



The Church of Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● July–August Issue 2021 ●

Volume 10

MESSAGE from the Moderator

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We were indeed in great trouble, agony, and anxiety in the month of July and August. Because many of our church members had suffered from the corona positive and some of them died in entire of three dioceses. The Synod office, Shalom office staff members also had suffered from coronavirus positive, among them Jones L Roy our publication and documentation officer! They had to spend a lot of money for their treatment and all the family members were in great distress. Even our honorable Bishop Pholia also had suffered from corona positive, but thank God that all have been cured and living a normal life but they are very weak physically. In the meantime, you also know that once those who are the corona positive, it might be many health complications in their lives. So we should be more aware of it and should be very careful and abide by the Government health rules and regulations.

I must thank all the Church partners of the Church of Bangladesh for their very sincere and powerful prayer support and encouragement. In the month of July when the delta variant had started attacking our people and when our people also started affecting by this very serious pandemic, I wrote a letter to the Church and Mission partners to pray for our country and for our church members those who been affected. I am happy that more than 25 Anglican Archbishops of the Anglican Communion responded with their prayer support. It will be worthwhile to mention that His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby phoned me and had a conversation and prayed and showed his prayer support and asked God's mercy and blessings for all of us in Bangladesh. Likewise, the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion, the friends of the USPG, the friends of the OM, UK, the friends of the CWM came up with their prayer support



for which I am immensely indebted to them and would like to convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of them.

May I note here that we mourn and pray for the soul of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 47th martyrdom, 15th August 2021. We are grateful for his leadership in this land for ever.

All of you know that due to the corona pandemic the world has been stunned and the socio-economic condition of the people of countries of the poor economy particularly have been facing a lot of distress, anxiety, physical and psychological problems, and its bad effects have been coming to the churches like the waves of the sea due to cyclone and natural disaster. Of course, we are aware of the natural disasters that happened and happening in Germany, Switzerland, Turkistan, Algeria, Canada, the USA, India, Haiti and so on. We are in full solidarity with them and incessantly praying for them. We are too aware of what is going on in Myanmar and recently in Afghanistan and the terrible, unprecedented humanitarian crisis happening and every day we have been upholding them in our prayer. May I request you to pray for the CoB and for the members so that in any situation we should be having our faith in God who is our refuge and strength.

“I look to the mountain; where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake. The Lord will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe “ (Psalm.121:1-3,7).

Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin
Moderator

The Church of Bangladesh

Message from Barishal Diocese

Dear all in Christ,

Greetings from Barishal Diocese. I thank you all for your continued prayer support for me and our Diocese. I did my COVID test it is negative. During my sickness, I realized what King David said in his Psalm 23:4- "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me." I believe that God saved me by using many of you in my time of recovery. It helped me see how important it is to be united and support one another to be healed and restored.



St. Paul realized it very strongly, and therefore, he presented the Church as the body of Christ. He rightly presented it to encourage all to stay united in Christ. Jesus also prayed for us to love one another and be united as He and God are united.

We need to thank God because we have all received grace here in Bangladesh. The new cases of COVID in Bangladesh are now 2,497 and recent death 52 (7th September' 21), which were at the end of July 16,230 and death was 237 (28th July' 21). This news has courage us to move on with our church ministry in the post-pandemic time. Undoubtedly, our fight against the invisible virus will continue for a few more years as it is changing its nature again and again and bringing new threats to humanity. But the Good News is we will win the battle by God's Grace. We must acknowledge it and humble ourselves to God.

During this time of the pandemic, we heard many times that "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God." (Is.41:10). We need to trust in our Lord the God. When we're going through various crises, including sickness, losing jobs, uncertainty, multiple threats, uncertain future of our generations, financial crisis, etc., we have no other place but God, who assures us and supports us through God's people. Therefore, existing of the Church, the body of Christ, is very much needed in this world to reveal the presence of God.

Barishal Diocese tried to reach out to people in various ways throughout the month and used digital technology to reach out to many with God's Word to assure all of God's presence and love.

Please uphold us all in your prayer as you are unceasingly doing it for us. We believe that it is your prayers and God's grace we are still moving on.

May God bless us all and help us to grow more for God's Kingdom and righteousness.

Yours in Christ –

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.

Let us praise the Lord for His loving acceptance of us.

As David wrote in Psalms 103, "Praise

the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." We are so profoundly grateful to our Almighty God for His abundant love in our lives. We are all well in the midst of this epidemic although many became ill and later recovered.

Unfortunately the death toll in Bangladesh was the highest in July and August. Obviously frustration has worked more than ever. Our institutions were almost closed. Still many more people are losing their jobs! In spite of that, the government took some steps, which raised a lot of hopes. One of the very good news is that after a long silence our schools and colleges are going to re-open on 12th September. This news has brought a lot of joy to the entire country.

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.

In closing, let us pray for each other so that the Lord will be with us. No matter what the problems in our world, there is always hope in Jesus. May God bless us all and our families. Amen.

Rt Rev Hemen Halder





Madhupur Deanery News

During the Corona Crisis, there was a lot of fear and anxiety in the midst of the lockdown. However, through the online meeting and prayer meeting organized by Dhaka Diocese, the Most Revered Bishop Samuel S Mankhin has always exchanged update, for which I express my sincere thanks and gratitude on behalf of Madhupur Deanery. Worship has been done in accordance with the rules of health instructed by the Government in all parishes. Although some families were affected by Corona, God's blessing helped them to recover. A few programs are briefly reported.

Idilpur Parish Lay-People's Course: The Lay-People's Course introduced to 18 people at saints cndrew's Theological College has been completed under the guidance of Catechist Sumon Mondol. Certificates were distributed among them in the presence of Parish Priest Reverend Jonarson Dio.

Sridampara Parish Lay-People's Course: Started from Friday in the last week of July 2021. 15 people participated in it. Reverend James Duke Baroi conducted the introductory class of the course and the course will be led under the supervision of Mr. Ranjan Hagidak.

Sunday School Program: On 15th August a small competition is organized after the Sunday service to encourage the children. All the children of the parish participated in it spontaneously. Common gifts are given to them for more encouragement.

A special prayer meeting held: A special prayer meeting has been organized at Thanarbaid Parish on Wednesday evening, July 21 during the lockdown of Corona. Several families from the local parish participated.

Tree Plantation Day Observation at Chittagong Christ Church



With the overall cooperation of Christ Church Chittagong City Pastorate Committee on 16th August 2021, a day-long tree planting day was observed on the initiative of "Chattagram Youth Fellowship". All the members of the Pastorate Committee and members of the youth of Christ Church were present at the day observation of Tree Planting Day and they planted useful trees. About 50 different species of fruit, timber and medicinal trees are planted. Reverend Promosh Chambugong chaired the day long events on the occasion of the observation of the planting of trees with the worship of the Lord. Reverend Promosh Chambugong offered sermon on the theme 'Creation of God and Caring'.

Pastoral visit

Bishop Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese and his wife Mrs. Jessica Surpana Halder paid a special visit to Karpasdanga Christ Church Compassion Project on 19/08/21. Reverend Mrityunjoy Mondol was with them. On 11/8/21 Bishop Hemen Halder came to Bollovepur Immanuel Church and attended the monthly pastoral meeting of the deanery and got the news of all parishes and advised everyone to manage the parish. Bishop Hemen Halder held a meeting with the members of the Election Commission of the deanery on the same day.

Bible Study Seminar



On 13/08/21, a one-day Holy Bible Study Seminar was held at the Church of Saint Peter in Ratanpur following the rules of hygiene during lockdown for Corona virus pandemic. The motto of this seminar was: Walking in the light of the Holy Bible. This seminar is organized for the purpose of developing the spiritual life of the youth. The seminar was organized for 53 young men and women of Bollovepur and Ratanpur parish of the Deanery Youth Association on their own initiative. Mr. Kaishar Mollick organized it.

Inauguration of Temporary Reconstructed Church Building at Hudrapur Christ Church, Rajshahi Deanery



Rev. Daniel Mondal, Dean of Rajshahi Deanery, inaugurated the temporary reconstructed Church Building at Hudrapur Parish of Rajshahi Deanery on August 13, 2021 AD. Rev. Philip Biswas, Parish Priest, Mr. Mahesh Hembrom, Deanery Secretary, Mr. Manuel Soren, Deanery Property Manager, Mr. Ephraim Hembrom, Catechist of Mohishbathan Church, and other Catechists and worshipers were present. According to the culture of Santal society, Dean and other guests are greeted in front of the church house by playing melody and after washing the feet of the guests according to Santali tradition, then Dean cut the ribbon to open the church house and conducts worship by blessing the altar.

This church house is built with tin shed and fence with the help of voluntary donations from Christians in the local church. It is noted that Hudrapur Church is a new Church. In the past, Christians used to gather here for worship in a small church with thatched fences and sheds. Moreover, it has not yet been possible to purchase land for the church in this church. We hope and pray for the lives of church members wealthy Christians and the church will extend a helping hand to purchase land for the church and build a permanent church.

One day long youth seminar Church of Saint Jacob, Palashi held

On August 25, 2021, Mr. Cornelius Hansda, Catechist of the Congregation Saint Jacob's Church, Palashi Parish, organized a one-day-long youth seminar at own local expense.

The theme of the seminar was- 'Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.' (2 Timothy 2:22). Mr. Samuel Hembrom spoke on the theme.



A total of 55 youths from Hudrapur, Sugna, Astapukur, Jhinfulbari, Tantihati, Shalbanda, Koelhat, Kushia, Babulband and local congregations participated in the seminar. The seminar was very lively and beautiful even though no priest was present in the seminar for some reason. Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam (Tulu), Chairman, Rishikul Union was present as Chief Guest, Mr. Samuel Hembrom, Mr. Polash Mondol, Mr. Satish Soren, Mr. Sanjit Tudu and Mr. Rajan Murmu were present as Speakers. Matthias Murmu was also present in the seminar.

First virtual Pastoral meeting Of Barishal Diocese



On 6th August 2021, from 9.00 am to 2.0 pm, the Barishal Diocese's first virtual Pastoral meeting was held. Bishop Shourabh Pholia chaired the meeting, where all the clergies of the diocese were present.

Due to strict lockdown and shutdown, Bishop could not visit rural churches, so he organized the virtual meeting with the clergies and catechists.

Bishop Pholia led a Bible study based on 1 Peter 3:16-19. He informed all that the Lambeth Conference will be held next year, and its theme is: "God's Church to God's World." He also mentioned that this year the Bishops are having virtual conversations in groups. They meet every month, do Bible study together, and

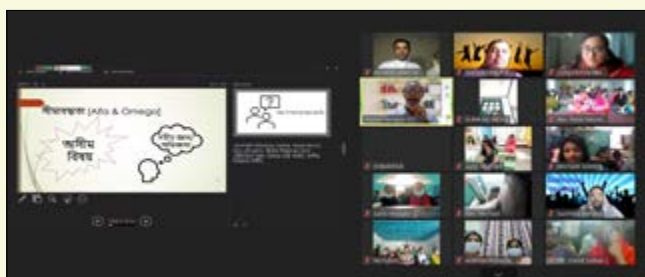


share their thoughts and stories from their dioceses. They also are praying for one another. Bishop also added that they have discussed this passage and tried to find the fears and hopes in their personal lives, church life, in the country and the world.

After the Bible discussion, Bishop Pholia gave a basic orientation of using the ZOOM App. They all learnt it and now using it for various meetings and services organized by the diocese and others.

The day was closed with thanksgiving and prayers.

Barishal Diocesan Youth Seminar on Holy Trinity



On 10th July, the Barishal Diocese organized a virtual youth seminar for the diocesan youth. There are more than hundreds of youth who participated from the diocese by 65 devices. The seminar's theme was: "The Holy Trinity", which the youth chose as they found to share the theme with their other faith and not easy for them to understand.

The main speaker was Deacon Wailes Rangsa, Principal, Christian College of Theology Bangladesh, Savar, Dhaka. He presented through PowerPoint and very clearly explained to the youth, and they all were pleased to hear from him. He shared how the concept developed and its Biblical references. He also helped them to understand how the Holy Trinity is working in our lives. Rev. Richard Uttam Biswas lead the session. After his sharing, the youth asked questions, and along with him, Suchitra Behera, Theologian, also helped the youth to get their answers. Bishop Shourabh Pholia also helped the youth to be clear of their understanding of the theme.

The next session facilitators were from the youth. Four



youth were asked to share their thoughts on the theme, and they were Ms Alice Kapali, Mr Bless Talukder, Ms Albright Baroi and Mr Issac Sarkar. They all were excellent in their presentation. Ms Kapali and Mr Sarker presented their thoughts through PowerPoint, which helped the youth understand the concept. We, the Barishal Diocese, are proud of all of the youth. They all are rich in their understanding and their faith. We thank God for their lives. Rev. Shoshi Baroi led the session, and Mr Duke Malakar thanked all who participated in the open discussion.



In this seminar, CCTB's BTh students joined and were happy to have the opportunity.

The youth were happy to have the opportunity, and they thanked the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia and Suchitra Behera, who organized the seminar for the youth. They also thanked their clergies and catechists, who encouraged them to join the seminar. Mr Ananda Kirtonia thanked all and closed the seminar with a prayer.

Update of Christa Sevika Sangha's (CSS)



Thank God that, He has kept us all alive this time. Our main work is to pray for all the people, hospitality is another important job for us. In addition, we are working at Jobarpar Sharbo Dhuter Girls' Hostel, Play Center, St. Gabriel's Primary School and Oxford Mission Barisal St. Agnes Girls' Hostel and St. Mary's Home.

We also have church sewing, bread, wine, and candle making. We are doing these things with great joy and for the glory of God.



Pond filling

We have to fill a pond for some important reasons. These are- (1) the risk of the sisters' residence, (2) the risk of the new play center and (3) the risky condition of the boundary wall on the north side of the pond. Towards the end of the pond filling work, here we want to plant a mango orchard.

Sister Agnes's operation

On August 16, 2021, Sister Agnes underwent gallbladder operation at Barisal Fair Health Clinic. Now he is at Oxford Mission Barisal. By the grace of the great God and in the prayers of all of you, Sister Agnes is much better now, please pray for her complete recovery. Our CSS family is extremely grateful to all of you.



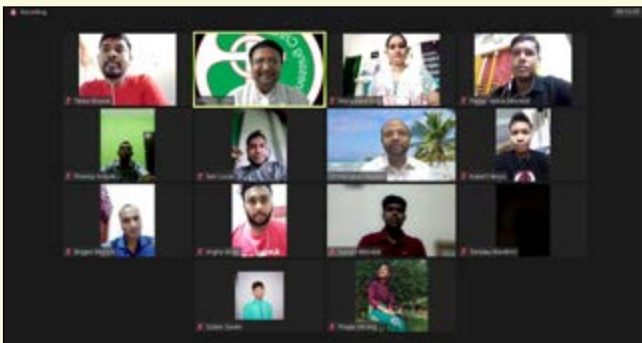
Our mother always said, "God, we can't do anything good without your will", just so it is never possible for any of us to do anything good without God's will.

Our prayer for all of you, God keep you all healthy and well every day.

St. Andrew's Theological College, Dhaka

We are thankful and grateful to Almighty God for His grace, blessings and support for St. Andrew's Theological College even in the midst of Covid-19 Pandemic. We are also indebted to our Mission Partners Kerk in Actie Netherlands and Church of Scotland for their continuous support towards our SATC College. 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 even some fall in sick at the time of spreading delta variant. Please keep praying for the SATC so that we can continue the ministry well.

Online Exam & BCS Zoom Class



We have started BCS online classes through Zoom due to present pandemic situation. Students from all over the Bangladesh are joining the class as we could not call them physical seminar due to strict lockdown all over the country. BTh students also completed their online exam even in this lockdown situation under Senate of Serampore University.

New B.Th. Girls Students and a Family Admitted at SATC



We are glad to inform you that after a long time, we have admitted two girl students Pingki Mrong and Tonima Mankhin at our College and a Couple name Ratan Moni Chakma and his wife Dina Chakma with

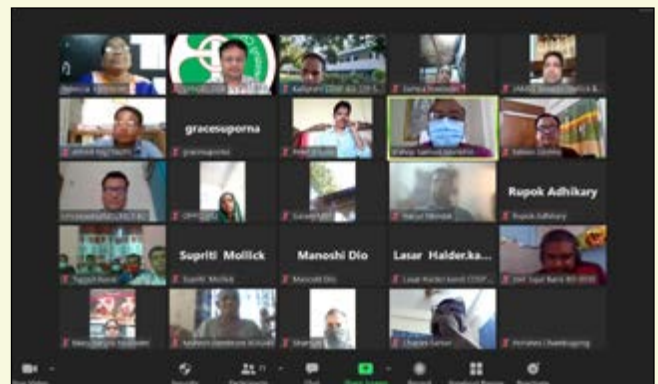
their 5-year son Shimson Chakma. This year we have admitted total six students at our college.

New Semester begins on August 2021



Our college started its New Semester for internal B.Th. Seminarians on August 2021 for this academic year. We are waiting to get B.Th. Final Year and B.Th. First Year results.

Lay People's Course



SATC is doing extensively Lay People's Course for lay leaders of the church and among the non-Christians. We are doing physical at villages, cities and online zoom lay people's course for 130 leaders among the all the Staffs and Workers of SHALOM and CMCY to deepen their faith commitments to do the ministry all over Bangladesh. Our Honorable Moderator and Chairman of SATC, The Most Rev Samuel S Mankhin has inaugurated this Lay People's Course for SHALOM and CMCY All Staffs and Workers.

Birthday Celebration

We did celebrate our students and staffs Birthday to thank God for His blessings. In the month of August'21 celebrated the Birthday one of our students Lemon Chambugon and staff Rekha Mondol's Birthday.



Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

May God give
his departed soul
eternal rest in
peace!



Bread for the World (BftW)
Bangladesh Representative CSS
Consultant Mr. Gobinda Shaha
(1955-2021) passed away on August
10, 2021 at Holy Family Hospital,
Dhaka affected by COVID-19.

“This is unbelievable! I can't believe that, he is no more with us! May God give his departed soul eternal rest in peace! Convey the condolences to his dear sons, daughter and family members. It has been a big loss and the CoB will be ever grateful to him for his love and friendship through our organization”. On behalf of all; the Moderator of CoB and the Chairman of Shalom; Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin.



During the lockdown/shutdown situation the program activities were kept in touch with all projects and staff through regular prayer and discussion meetings by using zoom in every Monday morning. Honorable Chairman of Shalom Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin was present in almost all the meetings, showing his love for the organization and gave instructions to implement all programs, reporting, implementation and personal safety. Respected Vice Chairman Rt. Revd. Sourabh Pholia, Respected Rt. Revd. Hemen Halder, Synod Secretary & Principal, SATC, Revd. Probhudan Hira, Education Coordinator Ms. Monita Mankhin, Cathedral Chapel Revd. Simson Mazumder, Revd. Immanuel Mithu Mondol was present as honorable guest in the prayer meeting.



Shalom is implementing planned project's activities to maintain the announced Govt. health guidelines and office orders. In the recent COVID-19 pandemic situation project has been working regularly through continued to distribute masks, sanitizers and food items support to the targeted beneficiaries in the presence of local government officials to maintain social distance in compliance with mandated health practices.

Shalom has already achieved some major programs in Netrokona, Barishal, Haluaghat, Rajshahi and Meherpur area by the support of BftW, ICCO/KiA, TLMIB, MCC partners. Orientation and awareness activities are being conducted through yard meetings while maintaining social and physical distance of the targeted members. The

EDUCATION

In the present context, all the schools run by the Church of Bangladesh are getting prepared for physical classes. So repairing and painting, cleaning are going on in full swing for resume the classes. The students were given useful assignment to continue their studies in lockdown situation. The closure period announced by the government due to the effect of Corona is announced till September 11, 2021. Schools in the 2nd term are taking classes



online and providing lessons according to the syllabus. The schools in the village area are preparing their students. Everything is being done by following the government instruction and regulations. Our school teachers observed the 47th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Monita Mankhin
Education Coordinator
Synod, Church of Bangladesh



training, group meetings, and monthly advocacy meetings are conducted through groups with 12 people at a distance 3 meters of a safe area using a large hall room or open field. Training on diversified livelihoods, diversified livestock has been conducted by the concerned trainers. After the training programs participants received cash support for vegetable cultivation, vermin compost pit production, homestead gardening, resilience crops cultivation, long term fruit seedlings, agricultural demonstration plots, goat rearing, cow rearing, chicken and duck rearing. Shalom has also provided support for tree plantation programs and climate resilient local fruits cultivation in this month.



The national mourning day (Death Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation) was observed on 15th August, 2021. End evaluation and staff interview nicely completed at Haluaghat MCC supported Integrated Food Security for the Aboriginal Community project. Vacancy announcement has been published in BDJobs for the Climate Resilience Sustainable livelihood Project for vulnerable People, Mongla and FD-6 has submitted in NGOAB for the WASH project funded by Tear fund.

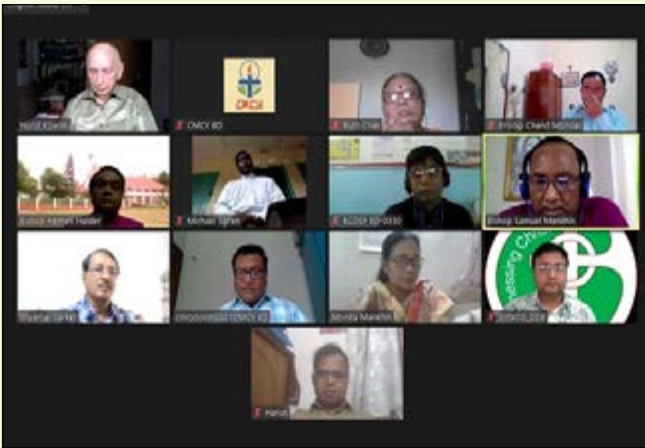
Honorable Shalom Chairman Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin's dream; 'All the staff of Shalom have increased their spiritual knowledge' and three months 'Lay People's Course' has been started online under St. Andrews Theology College. Every Saturday afternoon from three to five o'clock St. Andrews Theology College conducts classes with their honorable principal and teachers. 75 staff participating the online course from Shalom and certificates will be given to those who pass the course.



CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

The Christian Ministry to Children and Youth (CMCY) is a child associate non-profitable organization that supports poor children and youth to flourish their God given potentials for building up a happy and healthier society reducing poverty and injustices. CMCY is much thankful to all kind donors and well-wishers, whose kind finance, valuable counseling and loving prayers are providing strength to CMCY to accomplish its activities for glorifying the humanity and also to the creator of the universe.



CMCY – Executive Committee Meeting

On July 26, 2021 from 3.01 p.m. CMCY had a Zoom - Executive Committee Meeting. All the Executive members joined at the meeting. The meeting was started with short devotion and prayer led by the Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin in the Chair. The Chair and CMCY Director conveyed sincere thanks to the members and especially to Dr. Horst Kowski, Rep. Member from CMD-Germany for attending the meeting. Among others Agenda, the shifting process of the Nazareth Technical School from Savar to Christ Church Trade School, Jeshore, MoU dialogue with GBC, 6 months' CMCY Accounts, Inaugural of the St. George College Hostel at Mymensingh and 2 Concept Papers sent to the CMD-Donors for their kind approval were remarkable.

The Zoom Meetings with the Project Personnel

In the reporting months, CMCY had 4 Zoom meetings on July 4, 2021, July 27, 2021, August 01, 2021 and August 11, 2021. Mainly following issues were discussed repeatedly:

- Sharing elaborately on children's safety, education and project infrastructures and thus

- urged all to take proper care of children and infrastructures, while the children with their families for this Covid'19 pandemic and campus are vacant.
- Keeping food supports running.
- Counseled staffs to stay at the working station and have pleasant career life following the ex-personnel, who had exemplary dedications towards the children care.
- Donors' were conveyed thanks sincerely for their continuous fund and loving prayers.



Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi

We thank the Lord for another two-month spell that has recently ended, and Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR) has begun another cool pleasant season of autumn with sunshine and scanty rainfall in the start of September 2021. Following institutional renovation and redesign, CMHR hospital has been continuing on its steady path in this new phase, as predicted. And we are happy the dreams of CMHR Board of Trustee (BOT) are coming true as hospital services are getting momentum day after day.

Relaxation of Nationwide Corona Lockdown



Children Health Checkup during Corona Lock down in country sides

The new COVID 19 cases began to come down nationwide in July-August 2021 and the entire lockdown was removed as a result. It has been a huge comfort for ordinary Bangladeshis, as it has made vehicle movement and the opening of public spaces much easier. The clinical service seeking patients are coming more easily now, notably in increasing number, to CMHR base hospital at Rajshahi. The hospital corridors are busier than before.

In addition, the CMHR's field efforts have accelerated. In Tanore Upazila under Rajshahi district, CMHR operated, in this period, 20 health checkup field camps with Food for Hungry Association (FHA) for their project children. More than 3000 children have been screened already. Check up camps would continue in next months.

Field eye camps are now frequently being organized under CMHR in selected communities. Such eye camps are crucial as they create bridge between communities and hospital paving the referral mechanism. It positively impacts the cataract services of CMHR Eye Department.

Breastfeeding Week Observed

The month of August was marked with World Breastfeeding Week this year. As usual CMHR had special emphasis highlighting the importance of this event. This year, the theme for breastfeeding week was 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility'. A whole week from 1-7 August 2021 was dedicated for observance of this great event in CMHR. During this time CMHR emphasized on special in-hospital awareness initiatives on huge benefits that breastfeeding could bring to the health and welfare of babies and benefits to maternal health, focusing on good nutrition,

poverty reduction, and food security. The programs were specially designed for pregnant women and mothers. Prior to this week, a capacity development staff session was organized too at CMHR on 29th July, where more than 30 staff and patients received in-depth orientation on issues of breastfeeding. It is worthy to mention that CMHR that always prioritizes on MCH hospital care has a long term and strong partnership with Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) in this issue. CMHR hospital maintains a breastfeeding corner too.

New HR Policy

The new CMHR Human Resource Policy which was approved by Board of Trustee (BOT) has been in effect from 1st August 2021. The policy is a set of huge management guidelines for the hospital functioning.

Special Commitment by CMHR Staff



Due mainly to delta variant surge of corona infections and associated restrictions and curbs, CMHR Hospital had faced financial challenges over last few months which affected full-fledged routine hospital services. The hospital is still struggling for self-sustainability. In view of this financial hardship, all CMHR staff members recently made a commitment to sacrifice a part of their own salaries; this is not just a one time support by them but their commitment is for next few months as well. Thanks to all staff members for their enormous love for this institution. Now CMHR Board of Trustee (BOT) and CMHR management are working to enhance CMHR Hospital's income generation in order to cope up with the situation.

Lastly, we would express our gratefulness to the Chairperson of CMHR Board of Trustee (BOT) and all BOT members and patrons and well-wishers of the hospital for their continued prayers, supports and suggestions. May God abundantly bless this great institution and all staff and patients here.

Nursing Institute, Rajshahi



I would like to thank to our Almighty Saviour God for the protection of our life from the Pandemic Corona. We were always scary to come out for work and to meet friends and colleagues due to high rate of Corona infection and mortality. It was very difficult situation when high rate of mortality for Corona cases in the Rajshahi division. God is always good for us, He protected us.

During the locked down challenges for Corona, NI activities were open and all staff have been working. The Principal, staff of the academic office and Nursing Instructors were active to provide online classes and solve other management issues. Many challenges arise and we did overcome from those challenges by the grace of Almighty God.

The 1st year 49 students and 2nd year 41 students appeared for their annual examination going outside of our campus held on 22nd March to 4th April 2021. Their result has been published in July 2021.

The BNMC published their results on 7th September 2021. Out of 47 students 42 students passed their licentiate examination. Unfortunately five students have been unsuccessful in their examination. NI academic record show that they were good students and studious. These five students never failed in their previous exams.

Most of the students have taken 1st and 2nd dose of (covid-19) vaccine. Some of students had no National ID for their age criteria. They were failing to apply for vaccine.

Some of students have done NID from this Rajshahi City and registration is done for COVID-19 vaccine as well.

Ministry of Health and BNMC ordered that all schools, colleges and including all Nursing Institutes are going to open on 13th September, 2021. The students have started coming to the hostel who went home during locked down directives of the government. Some of the students were remained in the hostel for doing their clinical practical fearlessly during pandemic situations.

Currently number of students have come back in the hostel: 3rd year number of students 32 out of 41. 2nd year number of students 35 out of 49. Total students are now 67. New 1st year students not yet are enrolled. We are waiting for them when government will take admission test and declare eligibility merit list for Private Institutes.

I request to you all, pray for the Nursing Institute staffs and all students so that every year students can be successfully passed as a Registered Nurse from the NI to serve quality nursing, can be dedicated and efficient nurse to work for any hospital, clinics, NGOs, government hospitals nationally and globally.

May God bless us all and God safe and protect us from the pandemic COVID-19 and Dengue diseases.

Sulota Drong, Principal,
Nursing Institute, Rajshahi.

Bollobhpur Hospital



July was a difficult month for us. Weather wise the monsoon rains continue, and although at this time rain is obviously needed, the problem was at the hospital gate, where the new strict new rules do not allow visitors inside. We put our heads together at our monthly staff meeting and the result was a long covered shelter alongside the wall outside the hospital, giving respite from the rain and the hot sun shine, even allowing a night stay for relatives of patients being admitted at night.

The other misfortune of the month was many of our student nurses and the laboratory students went down with a bout of influenza- two to three days of high fever, making it hard to cover the ward work especially at night.

And at the same time several of their grannies and granddads in the G ward caught it too. They too got well quickly, but never recovered their mental health, and finally, a month later we lost two of them, Jhon and Robi, lovingly cared for by our 1st year students to the end.

A good news is that we have been able to repair and refurbish our hospital chapel which was leaking badly, tin roof horribly misshapen by the activities of countless monkeys over the years. The chapel now has a new green tin roof, gay walls and beautifully painted and decorated by our Doctors indomitable wife, and Doctor Christopher also brought a new luxury, carpeting for the floor replacing the sacking we have sat on over the years. We are grateful to them both for entering whole



heartedly into the life and work of the hospital.

You will want to know about the Covid-19 situation. There seems to be a general apathy about it all at the moment, as if everyone is bored and does not care anymore. There are cases obviously but the majority gets well.

In the village areas no one bothers to wear masks social spacing is an unknown thing. Life goes as normal, the only difference being the closed schools, and the children not

knowing how to pass their time.

Photographs in the daily papers show crowds of people jostling each other in the markets, bazaars and shopping areas, the majority without masks, completely oblivious to what the government is trying to tell them.

But at least people in general are now coming forward to be vaccinated, which is a good thing.

One big fallout from the closed schools can be seen in antenatal clinics, as hundreds of underage girls are being married off, and arriving to make cards and book in for delivery of their babies. Most give their age as 18 years (Government rules) but are obviously much younger. There is going to be a huge baby boom in the future.

We are all well and hope you are too.

Thank you for keeping alongside.

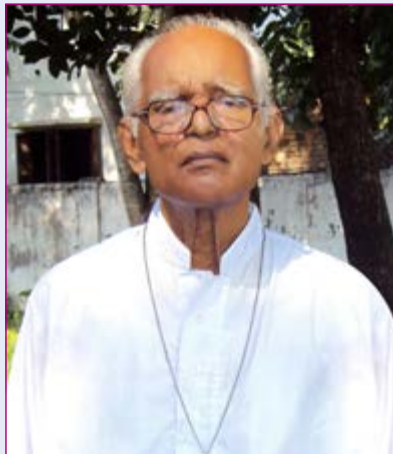
Gillian M Rose

Director, Bollobhpur Hospital.

OBITUARY

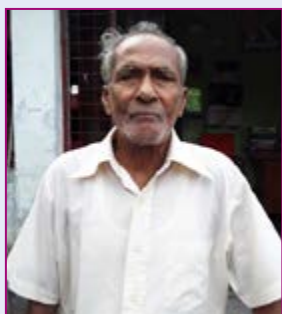
Reverend Mark Matabbar Mondol fell asleep in Lord

Reverend Mark Matabbar Mondol fell asleep in Lord at his residence in Meherpur on 8/08/2021 at 8.30 am. He was a renowned and tree-loving priest of the Church of Bangladesh. He was born on 1 December 1936 in the village of Bollovepur of Meherpur district. He obtained his education from Krishnanagar, the then India during British reign. He studied theology at the Bishops' College, Sreerampore, India. He was ordained as Deacon at Bollovepur Emmanuel Church on 14/06/1980 and as a priest at Nityanandapur Saint Thomas Church on 23/01/1971. In his pastoral life, he served in various places in the Church of Bangladesh. Such as: Nityanandapur, Bollovepur, Karpasdanga, Mehreper, Khalishpur, Jobarpar, Barisal, Haluaghat, Dhaka, Chittagong etc. His body was brought to Bollovepur Immanuel Church from Meherpur at 1 pm on 7/08/21 and was buried



with the help of Reverend Dipok Ujjwal Biswas, Reverend Mrityunjoy Mondol, Reverend Ashish Mondol, Reverend L D Kirtaniya and numbers of Catechists were present in the funeral events. The Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Rt Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, expressed his deepest condolences and on behalf of the Honorable Moderator, the priests of

Bollovepur Deanery and Synod Treasurer Mr. Alfred Binimoy Biswas paid homage to the late Reverend Mark M Mondol with flowers. Hon'ble Deputy Moderator Bishop Shourabh Pholia of Barishal Diocese expressed his deepest condolences. The Honorable Bishop Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese expressed his deepest condolences and on behalf of the Bishop, the priests of Bollovepur Deanery Secretary paid their respects with flowers.



Mr. Sushant Kumar Mondol, a member of Bollovepur Immanuel Church who were a beloved person of all, has a spiritual and prayerful life died. He was a first class officer of Kushtia Government Agriculture

Office. While he was in Kushtia city, he played a leading role in solving the land issue of Kushtia Church of Bangladesh St. John's Cathedral. He worked for several years in the church's organization Social Development. The church was his soul. His main job was to participate in regular worship. He

came forward unselfishly in any work of the church. He always prayed for everyone and for the harvest of of His Kingdom.

On 10/7/21, Mr. Raj Kumar Mondol of Darshana St. Paul's Church fell asleep in the Lord. He served as a part-time caretaker of the church for several years. He was a man of spiritual and prayerful life. He selflessly served the church. He was buried at Darshana Church Graveyard. We wish eternal peace and express our solidarity with the bereaved family.

