



## MESSAGE *from the Moderator*



### *Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,*

On behalf of the Church of Bangladesh, I extend my sincere respect and best wishes to all. During this time, I was deeply saddened to hear the news of the deaths of Mrs. Monika Mannan and Dr James Tejosh Das. We mourn for this great loss for whole of the Christian Community of Bangladesh.

I would like to share with all of you what the Honourable Moderator of the CWM's' Special Members' Meeting 'said most recently on March 31, 2021. The Honourable Moderator read the Bible from 2 Corinthians 6: 4-10, urging us to respond to the apostle Paul's call. Even in the midst of a deadly Covid-19 situation, we should not stop trying our best. But in the light of the prospect of Christ's resurrection, we should always keep going on. There has been a lot of frustration in our lives, and it is time to move forward in the certainty of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. Because the resurrection of Jesus Christ includes the redemption, salvation, and eternal life of all sinful people.

He also cited a dance performed at an African wedding, where the dancers move forward with two legs in front and then two legs in the back, thus implying that there must

be success behind such a life. We will also get over everything and live like such a wedding dance. He then briefly sheds light on six paradoxes about the expansion of God's kingdom and the achievement of the goals set by his servants:

1. glory and dishonor, 2. bad report and good report; 3. genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 4. known, yet regarded as unknown; 5 dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 6. sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

As we Christians reflect on the "hope in God" and the "hope in Jesus" as we prepare for the resurrection. Jesus Christ was crucified and then He was resurrected because He is the Almighty Lord still accepting the sacrifice for us so that we may be saved from all our sins, because He loves us.

So, we too must, through the cross of Jesus Christ, refrain from our sins, transgressions and all negativity in our lives and try to be resurrected with Him to develop into a whole new person; who will be full of love, compassion and humility.

**Samuel S Mankhin**

*Moderator*

The Church of Bangladesh



## Message from Barishal Diocese



### *Dearly Beloved,*

I am writing to you with a heavy heart for two reasons. Firstly, the untimely departure of Dr James Tejosh Das, who has been a pillar of support since the inception of the Barishal Diocese of the church of Bangladesh. Dr Das was an eminent scholar, visionary, humble and faithful servant in the vineyard of the Lord. I know of no man who has more wholly dedicated his time, talents, and interests to the work and ministry of our Lord. He has been a sterling example of love for his fellow believers and our Lord, Jesus Christ. We lament his sudden parting and celebrate the life he led for the Kingdom of God. Secondly, the second wave of the COVID 19 virus has affected many lives and families. We have lost so many friends family within this month. Many of our church members are jobless, and they have to start their livelihood from zero. The mental health and well-being of societies as a whole have severely been affected. Given that the impact of the Covid-19 response on the extremely poor, the church recognises the scale of the issue, it is proactive in ensuring that where help is needed, provided it in a safe, dignified, respectful, transparent and equitable way.

During this time of uncertainty, the Bible comforts us; Jesus assured us, "I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49 In this time of crisis, each of God's people might stay calm and spend more time discerning what God wants us to do tangibly for our community. There will be many inconveniences, challenges, and frustrations in times like these. God grant us a spirit to see these as avenues of service to others. God is at work in each of us.

**Blessings & Prayers.**

**Rt Rev Shourabh Pholia**

## Message from Kushtia Diocese



### *Dear all in Christ,*

On behalf of Kushtia Diocese, I would like to express my profound gratitude and deepest thanks for your prayers and kind support.

We have had a dream that this year the corona virus would slowly go away, but suddenly our dream was shattered! At present, the second wave of Corona in Bangladesh and all over the world has made everyone think that in this moment we have no any protector other than God. Therefore let us pray the Lord for His loving acceptance of us. As Matthew taught in 19: 6, "With God all things are possible".

Unlike last year, this year every churches in Kushtia Dioceses we have celebrated Good Friday and Happy Easter very nicely. Especially in Bollovpur there were almost four thousand people worshiped together keeping in mind the social distance.

I continue to be so proud of the church family in their faithfulness in attending (whether in person or online), giving, and serving. Our priests, deacons, youth and children's volunteers, Sunday school teachers and staff members continue to do a fantastic job each week keeping every church moving forward. Since the beginning of pandemic, we have tried our best to keep our church family together through online and in-person worship services. During this time we have learned about our limitations, as well as the incredible opportunity we have as a church to take the Gospel to the world. We need to use the technology of our day to advance Christ's mission. As we continue moving forward, please maintain our safety protocols so that we can keep one another safe.

We are grateful to our moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and his secretary for the smooth running of all activities.

Thank you to all the friends of the Dioceses and partners who have helped us with prayers and other support.

**May God be with us.**

**Rt Rev Hemen Halder**



## St. Andrew's Theological College, Dhaka



We are very blessed enough to say that we are doing well by the grace of God. Bangladesh is facing Lockdown again for the rapid increase of Covid-19. We also remain our regular class closed. Therefore, our students have gone home for Summer vacation, Bengali New Year and Lockdown. College will resume after this lockdown until 20 April 2021.

**Seminar Class:** We were able to arrange a contact seminar for the DCS and BTH Student last month in March for a week long.

**Lent Activities:** Our Student and staff used to do fasting with prayer during the holy month of lent. We participated to lead the way of Cross to our Local Church where our students and staffs took part.

**Birth Day Celebration & Welcoming Rev. Adhir Gathia:** We do celebrate our Students and Staffs Birth Day. In March we celebrated Special Birthday. We also welcomed our new Parish Priest Rev.

Adhir Gathia and his family through a fellowship meal.

**Principal's Church Visit and Lay People's Course:** Fortunately, by the guidance of Honorable Moderator, The Most Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin- Chairman SATC, our Principal was able to give his pastoral visit to Modhupur and Haluaghat Deanries and solemnize Good Friday and Easter Sunday. With this pastoral visit he also pay visit all Lay People's Course groups running in those areas.

Please remember St. Andrew's Theological College in your everyday prayer so that we can do our work well and in sound health in the midst of this COVID-19 Pandemic situation.





# Mission Support Program (MSP-4 )



## My Dorm Our Home

(End of Project report)

“My Dorm Our Home” (MDOH), a media project to build social cohesion among migrant workers in Singapore, and to strengthen their communal and social-emotional resilience during the COVID-19 period and beyond. Project My Dorm Our Home was one such effort initiated by Diocese of Singapore and The Anglican Relief and Development Agency International (ARDA Intl), Church of Bangladesh. As the COVID-19 virus silently reached Singapore’s shores and began spreading, migrant worker dormitories became serious hotspots and dominated the national headlines. To flatten the curve, the many thousands of migrant workers, including Bangladeshi Migrant workers in both large purpose-built dorms and factory-converted ones were placed in strict lockdown, along with the rest of Singapore.

My Dorm our home project started its journey from 1st April 2020 and ever since then over 50 episodes of different programmes focusing on the wellbeing of Bangladeshi migrant workers has been aired on the facebook based platform. My Dorm Our home project consisted of a variety of shows starting with the first ever social media based talent show for Bangladeshi migrant workers “My Dorm Our home Idol hunt”. A total of 10 contestants from 100 entries were selected to bottle it out in a 4 part series and at the end reign as the champion. The show included celebrity guest judges and performances and cash prizes for first and second place contestants.

The project delivered 80 shows and the digital reach is more than 850,000. Total view in social media is over 175,000 and total engagement is over 220,000.

### Partners:

Bangladeshi migrant workers based productions of My Dorm Our Home always welcomed any local, foreign and international platforms to partner up as this is an open platform to promote awareness with issues of mutual interest. So Far 13 number of partners from Bangladesh, Germany and Singapore has partnered up with My Dorm Our Home in different kinds of shows.

### They are as follows:

- IFNB : Initiative für Neue Bildung - Germany
- Singapore to Bangladesh - Singapore
- Singapore to Dhaka - Singapore
- Asia24 - Singapore
- Project Dorm - Singapore
- Migrants Band Singapore - Singapore
- Zero Effect band - Singapore
- Overseas foreign workers in Singapore - Singapore
- Dreams Arrived Band - Singapore
- Probashider Singapore - Singapore
- BYS : Barishal Youth Society - Bangladesh
- Radio Dhoni - Bangladesh
- SwapnoJatra - Bangladesh
- The Online Talk Show – Bangladesh.





# Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

## The advocacy team has strongly advocated to help poor

The social, health, education, housing, employment, economic and cultural rights are considered as human rights in Bangladesh, but most of the poor citizens are deprived from these rights. Ethnic people in Bangladesh especially in Baromari, Durgapur upazila under Netrokona district face violence and discrimination in many facets of their lives, including attacks on their physical safety (especially ethnic women), barriers to equal access to healthcare, fair and safe employment, and education, food and nutritional security, safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation. Apart of that, the people of Baromari are yet to overcome social problems like religious conservatism, child marriage, dowry, polygamy, divorces, and abandonment of wives by husbands living separately in distant places. High rates of unemployment, loose family relationships, little control over children, easy availability of drugs, have been widening scope for drug addiction by the children, adolescents and youngsters.

Shalom is implementing Poverty Reduction and Community Resilience Project (PRCRP) supported by BftW and established three Advocacy Teams in three

unions in Durgapur Upazila with 63 members. Every Advocacy Team formed by an Executive Committee with 7 members; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and executive members. The Advocacy Team conducted monthly meetings in the same date and same place. Everyone reports on the progress of the work as planned for the last month and it is spontaneously discussed and decided in detail with the participation of all and recorded in minutes. Regularly communicate with the local government, working overall to get opportunities from the local government; in particular to stand the helpless people by the Chairman of the Upazila, Local Union Parishad, Ward Members, Women Members from the Advocacy Team. Through the discussion of the advocacy team, the Durgapur Upazila Livestock Department has officially distributed 12 cows to 12 members in 3 unions. The advocacy team has strongly advocated at the government level to help three poor and homeless members to build houses. As well as the team is working for VGF cards, VGD cards, old age allowance, widow allowance and so many govt. services.





# CMCY

## Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

*Christian Ministry to Children and Youth (CMCY) bearing Reg. # 1140 is a Childcare section of the Church of Bangladesh and kindly financing from the overseas partners of Christian Mission Service (CMS) Switzerland, Christian Missionsdienst e.V (CMD) Germany, Operation Agri, Uk and Compassion International Bangladesh (CIB) supporting poor and needy children to grow up holistically.*



### Nabokoli's Beauty parlor serves its' purposes

Even in the Coronavirus consequences, the Nabokoli beauty-shop runs maintaining safety health and serves its' purposes well. This beauty shop helps poor and education drop out teen-girls' to grow up as a skilled worker on it to survive in life with dignity and care.

### Digitization helps CMCY to carry on works with discipline

From the last March 18, 2020, CMCY programs are greatly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Projects are closed and thus the students are imprisoned at homes. But the digitization helps and ensures CMCY to perform both the administrative and communications liaisons along with the overseas partners, project staff and children on time and a success.

### Approval of St. George College Hostel, Mymensingh

CMCY has received green signal about funding from the kind donors of CMD and CMS for the St. George College Hostel, Mymensingh from June 2021. The St. George college hostel will help poor but meritorious students to come up in life with discipline and victory.

### Food items distribution

1103 CMCY children have receive BDT 1000.00 for food with other possible support for education and health care, regularly and CIB (Compassion International Bangladesh) benefitted 2509 children have received food packages with rice-14 kg. Pulse-one and half kg. Soyabin oil 500 gram.Potetooos-4 kg. Soap-2, Mask-2.



# Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi

From April 14, 2021, the nation-wide lockdown is ongoing in Bangladesh, in context of the high surge of new corona case detection. With road communication stopped and public offices and schools and colleges closed, the situation has restricted the movement of the people.

But Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR) is open, in the midst of such challenges, with availability of its outpatient and inpatient services like before. Patients with acute necessities and clinical problems are coming almost every day, though slightly lower in number. Patients are being admitted and treated, normal deliveries done and various operations undertaken.

During this time on April 29, 2021, a special orientation-cum-demonstration for CMHR clinical staff was organized. Dr Be-nazir Ahmmad, MBBS, DCH, FCPS (Pediatrics), who is the Assistant Professor of the government Medical College at Rajshahi and who also helps CMHR as Consultant Pediatrician, conducted this orientation. He in particular talked on: "How And When To Use the Incubator for Newborns?"



*Dr Ben-Nazir Ahmmad conducting demonstration in CMHR*

In this connection it is very relevant and mention worthy that CMHR did not have this incubator facility for long in the past because hospital's old incubator was out of order. Recently engineers worked on it and with this high-end machinery now functioning normally, CMHR is presently able to provide more efficient and much needed life saving clinical care for more people, especially to the critical newborns.

There were about 25 staff members in the demonstration by Dr Be-nazir Ahmmad and they included hospital doctors, nurses and ward and OT staff.

**An Iftar party of the CMHR was held to pray to God and seek forgiveness from sin and relief from COVID-19**



For the first time in the 100-year history of the Christian Mission Hospital in Rajshahi, Iftar party has been organized. The event was held at the premises of the Nursing Institute adjacent to the hospital on Wednesday.

However, it was not only the followers of Islam who took part in it. All the officials and employees of the Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities working in the hospital and Nursing Institute including Local Working Committee Meeting took part in the event of this iftar to ask forgiveness and COVID-19 free world. In this event, people all over the world are praying for COVID-19 salvation.

The Christian Hospital in Rajshahi is a centenary institution. Adjacent to the hospital is the Christian Mission Nursing Institute. Majority of the doctors, teachers, staff and nurses working in the two institutions are from Muslim Community. This Iftar ceremony was organized in their honor. Teachers and students of the Nursing Institute also took part in it. The munajat-prayer was conducted by Maulana Tabibur Rahman, Imam of Paba Darusa Mosque in the district. He prayed for the harmony of people and grace of Almighty God so that people of the world can get relief from this tension and uncertainty soon.

# Bollobhpur Hospital

Easter has come and gone in all its glory Maundy Thursday brought our hospital chaplain to celebrate the sacrament with us.

Palm Sunday and the students processed around the wards and grounds, palm crosses that they had made, and fronds from the palm trees held high, a long singing joyful procession.

Yes, we are still all inside the hospital, and our little chapel is the centre on our lives. We are still very careful, not allowing them outside, apart from the three village satellite clinics we are still running each week.

Easter Sunday, and we are all together in a beautifully decorated chapel and again processing around the wards, and alongside all these happy activities, the students are managing their times of duty on the wards, caring for their patients, delivering their babies, feeding the tiny infants in the incubators, and looking after their grannies and grand-dads in the geriatric ward. We are proud of them all.

And the best news of all is the arrival of Dr. Christopher Baroi, to take up the post of Medical Officer which has been vacant since Dr. Barsha left us last year in October.

He is accompanied by his energetic wife, who in no time at all has turned the barren doctor quarter into an oasis of flower gardens, and already a handsome Rooster can be seen strutting around the grounds, flanked by his six wives(hens) and seven ducks have also joined the family



Doctor Baroi is past retiring age, which is ideal for Bollobhpur Hospital, and he and his wife have thrown themselves wholly into the life of the hospital, taking 24 hours on call responsibility for any patient, and never missing the morning services in the chapel. Thanks be to God, we are grateful indeed.

And in the Nursing Training Centre, our newest group of sixteen students have completed their three months preliminary training school, sat and passed the final examination and await the capping ceremony and their new uniforms.

But this must wait until next month. Please keep us all in your prayer.

**Gillian M Rose**  
*Director*  
Bollobhpur Hospital.







## Adolescent Debate Competition at Madhupur Deanery held

**Topic:** Addiction to modern technology, especially excessive use of social networks, is driving boys and girls out of churches.

16 contestants took part in the Debate Competition. The competition was organized at Thanarbaid Primary and Secondary Junior School premises. The teachers of both the schools and students were present in the event.

The event was presided over by the Dean Reverend James Duke Baroi of Madhupur Deanery. The chief judge of the debate contest was Reverend Jonarshon Dio. Mr. Prannath Rema also present as a judge; Mr. Prince Prannat Rema, Mr. Chandan Chiran, Mr. Togor Zengcham and Mrs. Rupa Rema. Deanery Secretary Mr. Chandan Chiran and Dean Reverend Baroi spoke on the occasion. Then the contestant performed their arguments for and against the topic through prayer and recites dances, songs or poems at the request of the judges. The winner is chosen by the wise judges of the competition:

1st Place Winner: Miss Pooja Chambugang- Idilpur Parish. 2nd Place Winner: Miss Chanchina Mree, Thanarbaid Parish. 3rd Place Winner: Miss Ilora Rema-Sridampara Parish

Chairperson of the debate Reverend Jonarson Dio gave an encouraging speech to the winners. The Judges and the participants sincerely thank the Honorable Moderator Bishop Mankhin and CWM for such a program. Then the program ended with lunch. Minutes keeper Mr. Sumon Mondal Catechist of Idilpur Parish.

## News from St. Andrew's Church, Mirpur

**Child Baptism:** We did Few Child Baptism during these two months.

**Lent 2021:** During this lent we did arrange a Spiritual Lent Revival Meeting from our Church Where Mrs. Monita Mankhin delivered her valuable speech on theme. We also did the Way of Cross every Friday afternoon.

**Holy Week 2021:** We celebrated Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday this year with all health security and maintaining Social distance as much as it was possible for us.

**Women's Day and Bangla New Year:** Our Church celebrated women's day to honor all the women in the World. On that day our Church Women Fellowship took part to lead the Holy Communion Service. We also celebrated Bangla New Year with prayer and Bengali traditional fest.





## Bollobhpur Deanery observed Easter with a great sense of respect

The month of April is a good start through Holy Thursday. At the end of all the day's work, the Christians of Bollobhpur Deanery participated in the holy worship in the afflicted night worship on the holy Thursday. The main theme of the worship on the holy Thursday was: New commandment of Jesus for the disciples and the Lord's Supper. On the holy Thursday night the the Lord Jesus Christ became the servant. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself humbly washed the disciples' feet and set a rare example of a great work on earth. The Lord Jesus Christ held a feast on Holy Thursday night. He took the bread in his hand, thanked God, and broke it into pieces, and said to the disciples, "Take, eat, this body of mine dedicated to you, do it in remembrance of me." He took the cup in his hand and thanked God and said, "Drink from this cup, all of you, for this is my blood, which has been poured out to set new rules, and to forgive you and many others." Every time you drink it, do it in my memory. On Thursday night, the Lord Jesus Christ was handed over to his enemies in the Gethsemane forest by his disciple Judas Iscariot for thirty rupees. On Thursday night, all the priests and catechists of Bollobhpur Deanery washed the feet of twelve old men and women in

their respective congregations and participated in the Lord's Supper. During the Thursday night worship, the presence of esteemed members of the congregation in every church of Deanery was satisfactory.

Visit to Parish: Bishop of Kushtia Diocese Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder visited the homes of esteemed members of the Bollobhpur Immanuel Church on 2/3/2021 and 5/04/2021 and prayed and provided financial assistance to the sick and also provided financial assistance to the needy. Distributed chocolates among the children. The Bishop visited the homes of all elders of the parish named Immanuel Church. Rt Rev Hemen Halder took the news of happiness and sorrow of the families. His Excellency Bishop visited Bollobhpur Hospital too. The hospital's director, Sister Julian Rose, met with doctors, office staff and General Ward patients. All the members of the Bollobhpur Emmanuel Church expressed their delight of reverence at the visit of the Bishop and the Priests. Rt. Rev. Mrityunjay Mondol, Rev. Ashish Mondol, Rev. Dipak Ujjwal Biswas, Catechist Mr. Philip Mandal, Deanery Secretary Mr. Rintu Sarker, Church Secretary Mr. Solomon Mondol, Honorary Parish Committee were present on the occasion.





## Distribution of technical training certificates

The Caritas Barisal awarded twenty-four youth who completed the three-month technical training in three subjects on March 26th. The youths are thankful for the Diocese and Caritas Bangladesh for providing training and ensuring jobs for them. They have dreams for a better future which they believe they can achieve now.

Barishal Diocese is thankful to Caritas Barishal for the opportunity they provided for the youth. Especially Bishop thanked Mr Ripon Karmakar for all his support and service. Bishop also thanked Rev. Peter Mondal for his assistance and cooperation for the training. In the future, Barishal Diocese, in collaboration with Caritas Barishal, will take steps to organize more training to enable youth to find employment and become self-reliant.

## Training for the Bible School Teachers (MSP4)

From 4th to March 6th 2021, training for the Bible School teachers was organized at St. Mary's Church, Jobarpar for Jobarpar Deanery, under the MSP4 program supported by CWM. Fifty-five teachers were present at the training program from different churches. Bishop of the Barishal Diocese attended the closing day evaluation session and encouraged the participants to educate the Bible school children with the care they have learned. He reminded them that Bible school is not like our elementary primary or high school. May all the children come to learn with joy and grow in the Christian faith.

The same training was organized for Khulna Deanery from 15th to March 17th at Christ the King Church, Khalishpur, Khulna. Total thirty teachers attended the training. Respected Bishop participated in the training

program. There he encouraged the teachers to train the children creatively and encouraged all to use the materials they have received from MSP4.

He also thanked everyone, especially Mr Paul S. Malakar, Rev. Simson Mazumder, Rev. Monindra Baidya and Rev. Shanti Mondal, to conduct and host the training. Bishop also thanked Rt. Rev. Samuel S Mankhin for his supervision.

## Formation and Workshop of Digital Platform for Religious Leaders

A digital platform for religious leaders was formed, and World Vision Bangladesh organized a workshop on preventing child marriage and physical punishment.

There was a discussion on the basic principles of child protection in the light of Islam and Christianity and children's rights. In this dialogue, Barishal Diocesan Bishop Shourabh Pholia presented a paper on the basic principles of child protection in the light of Christianity and teaching against child marriage and physical punishment.

There were thirty Muslim and Christian key religious leaders in the workshop, and the majority of them are Imams and priests from Barishal. From the Church of Bangladesh, Rev. Albert Halder attended the seminar.

Maulana Md. Osman Gani, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh National Imam Samity, Dhaka, Fr. Anol Terence D'Costa, Secretary, Barishal Diocese Roman Catholic Church, Mr Mridul Tazu, National Faith and Development Co-coordinator, Ms Lima Hanna Daring, Director, Field Operations, Zone 2, Mr Liton Mondal, APC Manager, Barishal were also present at the discussion.

The Barishal Diocese, COB is always ready for inter-religious dialogue so that we all live in unity and harmony in this country and at the same time work together for peace and justice.

# Clinic Based Community Health & Nutrition Programme(CBCHNP)

Community based health and nutrition program in Barishal and Dhaka Diocese is an ongoing program in five different areas. Since the beginning of 2021, these clinics have provided service to 931 patients. Among them 400 received service from the clinics and 531 at the door point. We took the challenge to work in the community during this pandemic period.



- We are raising awareness and encouraging everyone to keep social distance, wear mask and wash hands with soap.
- The nurse and the health workers are visiting door to door to provide service to the diabetic patient, measuring the blood pressure, pre and post natal check up to the lactating mothers.
- Five normal deliveries done at the clinic level and all the babies with mothers are well.
- In addition the physically challenged, aged people and the adolescent girls and boys are provided with counseling and required medicines.
- Immunization program is going on in our three clinics out of five.
- In March 2021, Mr. Suku Hazra (60) a tuberculosis patient received our service at his door step.

The Umoja Bible study groups are regularly get together and study the Bible and save accordingly for the social issues in Rajshahi and Haluaghat Deanery areas.



# COB Remembers Professor Mrs Monika Mannan-An Educationist, Mentor and Dedicated Servant to Lord Jesus Christ.



served as Headmistress in Sathkira, Kurigram, Bogura, Chapai Nawabgonj Government Girls High School and Pabna Edward College. She continued working for Teacher's Training College as a Professor of English up to 1990 until she took voluntary retirement and joined the Church of Bangladesh as the Education Officer where she travelled all part of the country to build the capacity of schools and teachers of missionary school of Church of Bangladesh. She later joined World Vision Bangladesh as the National Education Officer in Dhaka. She served as Chairperson of the Asian Christian Women's Council from 1990-1994. She was an Executive Member of the Christian Conference of Asia for many years. She acted as president of the Young Christian Women's Association (YWCA) of Bangladesh for a few years and is a lifetime member of Dhaka YWCA. She was in various advisory and leadership roles in various Christian organizations that include the National Council of Churches, Heed Bangladesh, Karamtola Christian Hospital, DASCOH Bangladesh, Kristiansand Rajshahi Friendship Committee (KRFC), Rajshahi Medical College Nursing Institute, Institute of Health and Technology, Rotary International Rajshahi, and Adarshaa Teacher's Training College and more. She came back to Rajshahi in 1998 where she continued as an Adjunct professor. She took a full retirement from teaching in 2018. She stayed in Rajshahi till her demise on February the 20th, 2021 at the age of 83. She was an active church worker and has a huge contribution to the empowerment of Christian women. She was a faithful servant to the Lord Jesus Christ and offered regular services at Rajshahi City Church. The last time she took a Sunday service was just a week back before her sad demise. She has left behind her only daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, extended family and many well-wishers. Her illustrious professional and philanthropic Christian life has inspired many generations of Christian youth and women in Bangladesh. She left a touring legacy that will continue to motivate and inspire future generations.

*(Source: Dr. Herold S Baroi)*

Late Professor Mrs Monika Mannan was born in 1938 in a renowned Christian family in Rajshahi. Her father Rev. P.K. Barui, was a distinguished Christian Scholar and served as a prominent Christian Missionary Priest in Bangladesh. At the age of 6, she was sent to London Missionary School (LMS) in Kolkata to get her education started. She completed her higher secondary education from LMS and Bachelors in Arts from Calcutta University before she came back to Rajshahi in 1958 and later completed Masters in English Literature and Masters of Education from the University of Rajshahi. She further studied English Language Teaching at the University of Exeter in the UK and the University of Sydney in Australia. She also did her Bachelor of Theology (BTh) from Serampore College India. She started her professional journey in 1959 as Assistant Teacher of English at P N Girls' High School in Rajshahi. She was promoted as the Assistant Head Mistress in 1960, the youngest at that time in East Pakistan. Before joining as a Lecturer at Teacher's Training College, she



‘  
Do not fear,  
... I will uphold  
you with my  
right hand.  
’

## Condolence

The death of Dr James Tejosh Das is a sudden death of a Lord's slave and it was very unexpected and very sad for us. He was a wise and talented child of our soil and Church. His contribution to the betterment of the church and society is undeniable. With all the knowledge and skills God has given him, he has faithfully served the Church and the community. He has made our church and society proud and glorious through all his good deeds. Our country, society and church have lost a precious gem in this difficult time. This God-fearing man was full of the knowledge of God, kind, humble, always smiling, a friend of the poor, and beloved of all. He could easily take people as his own. His curiosity for knowledge was not limited to the Church of Bangladesh. He was a shining star to people of all walks of life, races, religions and castes. As an orator, he was well known to people from all walks of life. As a progressive and creative writer, he used to write regularly in various journals. His various books, especially the two hundred years of Christianity in Bangladesh and beyond, will be a document for the Christian congregation. During the transition period of the church, he has led the church efficiently with integrity and faithfulness as the Synod Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Church of Bangladesh. We are shocked to loose a valuable resource man like him. We extend our deepest condolences to you all. May God give you heavenly strength and courage to overcome this shock. We do not have the language to give you the right consolation, so we want to say through God's Word: **'Do not be afraid, for I am with you; Do not despair, for I am your God; I give you strength; I will help you; I will hold fast to you with the right hand of my righteousness.'** - *Isaiah 41:10.*

**God be with you.**

**The Most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin**  
*Moderator and Bishop of Dhaka Diocese*  
*The Church of Bangladesh*

**Rev. John P. Hira**  
*Synod Secretary*  
*The Church of Bangladesh*