After this the children presented their teachers with gifts. They also danced to popular songs and sang a few choruses. The programme ended with a communal dinner for the attendees. ■

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## 72nd Independence Day Celebration

Subojit Das: On 15th August, 2018, the staff and students of St. Michael's School, Bankura, gathered together to commemorate the 72nd Independence Day of our country. Rev. Pankaj Pande presided over the ceremony as the Chief Guest. He hoisted the flag and said a short prayer for our country. Everyone present sang the national anthem during the hoisting of the flag. A cultural programme followed this ceremony. Students of the senior sections presented a few dances which were well-received by the

audience. The school grounds were beautifully decorated with our tricolours in honour of the day. This day also witnessed the completion of a 3300 square feet roof for the senior wing of the school building. Snacks and refreshments were provided for all the attending guests at the end of the programme. ■



## Teacher's Day Celebration

Glory Das: 5th September marks an auspicious day in the Indian calendar. Schools and study centres across the country celebrate this day with great enthusiasm to honour their teachers. The children of the Bankura Pastorate Sunday School celebrated this day with aplomb as well. The children gathered together to honour every church-goer who is involved in the profession.

Kamakhya Biswas, Teacher-in-charge of Bankura Christian Collegiate School, spoke on "Jesus is our

teacher" in his address to the gathered church members. Teachers from Mission Primary School and Bishop's Primary School also attended this ceremony and shared their experiences and testimony of being a teacher. The Teacher-in-charges of Missions Girl's School and St. Michael's School, Bankura both highlighted the importance and need for a day to honour those who work tirelessly to shape the future of our country.

This was the first time that C.C. Pande Memorial Church

hosted a Teacher's Day celebration in the church. The little ones organising the programme were reminded to love Christ as their teacher and life-coach. They ended the programme with a Hindi song which envisioned a better India in the next generation. ■



## Morning Prayers

Champa Singh: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3: 22-23).

The congregation of Bankura has started a new ritual of gathering together every morning to pray and seek the Lord's blessings. The congregation gathers together in C.C. Pande Memorial to begin their day with prayers and benediction.

This new ritual, which revolves around prayers and the Word of the Lord, reminds us everyday of the love of our Heavenly Father. These prayer sessions, recharge our souls and give us a sense of serenity and peace to go out and face the challenges of

the day. These morning sessions also has helped us gain a deeper insight into the messages of the Bible. When the bell tolls for us to gather it brings to mind the verse from John 10:27, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

These daily gatherings have also fostered a stronger bond among the congregation members who see each other every day. Our prayer is that we can continue to seek the Lord's blessings and be enlightened by His word every day.

Another such instance occurred when he had to cross a river at night. Night had fallen and he was about to step into the river to cross it on

foot – he had earlier crossed the river through ankle-deep water. As he was about to step into the water someone shouted from the other side, "Don't cross there, go more southwards". He followed the direction of the voice and crossed the river again at the same spot with ankle-deep water. When he crossed to the other side, the voice told him to go home in peace.

Mr. Saren says he been blessed by the Lord and his life is a constant proof of these blessings. He now has a job as the official calligrapher for the government of West Bengal in his area. ■



## Mission Support Fund received: 26-06-2018 to 17-09-2018

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We would like to request our members to donate MSF for the development of Ministerial work for the current financial year 2018-2019 @ minimum of 500/- once a Year.