



The Church of Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

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‘Even in the Corona pandemic our Hope in Christ never end.’



Photo: Jones loton Roy

Christian Greetings to all the brothers and sisters in Christ at home and abroad.

I thought that the corona pandemic from our country and the world will end in no time, it will stop. But this time the corona virus in another form called delta variant and black fungus has become ten times more powerful than the previous. The procession of its death has not yet come to our country even on the verge of the way the violence was carried out in India. The nation is terrified. Although most people are not yet fully conscious and do not follow health rules. There is no doubt how that delta variant of India first entered Bangladesh through some people from the several border districts. In the meantime, the rate of death and infection is increasing rapidly. What will happen to the people of our country? The death march has already begun especially in many districts including Chapai Nawabganj, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jessore, Khulna regions. Many have already lost relatives and loved ones, and they are stunned and bewildered. Many people in our society have also been affected by corona, even the doctors and health workers who are all front liners have been suffering from this virus. In



the meantime, we have lost two eminent brothers of the Church of Bangladesh, Late Mr. Rafael Biswas and late Dr. James Tejosh Das. Their deaths still seem unbelievable to many of us.

Almost ten times, we weaken in faith, and again we wake up by studying the Scriptures and praying. In the midst of all this, Jesus Christ is with us, will be, and incredibly able to save us.

Two years ago, about forty-three Anglican Archbishops from around the world visited Jordan's Mount Nebo. From there, Moses was shown the land of the "honey" that God promised to the nation of Israel. When people were dying like a plague from a snake bite, And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole. And everyone's who bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. (Numbers 21:8-9) "

If we today look to the one who was killed on the cross and was resurrected three days after death and surrender to God in humility, repentance, prayer and faith, we too will be saved. We know and believe this true story that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was able to stop the wind of the sea of Galilee. Hope will be normal one day.

Our church, our country and the whole world are in turmoil today because of this corona, the world is at a standstill today, how many people are being damaged! People are broken physically, mentally,

in many ways. The education system of the whole world has collapsed. Students are being severely affected, teachers and people of various professions are suffering from a deep problem today. As churches, we too are being severely damaged, often without thinking about how the church will be run. But in the meantime, many of you, including me, have faith in Jesus Christ. He is the one who is able to save us from this great calamity. Able to quell this pandemic- our duty is to look back on Him in faith and accept Him in our hearts, to follow His path, to love man and humanity and to protect creation. From 1st July 2021, the country is obeying the Government, a nationwide stronger lockdown. There is no fear. We will all follow the rules of health, pray to God for the country and the world. We will keep our hope in Jesus, He will be our helper.

We should stay healthy, stay well, and stay in the service of man and creation in prayer and meditation. When we meditate on the words of the Holy Bible we can get the way of relief from this pandemic: "if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." -2 Chronicles 7:14

Samuel S Mankhin

Moderator

The Church of Bangladesh



Forty-three Anglican Archbishops from around the world visited Jordan's Mount Nebo.

Message from Barishal Diocese



Dear All in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Once again, we are in a lockdown situation In Bangladesh. We all are waiting to go out in a safe world and expect to experience movement freedom. We are waiting patiently or impatiently to have the news from our government to allow us to move freely with no fear and no risk. We will get permission when we are safe and robust enough to fight against the deadly Coronavirus.

The disciples of Jesus were patiently waiting to receive the promised Holy Spirit. They were waiting to fill with the power of the Holy Spirit so that they can go out and live a free and safe life, which Jesus assured them all. When they all were filled with the Spirit, they were able to be strong and dared to face any opposition with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We believe it is the same Holy Spirit who gives us life, helping us be strong and courageous to face the present 'VUCA' world (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous). The presence of the Holy Spirit gives us PEACE, COURAGE and HOPE.

Therefore, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to give us life amid deaths. Please provide us with comfort, hope and healing in the time of sickness, sustain us when we are in uncertainty and do not know what is next, help us to reach out to the need of people so that all can have the holistic salvation.

May God's Spirit lives within us, May the Holy Spirit of Jesus give us peace, and may the Holy Spirit renew us to face the new normal situation. Amen.

Please receive our May 2021 Newsletter, which is attached here.

With best regards and prayer.

Rt Rev Shourabh Pholia

Message from Kushtia Diocese



Dear sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Let us praise the Lord for His loving acceptance of us. Paul the Apostle taught in Ephesians 1:6, "to the praise and glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." To be honest by the grace of God we are still alive during this pandemic era and let us learn to know Him in the midst of the difficulties and troubles of life. Let us learn a lesson which strengthens our faith in order that we may face the tribulations of the future with greater strength and faith. "Guard my life, for I am faithful to you, save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord for I call to you all day long. (Psalm 86:3).

Since the beginning of covid 19, 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.

Although corona pandemic is found all over the world, its effect was a little less in Bangladesh. But due to the sudden appearance of the delta variant, Corona appeared very rapidly in some districts of Bangladesh. Its impact has been exacerbated, especially in the border areas. As Bollobhpur and Rajshahi deaneries are border area, therefore many of them have been affected and they are trying to get treatment at their respective homes as there is not much treatment available at the hospital. One of our priests Rev. Mritthunjoy Mondol's wife had been infected and by the grace of God she is now in good health. At present in these area strict lockdown is going on and all the people are living in the perpetual fear of death.

Nevertheless, we are trying to continue our pastoral work as well as our social services in spite of various problems. Moreover, in these junctures we are devotedly praying to God to save us from this great peril. No matter what, we still have hope. As we continue moving forward, please maintain our safety protocols so that we can keep one another safe.

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 thank God almighty for His grace, blessings and support for St. Andrew's Theological College in the midst of Covid-19 Pandemic. We are very happy to inform you that all our students, faculties and staffs are in good health and safe by the grace of God. Please keep praying for the SATC so that we can continue the ministry well.

Online Class: We have started online classes through Zoom due to present pandemic situation. Students from all over the Bangladesh are joining the class. As we are not able to arrange the B.Th. contact seminar now in physically so we arranged online class for the students.

Principal's Visit to CCTB for M.Div. Students: Seven of our Priest and catechist are doing M.Div. (Masters of Divinity) in CCTB. So our honorable Principal Rev. John P. Hira gave a visit to the CCTB and had a good discussion and sharing with the faculty and the staffs of CCTB.

Cleanliness Campaign & Tree Plantation: Our College does cleanliness campaign after every three months. In this campaign we try to clean all our surrounded garbage. This time we did cleaning our rooftop and planted various fruits and vegetables plants on the rooftop.

Preparation for Exam: The B.Th. Final year exam will start from 5th July 2021. Due to Covid-19 situation the



exam will be held through online under Senate of Serampore College and University, India. Our seminarians will sit for exam at the College and other students will give exam from their home. Please pray for the student's good health to complete the exam successfully.

Birthday Celebration: We did celebrate our students and staffs Birthday to thank God for His blessings. In the month of June'21 celebrated the Birthday one of our student Sagor Sarder and staff Jabesh Mondol's Birthday.



Honorable Principal Rev. John P. Hira gave a visit to the CCTB



Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

Let's make something different together

Shalom is working hard for the economic and social development of the poorest of the poor, deprived and neglected people irrespective of religion in the remote areas of the country. Santali ethnic peoples in Rajshahi region and Garo ethnic peoples in Netrokona & Mymensingh region are implementing various programs for transformation of socio economic conditions and human development. On the other side Meherpur, Chuadanga, Khulna, Mongla districts are very close to the Indian border and declared red zone for COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, there is an official lockdown in the whole country therefore; no activities are going to be conducted in these areas. Employees have already been instructed by the Shalom Central Office to stay in their respective working areas and regularly we communicating with the field offices by Zoom meeting. Sometimes our honorable Chairmen attend the prayer and discussion meeting and looks after Shalom's activities.

Poverty Reduction and Community Resilience Project is being implemented at Baromari under Netrokona district and Jobarpar under Barishal district. Through this project 1,184 targeted people attend awareness session on child rights, women rights, land rights, indigenous rights, 265 targeted people got training on homestead gardening, chicken and duck rearing, goat rearing, vermin compost and 60 targeted people got cash support for chicken/duck rearing and goat rearing during the May/June 2021 by the support of Bread for the World. At the same time the project arranged group management training and conflict resolution and mitigation training for People Organization's leaders.

Transformation of Socio-Economic Conditions of the Under Privileged Communities through Adaptive Sustainable Interventions Project is being implemented at Haluaghat under Mymensingh district and Tanor and Godagari under Rajshahi district. Through this project 151 youth oriented for self employment, 296 women oriented for empowerment, 198 women attended general awareness of health ANC and



Training on Chicken and Duck rearing

PNC, 150 targeted people attended thunderstorm awareness meetings, 353 attended waste management awareness sessions and 135 attended awareness sessions on alternative sources of income. By this time 115 targeted people got agro based sector wise technical training, vegetable and fruits cultivation training, compost training; 45 targeted got support for fruit cultivation and 150 got tree for plantation in the homesteads, school, and Church campus by the support of ICCO cooperation.



The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh (TLMIB) and SHALOM signed a "Letter of Agreement" on 23 April, 2015 to carry out an advocacy activities under Empowerment Project (AEP) to serve leprosy patients. Shalom has been implementing the AEP project in Barisal, Meherpur & Chuadanga areas. The AEP project goal is to provide '360 integrated leprosy services' including sustainability integration, empowered partnership, cost effective, mainstreaming and quality service. Number of 365 leprosy patients have been found and all are leading happy healthy lives in the society and 53 patients are undergoing treatment. In the midst of the Corona epidemic the project carried out various activities for the well-being of leprosy patients. Leprosy is not the result of sin, leprosy can be relieved by proper treatment.





CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

Christian Ministry to Children and Youth (CMCY) bearing Reg. # 1140 is a Childcare friendly organization that supports poor and needy children to grow up holistically. Even in the Coronavirus crisis, CMCY runs its childcare programs getting kind funds from the donors. But still now project children are living with their families at home during the Covid19 situation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the dramatic loss of human life, worldwide. It is snatching the taste of human life, making them imprisoned at homes and shrinking incomes. It is the reason for the devastating disruptions to the economy and social life.

Major activities



In the reporting periods, CMCY has managed all office correspondences availing the modern blessings of the internet and mobile phones. In these times, CMCY had several zoom meetings along with the staff of 26 projects, reviewed existing administration, child-rights, gender, financial and personnel policies. Had dialogues' along with the Compassion International Bangladesh and the Garo Baptist Convention (GBC). As per the request from the GBC to support them as the 3rd party to keep their CIB finances CDSPs running, a MoU had been drafted. Also needful communications' along with the donors are in the process to extend CMCY support for the needy unreached. The auction process of selling the unused tools of the Nazareth Technical School, Savar has been done, peacefully. CMCY regularly distributes cash gift and food support among the beneficiaries like before and takes care of them over mobile, home visit and court yard meeting, maintaining social distancing to make children aware on education, health and child rights.

A special Zoom Meeting:

On May 30, 2021; as per the kind instruction from the Chairperson, Rt. Rev. Samuel S Mankhin, and CMCY had a Zoom Meeting. All project Managers, Project In-charges, CMCY Officers and the most honorable Moderator and Chairperson CMCY attended that meeting. There each project head briefly shared their project activities, emphasizing child care on the corona virus pandemic. The Chair, Rt. Rev. Samuel S Mankhin, sharing thanks, urged all to work sincerely to uphold the name and fame of the Church of Bangladesh following the dedication and sacrifices of the former. He furthermore urged all to take proper care of their project infrastructures and strongly warned all not to have illegal involvement with any illegal issues like the childcare, child abuse, gender confliction and adultery.

As the whole world is unsteady with the fear and anxiety from the Coronavirus, we pray for global solidarity and support for the most vulnerable in the society, particularly for the needy people in the emerging developing countries like Bangladesh and others. We are very grateful to all kind donors of CMD, CMS, Operation-Agri, and CIB for saving the endangered humanity.



EDUCATION



The Church of Bangladesh (COB) has been imparting education in a safe environment with discipline, love and care to children from all communities who are unable to get admission into government or private schools. The Church seeks to provide education for all for the fulfillment of life and for ensuring quality education in an environment of education so that disciples learn and grow with joy and love and improve their social and economic conditions.



Online classes are currently running in city schools and all activities are conducted online. The 1st interim examination has been taken in the schools of the city. Preparations for the 2nd interim examinations are currently underway.

Also precautions are being taken in school and practices such as washing hands frequently during the pandemic, wearing of masks, maintaining physical distances and not entering unnecessary rooms are being encouraged. Teachers are also coming up with various suggestions not to go out.

Even in the village schools, children are being visited from house to house and are given advice on how to concentrate on studies as much as possible. The students are facing severe losses due to the corona situation.

The Church of Bangladesh currently operates 44 schools. The total number of students is 7974 and there are 317 teachers and colleagues.

The newly lock down period announced by the Government due to impact of the Corona is until July 14,2021

Prayer

The education system is most vulnerable to the global corona epidemic. Most of the church-run schools in Bangladesh are in rural areas. The students come from extremely poor families. They are unable to pay school fees for their children as they do not have jobs during the Corona pandemic. As a result, teachers are not getting their salaries. There is currently no money to pay teachers in the church education fund.

So teachers are therefore facing difficult conditions. From the Department of Education, we are appealing to our friends and church partners; if you have a source of support or contribution, please consider supporting us. Please also continue to pray for us.

We pray to Almighty God to save us from this Corona pandemic and to save the lives of the whole creation, especially the children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Monita Mankhin
Education Coordinator, Synod
Church of Bangladesh.

Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



Opening of Dental Unit

In the midst of corona virus curbs a launching ceremony was organized on last June 01, 2021 in CMHR for a full fledged dental department. The Honorable Moderator of Church of Bangladesh, Rev. Samuel Sunil Mankhin, who is also the chairperson of CMHR Board of Trustees (BOT) was virtually connected through zoom along with Respected Bishops of Barishal and Kushtia, BOT members, Conveners of various BOT committees and other dignitaries. We also thank Mr. John Tarun Mondol, Director of the CMCY for his kind presence in the occasion. We are also grateful to the donor of the dental equipment and express our gratitude to the management of the CMD Germany for the quick decision to allow us to utilize the apparatus for dental treatment of Christian Mission Hospital, only a few patients received a kind of consultation and referral support from CMHR for their dental problems, but there was independent fully operating Dental Department ever in this hospital.

Now for CMHR hospital this Dental Department is a new addition. One registered dental doctor and a technician are working full time. The department is such capacitated that it can provide all forms of related services including scaling, temporary and permanent dental filling, root canal treatment, crown cap, bridge, tooth extraction, complete denture, diastema closure, and other forms of orthodontic treatment. Truly this addition has substantially increased the spectrum of patients' care making CMHR hospital more comprehensive in terms of meaningful accessible services.

Patients have started visiting CMHR dental department now a day. And they are happy. In June 2021, 34 male and 40 female patients received various services from CMHR dental department.

Rajshahi Corona Situation

With delta variant dominating, the city of Rajshahi saw a high surge of corona virus infections during the second wave of pandemic that started countrywide in Bangladesh from first week of April 2021. During this time the positivity rate of PCR testing for this virus went as high as 60% and the city of Rajshahi became a hotspot in the scenario of Bangladesh. The government Medical College Hospital, the lone centre for COVID 19 treatment at Rajshahi with facility for high flow oxygen, was full of corona patients with various degrees of complications. High fatalities were reported each day too. Although the second wave is still on, the positivity rate has come down to some extent. Experts say there has been wide-spread community infection of corona virus now in Rajshahi.

As suggested by health professionals, the nation-wide restrictions for combating corona virus have been in effect during this second phase in Bangladesh. Being a hotspot and strategic focus for government health sector, the city of Rajshahi had to undergo a series of additional local lockdowns and shut-downs during this time that were even stronger. Offices, educational institutes, public places, markets and malls and road and railway transports have all been closed. Rajshahi city has literally been cut off from various upazilas and surrounding districts.

Challenge of Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR)

During this second wave of corona virus, Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR) also had to face a challenging time. Though the hospital was fully open with its general OPD, maternity, general surgery and medicine, Eye and ENT, orthopedics and pediatrics services, the number of daily patients' visit decreased due obviously to such unavoidable circumstances. Consequently, inpatient admissions and surgeries came down too.

Dr. Conan Memorial Nursing Institute, Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.



This nursing institute belongs to the Church of Bangladesh. The Nursing Institute-NI offers courses for students for Diploma in Nursing Science and Midwifery courses from Bangladesh Nursing Science and Midwifery Council. Every year 50 students pass their final exams and they are providing their nursing services in different private clinics, health centers and hospitals and many are getting government jobs after passing the Public Service Commission exams. Some of them are working abroad.

The Nursing Institute of Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi is managed by the Board of Trustees constituted by the Synod Council of Church of Bangladesh. It has a local working committee, academic and development committee for improved management. Currently for the Covid-19 pandemic situation, we are using zoom apps for classes and meetings which are very effective nowadays.

Students study their course for three years and 6 months internship. At present NI has new 2nd and 3rd year students. There are 90 students in total. Their final board exams were held in March and April, 2021. They are waiting for their results. Many essential activities were closed for corona during this exams. When their exams were over, the majority of students have gone home because of Covid-19 security.

Now there are 23 students in the hostel. They are trying their clinical practical and lab skills at Christian Mission Hospital. NI teachers are conducting online classes for students. Several students are getting classes online and some of them who are living in villages are not getting classes through internet for lack of internet accessibility and devices. Those who went home for fear of corona are left behind for their clinical practice and lab skills.

These students who are here are very brave to overcome the Corona situation. CRP tests were conducted on NI staff and 25 students. The CRP, a test to indicate health condition regarding any kind of inflammation especially Corona, some of them were not satisfactory. For this why we sent them for antigen testing, a mobile lab has been being conducted by the Government in many public places in the road sides and two of them were corona positive. They had symptoms of fever, headache, cough, sneezing, and sore throat. They are undergoing proper treatment. They are slowly recovering.

We are awaiting government guidance for enrollment for new 1st year students this year. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are far behind the normal calendar year. We pray for family, friends, church members, all peoples of our dearly country and abroad to overcome the bad time.

God bless and protect us all.



Bollobhpur Hospital



May and June have been many admissions to the wards. Babies have been born, tiny babies have grown up in the warmth of the incubator, paralyzed patients have learned to walk again, diabetic patients have seen their health and strength return, and all the while Covid-19 has crept nearer and nearer and is even now on our very doorstep.

No longer can we say there is no “Virus” in the village areas, for it has crept across the very near border with India, and bringing the virulent new strain with it.

But our care of patients has continued, and also the weekly village clinics right in the middle of the border areas, greatly valued by the village people who are hemmed in by all the new restrictions the new strain has brought.

Obviously, we are careful, we wear face masks, and so do the patients, but how careful can one be? All is in God’s hands, and we maintain Bollobhpur hospital name for patient care.

And alongside, our students training has continued not only in the class room but practical skills are gained on the wards as they care for their patients.

The first week of May saw our new group complete their first three months preliminary training, sit and pass the final examination.

Most did very well indeed-they are a good group-

and on Friday morning, during our service of Holy communion in the chapel, our chaplain blessed their new caps, and placed one on each head.

Then, lighted candles in hand they stood to repeat the familiar Florence Nightingale nurses oath, promising to lead good lives and to uphold the standard of nursing, May God bless them all.

June for brings end of the year examination for most groups, as we have two intakes a year, in January & in July, fulfilling the late Bishop B D Mondol’s instructions-“Sister, take more”.

The 1st year girls are studying hard, eager to move up into the 2nd year, the 2nd year girls are anxious to start their 3rd & final year, and the seniors are sitting their final examination as I write, eager to obtain a Bollobhpur hospital certificate and step out into the world.

Please keep them all in your prayer.

May God bless us all, and thank you all for keeping alongside.

Gillian M Rose

*Director
Bollobhpur Hospital.*



Opening of Sridampara St. John's Church

On Sunday 16th May, 2021, the Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh inaugurated the newly constructed Church of Saint John in the village of Sridampara in Tangail District through the holy communion service. Rev John Probhudan Hira, Synod Secretary and Principal of St. Andrew's Theological College was present at the inauguration of the new church. All the priests of Haluaghat Deanery including Probhudan Hira, Taize Brothers and some priests and dignitaries of Dhaka Deanery were also present. Members of Sridampara New Parish and members of the adjoining Thanarbaid Parish attended the inaugural ceremony. In the inaugural worship, the word of the Lord was shared by Rev. Simson Mazumder.

A reception is held at the end of the opening worship. At the beginning of the reception, on behalf of the local



parish, the Honorable Moderator Bishop Sunil Mankhin and Mrs. Monita Mankhin were crowned by the Garo tribal culture. After the discussion and pleasant cultural program, the inauguration ceremony of the newly built church was concluded with a fellowship lunch. Rev James Duke Baroi, Dean of Madhupur region presided over the reception.

In addition to this, Sridampara Parish Secretary Mr. David Simsang donated two acres of land for the construction of the church. The members of the parish also donated another one acre of land.

We thank the United Thank Offering-UTO of Episcopal Church of America who have abundantly given the financial assistance to finish the construction. We are greatly grateful to them. We expect their prayers at all times.

Bani Ghagra took vows as a Sister



On May 15, 2021, at St Andrew's Church, Haluaghat Ms Bani Ghagra took the vows as a sister through the Lord's Supper worship. The Most Respected Moderator Rt Rev'd Samuel S. Mankhin blessed Sister Bani as a Sister. The vows were attended by the Priests, Catechist and Parish Secretary from various parishes of Haluaghat Deanery and dignitaries of the local parish.

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus in the country, the ceremony was shortened. After the vows, a reception is held. At the end of the reception, the vows end with a fellowship lunch.

Sister Bani Ghagra was born on 15th October 1999 in a family at Baghaitala village. She is the second of three sisters in their family. Father Alpon Ritchil and mother Eva Ghagra of the Sister Bani died at an early age. She later grew up with her grandmother. But Grandma is still alive. Sister Bani studied at the St. Mary's Hostel. She passed Secondary School Certificate-SSC from the hostel. After passing SSC she joined St. Mary's Sisterhood at Haluaghat. Sister Bani entered the St. Mary's Sisters Society on May 17, 2016. She took the vows as a Novice on 23rd November 2017 and finally she took the vow as a sister on 15th May 2021.

It is noted that at present there are five sisters in the St. Mary's Sisterhood. Sister Mira Mankhin (Sister Superior), Sister Anita Raksam, Sister Beauty Doffo, Sister Mala Chisim and Sister Bani Ghagra. Their daily routine is to keep the altars and other places of worship clean, to provide religious education to the children in the schools and hostel nearby, to assist the priest in worship, to visit the family and to attend any prayer meeting. We pray for their lives.

Public Life in the Haluaghat Area is Unsettled for Lightning and Flash Flood



Thunderstorms start at 3 am on Wednesday, June 30, 2021; it went on for 2 to 3 hours continuously and it rained in torrents. Heavy rains and flash from the mountain of North India have caused floods in this area. As a result, thousands of families in Haluaghat Upazila have been flooded and public life has been disrupted.

Some of the institutions of the Church of Bangladesh at Haluaghat Deanery such as; two high schools, two homes for boys and girls, St. Mary's Sister House and Shalom's Development offices are flooded. Water has entered the houses of these institutions and priest's house. In some areas, culverts have broken and roads have been submerged. As a result, the communication system has been broken down. Many raw mud houses have collapsed. The fish in the ponds and enclosures have been washed away. The seedbed, vegetables and crops have been submerged. People are in trouble with cattle and birds. More than 50 families have taken shelter in St. Mary's Girls' High School. Although little help was given by the government, it did not reach to all needy.

Poor people are passing bad time for flood and Covid-19 lock down. Many people are spending their days in crisis without food. On the other hand, when the flood water will go, various ailments and skin diseases will appear. Several people have been suffering from both Covid and flood for life and livelihood.

Regional Coordinator
Shalom-Haluaghat

St. Paul's High School is handed over to the local church members



From 2010, the Church of Bangladesh started preaching Gospel among the Chakma, Marma and Tripura tribals in the Khagrachhari hills of Rangamati district. The Bailachhari Junior School, which is run locally in the village of Bailachhari here. The local people took over the management on behalf of the Church of Bangladesh through an affidavit in 2012. The school was renamed St. Paul's High School. The church continues to bear the cost of running the school. Due to the current Corona pandemic, it is not possible to support the school financially. For this reason, the Honorable Moderator Bishop Samuel S. Mankhin suggested to hand over this school to the local community again with a lump sum two hundred fifty thousand amount of money to reimburse any past liability.

Observing the World Mother's Day:

May 13 was World Mother's Day. In almost all the parishes of Bollobhpur Deanery, World Mother Day is celebrated on 9/5/21 and 18/5/21 in the Sunday worship. All the mothers present with flowers were honored on behalf of the Church.

Congregation Birthdays and Feast of Tabernacles

23th May was Pentecost, the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Church of Christ was born with the acceptance of Christ Jesus as Savior by thousands of people. In all the parishes of Bollobhpur Deanery, the birthday of the Church is celebrated by cutting cakes and distributing sweet meat. In all the parishes of Bollobhpur Deanery, on 17/5/21, in the holy Sunday worship and on the fiftieth day, the grain festival is celebrated.

Bible School and Brigade Curriculum Teacher Training

From 28th May 21 to 29th May 21, 32 teachers of all the parish Bible schools and brigades of Bollobhpur Deanery were trained at Bethany Bari in Bollobhpur Immanuel Church. Mr. Paul Subrata Malakar (Program and Communication, Director, Church of Bangladesh) Rev Simson Mazumder (Convener, Bible School and Brigade, Church of Bangladesh) came from Dhaka as Instructor and was assisted by Rev Mrityunjay Mondol, Rev Ashish Mondol, Rev Dipak Ujjwal Biswas, Catechist Mr. Philip Mondol. The trainers distributed the syllabus for each parish, class-based teacher guide book, Flip Chart, coloring book, Bible school bag. The teachers of all the parishes of Bollobhpur Deanery are very happy to receive this useful training and at the same time Bishop, trainers, expressed their special thanks and gratitude for arranging this training.

Confirmation



Honorable Bishop of Kushtia Diocese blessed and confirmed all the candidates for Confirmation sacrament at Bollobhpur Immanuel Church on Saturday 5th June at 6:00 in the afternoon. Rev Ashish Mondol, Rev Dipak Ujjwal Biswas, Rev L, D Kirtaniya, Catechist Mr. Philip Mondol were present in the holy service with the bishop. There were 45 candidates for the confirmation of Bollobhpur Immanuel Church and six candidates from the Saint Andrew's Church in Bhabarpara. Rev Mrityunjay Mondol, Catechist Mr Philip Mondol and Catechist Mr Kaishar Mullick have taken regular classes to prepare 45 confirmation candidates of Bollobhpur parish. All the candidates jointly organized a luncheon to remember the event.

Reporter: Rev. Dipak Ujjwal Biswas (Nityanandapur Church) and Mr. Albert Folia (Catechist, Juginda Church).

Rajshahi Deanery Bible School and Brigade Teacher Training



Bible school activities are an important activity in the Church because children are the future. From 24th to 26th May, 2021 AD, teacher training has been conducted in the Bible School and Brigade activities of Rajshahi Deanery under the management and collaboration of MSP-4. The training was attended by 35 teachers from 29 parishes of different Bible schools of Rajshahi Deanery.

Rev. Simson Mazumder, the Convener of Bible School and Brigade Activities and Mr. Paul Subrata Malakar, Honorable Programme Director of Synod Office were present as trainers in this training. The Dean Rev Daniel Mondol was also present in the event. The main topic of the training was introduction to the new curriculum and how children can be given lessons according to this curriculum.

Reporter: Polash Mondol

THY KINGDOM COME



The Barishal Diocese has responded to the call of His Grace Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, UK.

May 13th to 23'd, the local parishes of the Barishal Diocese continued Prayer services every day. The purpose was to receive the Holy Spirit, to have the Kingdom of God, to be free from the COVID 19, for the frontline serving communities, for peace in the world, for the creation, for the well being of all human beings and for the unity in Anglican Communion. The Bishop, clergies, women, youth, children, social workers and elders all have actively participated and led the prayer meetings. It started with the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus Christ and ended up with the Pentecost celebration.

Many received the blessing of the Holy Spirit through the prayer meetings, and many have been confident to pray. People were encouraged to come to Church to have the fellowship and have learnt new things as the congregations gave testimony to their respective clergies. Last year the Diocese celebrated it the same way and was looking forward to celebrating it this year.

On May 23rd, all the churches observed Pentecost day and celebrated it as the Church's birthday. People offered thanks giving prayer for God's blessings and the presence of the churches. They also prayed to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In many churches, cakes have been cut to commemorate the church's birthday.

Barishal Diocese continuing response towards COVID 19

Barishal Diocese is continuing its mission towards the affected people due to COVID 19. Many are suffering as they have lost jobs, lack daily work, less income, increased family needs etc. This month, we have supported poor and needy families in two Deaneries with the help of the clergies. They have received support for food and health care according to their needs. This year we have reached out to more than 250 families. They all are thankful to the Church and to those who contributed for the kind support. They are grateful to God to provide for their daily needs.

Many families are in need and requirement more support. But only supporting this way will not solve the problem;

therefore, it will be helpful if we could provide jobs or develop their skills by providing training to help them respond to their needs more effectively. In this time of crisis, being a church member, if we can stand beside those in an emergency, will bring hope in people's lives, and God expects the same from us.

Interfaith Workshop

From May 24* to May 26° 2021, the National Council of Churches Bangladesh arranged Training for Trainers on "Contextual Issues — our responsibilities and initiatives." at Barishal. From Barishal Diocese, eight women actively participated in the training. The participants were from a different faith background. Bishop S. Pholia presented a PowerPoint on "Violent Extremism- its reason, impact and our responsibilities." He explained what it is and why, and what can be done. He helped them to understand its impact on family, society, country and all over the world. He explained it by mentioning the recent world issues. It



was a participatory session and helped the trainers learn and decide what they will do in their communities. They learned how children and women are vulnerable and suffering from violence and extremism. He encouraged all being a believer we all have a role to play to protect it and not to use religion or faith for violent extremism. Bishop helped them realize the reasons for violence and extremism like not giving equal rights, not providing the proper education, unjust society, neglect and oppression, poverty, unemployment, extremist groups, etc. He encouraged the participants to keep unity and harmony among the different faith backgrounds of people here in Bangladesh and their communities. He conveyed the message of the love of Christ, to love one another and love yow neighbors. They all felt the importance of inter-faith dialogue to have peace and harmony in society.

The participants were challenged to keep good relationships and unity among themselves and their neighbors and showed their interest in unity and peace.

The Barishal Diocese and the Bishop are always interested in unity and harmony among the different faith people. The Diocese organized inter-faith dialogue and will organize in the near future.

Mission Support Program (MSP-4)

In the month of April and May 2021 we were able to conduct four training programs on newly developed Bible School Program, syllabus and teaching materials. Catechists, teachers of the Bible School and Brigade participated in the training program, in Dhaka Deanery, Haluaghat Deanery, Rajshahi Deanery and Bollobhpur Deanery.

During the three days training program, we have covered four areas which has increased their knowledge and skills to conduct the Bible Schools at different Parishes of the four Deaneries. More focused were given on the program guideline and practice sessions. The sessions were facilitated by Paul S. Malakar and Rev Simson Mazumder.



Clinic Based Community Health & Nutrition Programme (CBCHNP)



Christian Health Clinic Khulna is continuing to provide health care to the needy people at Moheswarpasha, Khulna.

The Barishal Diocese is thankful to Dr. Rebecca Robinson Milton who has come forward to serve the clinic voluntarily. She is visiting every Wednesday to serve the deprived people.

The Diocesan Bishop shared the need of a doctor at the clinic to care the neglected children and mother in that area and she took it seriously and started serving the church.

On behalf of the Bishop Shourabh Pholia and the Diocese we like to thank her for her kind service.

Prayer Meeting Held on the Second Death Anniversary of Barnabas Dwijen Mondal, the First Bengali Bishop



June 29, 2021, the second death anniversary of the late Bishop Barnabas is remembered at St. Thomas' Cathedral with the Holy Communion Worship at 9 a.m. The Moderator Rt Rev'd Samuel S Mankhin conducted the service and shared the sermon.

While discussing the life of Bishop Mondal, the honorable Moderator said that Bishop Mondal was like a firefly. He is not like the moon or other planets, but he was a pious in Christ and a human being, was illuminated by his own light like a tiny firefly. Like a firefly, he lived his life happily and rebuilt the post-independence war-torn Bangladesh happily because to rebuild the infrastructure and spirituality of his church and he worked his best.

At the end of the worship, a short memorial programme was planned basing on the biography of the late Bishop was held at the Synod Conference Center at 11 in the morning. The

Honorable Moderator Bishop Mankhin conducted the commemoration ceremony. Mrs. Monita Mankhin, Rev Philimon Chambugong, Mr. John Tarun Mondol, Mr. Shyamal Sarker, Mr. Jones Loton Roy mentioned the memorable events on the life and work of Bishop.

Due to the stronger lockdown in the whole of Bangladesh during the Corona, only members of Saint Thomas Cathedral's resident and the staff of the Synod office were present at the worship and reminiscence ceremony.

However, in every diocese, in deanery and in the parishes of the Church of Bangladesh, arranged special worship and remembrance meetings were held in memory of the late Bishop.

The first Bengali Bishop of the Church of Bangladesh, the Rt Rev Barnabas Dwijen Mondal, passed away on Saturday, June 29, 2019. He was 82 years old at the time of his death.