



The Church of Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● September–October Issue 2021 ●

Volume 11

MESSAGE from the Moderator

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Very warm greetings and every good wishes to you all. What today I feel is that today we all are feeling some comfortable to work, to worship, to do physical meetings, to move to places even without masks, to do workshops and seminars, and to visit the parishes and dioceses as clergy after being in locked down and starving with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, my heart is also full of sorrow and pain for being lost by our former synod secretary Dr. James Tejosh Das, and many of our Church members this year because of the Delta variant and also other diseases. Anyway, now everything is open in Bangladesh except the colleges and the universities. Thank God that many of us have been vaccinated by the kind favor of the Honourable PM of Bangladesh. We are doing now the worship services, children, youth, women, and all other programs physically and without restrictions but with fully aware of the pandemic that it may come at any time again and following the Government's health restrictions. But what we feel that we have and of course all the world has many things, some have lost their jobs, some of them their near and dear ones and some of us now have been facing the financial crisis to meet up the daily bread, the schools, the hospitals that we have couldn't operate their works, very few students been admitted in the schools and it will be very difficult to meet up the salaries of the teaches of our missionary and private schools.

In midst of this, we have been doing virtual meetings and attending the meetings of our mission partners, and communicating with them. The mission partners have been always taking care



of us and praying for us and still they have been supporting us with their generosity from their end, for which we are so grateful to them. The Synod staff has been working and communicating with the mission partners and friends at home and abroad and we have been submitting and trying our best to report to them with the audited report and the documents. In the meantime we have had our Synod Executive meeting where we have discussed and have taken many

new decisions, especially we have taken decision to go for the Deacon and Deaconess ordination by the 15th of December and we have selected 15 ordinands for the ordination. We have been dreaming practically to be self-reliant the COB by following the Strategies and to use the properties in the best ways which are lying vacant and would be occupied by the land gravers and trying our best to be self-supported the COB from every side aiming at 2021-2030. All the other components of the COB special the Shalom and the CMCY have been functioning effectively in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the donor partners are very generous to us and coming forward to assist us with their end but professionally and according to their criteria and organizational standard. May God bless us all. We look forward and we have every trust in God who will not leave us away from "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Most Rev. Samuel S Mankhin
Moderator

The Church of Bangladesh

Message from Barishal Diocese

Dear All in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

We thank God to save all of us from Covid 19. Still people are suffering due to its impact. Though we suffer but God is there to bless and save us.



We are living in a country where multi faith people are living. We realized that we all are one. One mankind, created by God in God's image. Therefore, being the church we served all when people were suffering and are still suffering. We the church proclaimed the love of God to many who were from different faith backgrounds. We the Barishal diocese trying to share the sacrificial love towards all. To share and increase that love we organized local, national and International Interfaith dialogue and initiatives. We extended peace and harmony in our communities and shared the good News with our neighbors. We found it was very much needed as in the middle of October in Bangladesh we were shocked to see some pre-planned incidents, which broke peace and harmony in many places. But our Interfaith initiatives reminded and encouraged many to stand for peace, justice and unity as citizens of Bangladesh and as human beings. The leaders and lay people of other faith appreciated it and expecting to organize more dialogues and activities to strengthen our unity. Hope God will bless us all to be channel of peace. Jesus promised that He has given His peace to us. So, as Christians we must share that peace and justice to all.

We are happy that our youths have taken this peace and harmony not only to human beings but to the whole creation and have raised their voices to save the earth and protect the climate change issue. Yes, God asked us to care the creation and keep peace and harmony with the whole creation. Otherwise we are harming our neighbors- the whole creation and nature. We will be glad if by God's grace we can continue to love and care for the whole creation and human beings.

May God continue His/Her blessings on us all.

With prayer and regards.

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. Special thanks to Almighty God for being able to return to normal life after almost two years of His grace. So I want to say as psalmist David wrote,



“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. (Psalms 103:1-2)

Over the last 2 months, the church's activities increased a lot after the lockdown opened. Therefore, all priests, our church committee, staff, and catechists have been doing extensive pastoral work and have been busy with face to face meetings and seminars. In particular, with the financial support of the Methodist Church UK and CWM, some contemporary issue-based seminars have been organized in almost every parishes in the Diocese, and few more still left. Having no work or opportunity to go out for a long time, the people of the church seem to have come back to life after participating in all these pastoral activities. Moreover, Hindu and Muslim neighbors are also very happy to participate in the interfaith seminars. On behalf of the Kushtia Diocese, I would like to convey my profound gratitude to the Methodist Church UK and CWM. Without their financial support it won't be possible.

On the 3rd and 4th of November, a big “Kirton Uthshab” (a traditional Spiritual Songs Celebration) took place in Karpashdanga parish and 150 people took part and performed songs based on biblical stories. Thousands of people have enjoyed these songs with spell no bound.

A very special news for Kushtia Diocese is that, by the grace of God, our 5 catechists will be ordained as holy deacons which will take place on 12 December at Kushtia St. John's Cathedral. We beseech your prayers and kind support for that special occasion.

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, catechists, youth and children's volunteers, Sunday school teachers and staff members continue to do a fantastic job each week keeping Kushtia Diocese moving forward.

To sum up, 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 Diocese and partners who have helped us with prayers and other support. May God be with us.

Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder.



Opening ceremony of the newly built church at East Baromari

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, October 3, 2021, the opening ceremony of the newly constructed building at East Baromari was held. Even in the pouring rain, we believe in the worship of the Holy Lord at 8 o'clock in the morning God is with us. The most reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin blessed the Church building for worshipping Almighty God. The deans of Halughat and Madhupur Deanery and other priest were present in the occasion.

Reverend Simson Mazumder preached the word of the Lord in that holy worship. He teaches from the Holy Bible how to care for and use the newly built house of worship. At the end of the worship, the Moderator and all the esteemed priests and special guests present with him unveiled the opening stone of the newly built house of worship and announced the auspicious inauguration of the house of worship. This was followed by a Thanksgiving and Praise by the local church, which was attended by all the priests and special guests, including the Moderator Bishop Samuel S Mankhin.

The priest of the local church, led by the Reverend Romio Chambugang, welcomed and honored all the distinguished guests in the style of Garo culture. During this time, through various religious dances and songs, they thanked God as well as the Honorable Moderator for this blessing. After the Thanksgiving and Inauguration Ceremony, the farewell and thanksgiving of Reverend Bernard Mankhin was taken place. At this time, the most reverend Moderator and the local congregation thanked him and his wife for their long service to the church with his honesty and devotion. The heavy downpour at the site the night before the inauguration, which could have hampered the ceremony, but with God's blessing the rain stopped

shortly after the holy service began, and most of the local congregation members joined in the worship. The Honorable Moderator thanked Almighty God for this blessing from the heaven. The entire inauguration ceremony was followed by a farewell lunch. Our prayer to God is that He will always bless the newly built house of worship and all those who will pray in true heart.

Dhaka Deanery Youth Fellowship Seminar-2021

On the 8th of October, Friday 2021 a youth seminar of Dhaka deanery was held at Savar. The seminar started with the Holy Communion worship service led by the local priest Rev. Amit Kumar Mollick. The first session was taken by Mr. Edwin Komol Biswas. He spoke on the challenges for the present Job markets and how the youth will deal with that challenge. Then the youths of



Dhaka deanery lead a thanksgiving time to praise and glorify the Almighty God for all His blessings and mercy during this time of COVID-19 pandemic. After that Mr.

Suvojit Mondal delivered his speech on the positive and negative effects of modern technology. He suggested to the youth to use technology and social media for good reason and to avoid the harmful uses of social media. After the lunch break, Rev. Immanuel Mollick, the dean of Dhaka deanery took a session on the main theme. The main theme was based on 1 Corinthians 10:13. He divided the participants into three groups and gave them three different questions and requested them to answer these questions with activities like (Drama, Action Songs, and Poems, etc.). After that session, the Dhaka deanery youth committee members led a different type of Bible quiz session with the leading of Mr. James Lemon Shikder. Besides this, they did games, music, Ice breaking session, and an impressive introduction session.



Dhaka Deanery Bible School Camp-2021

A Bible school camp was held for the children of Dhaka deanery on the 15th of October, Friday 2021. The camp was held at St. Thomas Church's new center Moghbazar. All the Bible schools in Dhaka deanery joined the camp. The camp began with the Lord's Supper. The theme of this camp was "Our God is live and Almighty". Mrs. Shipra Biswas the convener of Dhaka deanery ibles school started the camp with her welcoming speech. She and her group led a group action song session.

Rev. Shimson Mazumder the Synod Bible school convener gave his speech on the main theme. During his session, he showed magic and cartoon video of the story of Goliath from the Bible. There was a Bible quiz competition. Mrs. Shima Sarkar teacher of Savar Bible school took a session on health tips.

The 30th Spiritual Revival Meeting was held at Chittagong Christ Church

20th October 2021 AD, the 30th Spiritual Revival Meeting of Chittagong Christ Church was held on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by His Grace, the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Samuel S. Mankhin, Synod Education Coordinator Mrs. Monita Mankhin, Synod Secretary Reverend John Probhudan Hira, all the priests of Dhaka Diocese and the Right Reverend Lawrence Subrata Hawladar CSC, Archbishop of Chittagong Catholic Archdiocese and about 350 people from different churches in Chittagong.





Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation Seminar held

A seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation was organized on 16th October, 2021 at 9 am at Saint Barnabas Church, Paitapukur with the funding of MSP-4. The seminar was attended by 50 men and women from different churches. Dean Reverend Daniel Mondol was present in this seminar. However, Reverend Philip Biswas, Mr. Ifroim Hembrom and Mr. Utpol Sarker were present in the event. At the beginning of the day, morning worship is conducted under the guidance of the Catechist. Then the students of Paitapukur Boys Hostel welcomed Reverend Daniel Mondol with songs and dances. We human beings are responsible for this. He also greeted the Bishop of Kushtia Diocese. Respected speaker Reverend Philip Biswas spoke on the topic of the day using multimedia. He said that man is the best creature of creation. God created everything. "We are all custodian," he said. God has given us the responsibility to look after it. God has given us the responsibility of overseeing creation. So we have to protect everything in this world. But instead of caring as much as I can, I am destroying my human race. For which climate change is occurring and we are facing various natural disasters at different times. The esteemed speaker showed various video clips of natural disasters at the end of the speech. And based on this video clip, the group discussion is divided into 4 groups and they present their discussion. At the end again the local parish priest concluded the seminar with a closing speech.



Dialogue on communal harmony

On 16th October, 2021, at 9 am in the hall room of CMS Hostel, a dialogue on communal harmony of Rajshahi Deanery was organized with the funding of MSP-4. In this dialogue, this discussion meeting was held with 30 inter-religious members of Rajshahi Deanery. Dean Reverend Daniel Mondol of Rajshahi Deanery presided over the dialogue meeting. Reverend Billiom Sarder, Reverend Philip Biswas and Md. Muntasir Rahman and other guests were present in the event. At the beginning of the dialogue meeting, the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran were recited. Reverend Philip Biswas focused the theme in the light of Christianity and Mr. Muntasir Rahman spoke in the light of Islam. Both the esteemed speakers made it clear to all in their speeches that destroying communal harmony means harming the nation and the country. Those who destroy communal harmony do so because they do not know their own religion properly. But those who really know their own religion, they respect other religion and they cannot harm the peace of the community.

Dialogue on Violence Against Women and Children



A dialogue on violence against women and children was held at 9 am on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church, Mahishabathan Parish with the funding of MSP-4 and Rajshahi Deanery. In this dialogue, this discussion meeting was held with the members of different congregations and 30 inter-religious members of Rajshahi Deanery joined the programme. The meeting was chaired by Dean Reverend Daniel Mondol. Advocate Narendra Nath Tudu and Dr. Elizabeth Keya Mondol. Both the speakers said that even in this modern age, women and children are oppressed in our country. After different times in different ways violence is taken place, he added. Advocate Mr. Narendra Nath Tudu spoke in the context of the country's law on violence against women and children.

Rajshahi Deanery Bible School Seminar

October 25, 2021 AD Rajshahi Deanery based Bible School Seminar was organized. Bishop Hemen Halder, was present as the chief guest at the seminar. Dean of Rajshahi Deanery Reverend Daniel Mondol, Reverend Billiom Sarder and Reverend Philip Biswas were present in the event. 50 students and teachers of

the Bible schools from different parishes of Rajshahi Deanery participated in the seminar. The theme of the seminar was "Stay in Me" (John 15: 4). Right Reverend Hemen Halder spoke on the theme. He taught children about being in Jesus and told the history of the Bible school.

Reverend Billiom Sarder Highlighted the issue "Jesus loves children." He said that even though children are small, they are important in the church and they can do a lot of great things even in childhood. Children get a lot of pleasure through action dance-songs. Bishop and Reverend Billiom Sarder taught the children new songs. At the end of the seminar, a Bible quiz was conducted to encourage the children. The Bible quiz was conducted by Mr. Polash Mondol.

Bishop's pastoral visit to Babuldang Parish

On 17th September, 2021, Honorable Bishop Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese visited Babuldang Parish. When the bishop and his family arrived at Babuldang Parish at 8.30 am, the members of Babuldang Parish greeted them by dancing, singing and playing traditional musical instruments Madal according to Santali style. Then the feet of the guests including the bishop are washed according to the Santali ritual.

At the reception, the secretary of the local church Sukal Hansda said, the parish has 48 families, and more than 200 members. But the house of worship is too small and dilapidated to accommodate only 50-60 worshipers. So the people asked bishop to help and build a new and bigger church.

In his congratulatory speech, the Bishop said that he would do his best to build a new and bigger church. He also said that the financial situation of the church is not very good at present.



Seminar on children and women held



On 16th October 2021, a one-day seminar on women and children organized by Barishal Diocese was held at Shuagram Holy Name Church. The theme of the seminar was 'He replied, My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice' (Luke 8:21). The seminar was inaugurated by Hon'ble Bishop of Barishal Diocese. He made important remarks on the topic. Bishop Pholia said society and community have a lot to do to prevent violence against women and children. The family of Jesus Christ is heavenly. At present, the way I am behaving with my parents, young men and women, children do not have the feeling of heaven, the heavenly qualities. We all need to have mutual peace, good relations, cooperation, love. It is good if we are returning from this seminar to raise awareness in our own families, in our neighbors, to prevent violence against women and children. '

Reverend Peter Mondol spoke about drug addiction and youth society. He highlighted on the role of parents in protecting the youth from drug addiction. He said that love and religious life is very important in the family.

The seminar was attended by 32 people from different parishes of Barishal Diocese. Reverend Shoshi Baroi ended the seminar with a prayer.

Inter-religious dialogue held

The inter-religious dialogue organized by the Church of Bangladesh, Barishal Diocese on 16th October 2021 AD was held at Holy Name Church at Shuagram. The theme of the inter-religious seminar was "Love the Neighbor". Honorable Bishop of Barishal Diocese led the seminar. "If we don't love our neighbors, if we don't protect



them, if we don't see their worth, if we don't respect them, we don't serve creation and we do lose our human identity," he said.

The speakers said that every year they give their opinion in favor of holding inter-religious dialogue with the youth.

Celebrating World Food Day



Last Sunday, October 16, 2021, "World Food Day" was observed at Inmanuel Church, Rajapur. On this day Rajapur brought one KG of rice from each family of the parish to the church. Later, Mr. Dipti Adhikari, Secretary of the Church, highlighted the importance of World Food Day. He said that many people in the world are spending their days without eating. To avoid food shortage, those who are having as much land as possible should cultivate it without leaving it fallow. Those who do not have food we should cooperate with food. The Lord Jesus is the food of life "(John 6:35).

St. Andrew's Theological College, Dhaka

Seminar on BCS & DCS



This seminar took place for the external students from 11-15 October, 2021. However, our Internal B.Th. regular students also attended with them. So, we contacted all the students in advance and also those who live outside Dhaka in different parts of Bangladesh are also contacted so that they can come to the college and participated in this seminar.

There are two types of students BCS (Bachelor of Christian Studies) and DCS (Diploma of Christian Studies) and their subjects are also different, that's why different rooms were arranged for the classes. Subjects and teachers are given bellow: Rev. Martin Adhikary-The Prophetic Movement. Mrs Lovely M Dazel- Emergence and Development of Christianity in South Asia. Rev. John P. Hira-Christian Praxis and Proclamation. Rev Jonarson Dio- Introduction to Christian Theology. Rev Liton Mrong-Introduction to Christian Mission in South Asia.

This Physical Seminar is really good for our student's

because they attend and directly observe and can-do dialogue with teacher and classes. Many Students lives rural site, they struggle for network issue that's why they can't attend online classes.

The Visitor Mrs Matilda Tina Boidya, KIA Portfolio Bangladesh

Mrs. Matilda Tina Boidya KIA Portfolio Coordinator in Bangladesh, Kerk in Actie visited St. Andrew's Theological College on 12 October, 2021. We welcome our guest along with students, staffs and faculties. Our internal students sang a song especially different type of cultures song such as Bangla, Garo, Santal, Chakma languages and then they welcome to our guest with flowers. After opening prayer by our faculty member Mrs. Lovely M. Dazel, our SATC collage Principal Rev. John P. Hira has given introduction to the College through the Power Point Presentation. Then our visitor Mrs. Boidya addresses to the students, staffs and faculties. She encouraged the college to prepare the pastors and ministers and at the same time she wanted to know what can be done more to make more effective the college program in future. Our faculties said that most of the books are in English, need more Bengali books and those English books require to be translated. It would be better to have some teachers training what are the challenges the church facing and need to focus along with syllabus and curriculum. Students demands AC Room for Class and Seminar Hall as hot weather and not able to give attention in the class and studies.

We are glad that our Mission Partner Mrs. Matilda Tina Boidya from Portfolio Coordinator in Bangladesh, Kerk in Actie has come to visit us this year. We are really Happy and blessed with her visit program.





Synod Women's Fellowship Seminar-2021 held

We are very pleased to inform you that, after the COVID-19 pandemic situation we were able to conduct a synod level women fellowship seminar from 27th of October to 30th October 2021 at retreat and prayer garden savar Dhaka. The main theme of this seminar was based on John 10:10 "I came that they may have life & may have it abundantly." The honorable Moderator of Church of Bangladesh the Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin delivered his speech on the main theme. Total sixty seven participants from seven deaneries under three dioceses joined the program.

Two sisters from the Christo Shebika Songho Jobarpar lead the retreat for the women's fellowship. Mrs. Kalika Biswas spoke on the pledges based on Malachi 3:10. Here Mrs. Biswas inspired women to contribute more prayer, effort, wealth to the Church. Mrs. Mridula Baidya gave her speech on 1 John 2:16.

On the second day evening, there was a cultural program where almost all the deaneries participants showed their talents.

The third day of the seminar began with morning devotion. Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia Bishop of Barisal diocese delivered his speech on the Christian family. He also emphasized during his speech that in Christ we are one human family. Mrs. Suchitra Behera took a session on Ester 4:14. During her session, she offered an open discussion where the participants were able to share their weaknesses. Dr. Florence Lipika Sammadder gave an awareness speech on the COVID-19 situation and what is the role of women's during this COVID-19 pandemic situation.

At the end of this seminar, the participants were asked to give their evaluation of the overall program. With the Evening devotion, the Synod Women Fellowship program was ended.

EDUCATION



The schools run by the Church of Bangladesh are spread in the cities and in different rural areas. Especially where there are disadvantaged children.

- All schools have reopened since 12/9/2021 after the Corona pandemic closed for the past 18 months.
- Students have started coming to the school in compliance with the official health rules.
- Students are wearing face masks and the school is having hand sanitizers.
- Pre-Primary (Play, Nursery, Children and KG) is currently closed. They are taking lessons online.
- 2nd term examination is over. All schools are finishing the annual examination syllabus and preparing for the annual exam.
- Teachers are taking special care of the backward students. The teachers are talking to the parents at home in village. So that their children go to school.



Workshop on News Writing was held

On October 8, 2021, after a long period of time, a workshop on 'Church Structure, Fundamentals and News Writing' was held at Savar Retreat and Prayer Garden with the funding of MSP-4. Shalom's Advocacy Officer Mr. Jones Loton Roy and Mr. David A Hira jointly conducted the workshop. The Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and Bishop of Dhaka Diocese Right Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin inaugurated the workshop by lighting candles in the presence of 22 Kopot reporters from 3 Dioceses. The Moderator appreciated the Bishops of the other two Dioceses for their interest and cooperation in this regard.

The Moderator in his speech greeted all the priests, catechist reporters and organizers and said that by collecting regular updated news, the Kopot would be enriched by providing objective news and the members of Church Partners and members would have a good idea about the activities of Church of Bangladesh. "We have to keep pace with the times," he said. We will not lag behind, we also want to move forward with equal pace in print media. He expressed optimism that there will be a lot to learn through this workshop, through which you can enrich yourself and serve the right news.

In the main session, the speaker spoke on the structure, Mr. Jones Roy said that in the beginning as a correspondent of the Church of Bangladesh, we need to know about our own Church and its structure; Need to know about our heritage, our location, our purpose; Only then we will understand our responsibilities.

At the beginning of the speech, the Synod Secretary greeted and thanked everyone and said, "We know many things about our Vision, Mission and values." Moreover, we each have a pen.



'Kopot Publication Secretary' Mr. David A Hira detailed the training focusing on Church's legacy, Church's publications and when and how to write news to whom and how to send written news and pictures. He announced the end of the day's activities.

The guest speaker Mr. Chandan Kumar Lahiri imparted hands-on instruction on the differences between news and reports writing techniques, investigative reports, yellow journalism, good report writing structure, what to write, what not to write etc. He conducts individual and group news writing workshops. His easy-going language and fluent eloquence make this workshop very lively and instructive.

The participants expressed hope that the workshop would continue in the future. They promise to provide honest news. The instructors are happy with the interest and concentration of the learners and hope that the newly appointed reporters will learn more and more so that they will write objective news

Church of Bangladesh Website launch



We are very pleased to let you know that, Church of Bangladesh has successfully re-launched its website on September 30, 2021 at Savar Retreat and prayer garden. The Most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin, The Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and the Bishop of Dhaka Diocese, Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia, the Deputy moderator and the Bishop of Barishal diocese, Rt. Revd. Hemen Halder the Bishop of Kushtia diocese were present at the website re-launched

ceremony. They all gave thanks to the almighty God for all his grace upon the Church of Bangladesh. The Bishops and the present delegates also addressed their thanks and gratitude to Mr. Jones L. Roy and his skillful son Mr. Mreethmandir Roy for all their hard work and creative time to re-launch the COB website. According to the three Bishops and all the members of COB believe and keep hoping that the newly re-launched website will open a new door to describe all

the activities and good works we are doing as a Church of Bangladesh to all over the world from one platform. May God bless those persons who will work for the website continuously. The address of the re-launched website is <http://churchofbangladesh.org/> We humbly request you all to visit our website to know the mission and work of the Church of Bangladesh.

Christa Sevika Sangha



Sisters of the Christa Sevika Sangha run the school, Shishu Jeshu Hostel, the sewing centre. These institutes were closed for COVID-19 Pandemic for almost two years. The Christa

Sevika Sangha at Jobarpar, has reopened the Shishu Jeshu Hostel and School from September 2021. The children are very happy and joyful coming back in the hostel. The sewing training has been started. Sisters regularly assist the priest in church worship. Along with the Altar the church is being cleaned for worship regularly. At present all the sisters of the Christa Sevika Sangha are feeling well

without having number of complications. They expect prayer support from the readers of the Newsletter and from members of the Church.



Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

Let's Make Something Different Together

New office building of Shalom Netrokona is being constructed



Shalom is constructing an 'L' shape semi paka building in Baromari, Netrokona for office use and training/workshop purpose. Honorable Rev. Romeo Chambugong laying the foundation breaks

with prayer and blessings on 12th September 2021 and Program Coordinator, MFA Coordinator, Area Coordinator, all staff of Shalom Baromari and local community people was attend the ceremony. There is a MoU with Church of Bangladesh and Shalom to build the office and leading partner Bread for the World (BftW) is giving the financial support for the office building. Shalom is implementing 'Poverty Reduction and Community Resilience Project' in this area and 2,000 community people directly are benefiting from the project.

Matilda Tina Baidya visited CoB and Shalom

Ms. Matilda Tina Baidya joined the ICCO and KIA team beginning of August 1, 2021 as a Portfolio Coordinator of KIA and the development of a country strategy for KIA visited CoB and Shalom on 10th October 2021. Church of Bangladesh and development wings Shalom welcomed her at St. Thomas Cathedral meeting room. Most Rev. Samuel S Mankhin, Director of Shalom and CMCY and some key staff was attend the welcome ceremony. Honorable Moderator has given a presentation on different wings of Church of Bangladesh and how the Church Ministry is giving service in the country.



Then Shalom has arranged a day long discussion with Ms. Baidya about the major thematic area is implementing for the community peoples. KIA is implementing 'Transformation of Socio-Economic Conditions of the Under Privileged Communities through Adaptive Sustainable Interventions' project in Rajshahi and Haluaghat area. Number of 2,518 household directly benefiting from the project.



for organizational development and strengthen staff to fight against disaster in southern part and natural calamities in any place in Bangladesh. At the end of the project Shalom will have a reviewed contingency plan, Emergency/ Humanitarian Strategy Plan, disaster management team, reviewed disaster management policy and Shalom will take initiatives in disaster and CHS ensured during the response. Mr. James Baidaya, ERCC, TF Asia Region and Mr. David Badal Gomes, EES Specialist, TF has visited

Shalom and meet with Chairman of Shalom Most Rev. Bishop Samuel S Mankhin and finalized the project for capacity development. Ms. Jane Chamber, Program Head of this project and Mr. Sanjeev Bhanja joined the meeting virtually. Tear Fund is implementing “Climate Resilience Sustainable livelihood Project for vulnerable People (CRSLVP)” project in Mongla with 2,490 targeted people and WASH project for 2,100 targeted peoples.

Meeting with Tearfund representatives

Tearfund has arranged a Disaster Management and Capacity Assessment (DMCA) workshop on 20–22 September 2021 at Banani, Dhaka. Number of 14 key staff attend the workshop and find out the organizational strength, weakness and capacity to work in any disaster in Bangladesh. Shalom prepared a project

CWM South Asia Region workshop held



modern forms of slavery and exploitation. Although slavery and the commodification of humans have been banned globally over hundred years ago, but in practice it continues under new names and new faces.

To abolish the worst bondage of slavery and its key sources and system, the CWM took a collective and results oriented initiative in eliminating the ways of exploitation, and establishing Life flourishing Communities with the common platform of

Two days’ workshop arranged by the CWM (Council for World Mission) was held on “Modern Slavery and Anti- Racist in Christ” in virtually from 14-15 October 2021, with active participation of four delegates from each churches- CNI, CSI, PCI and CoB of South Asia Region. The God of the holy Bible revealed to us in Jesus Christ, calls us into freedom, sets us free and accompanies us into freedom. Today children, women and men are bound under

churches of South Asia Region. All participants shared their own views and learned a lot of knowledge and experiences to set free the victims of slavery. Mrs. Ruth Sebika Raksam, Ms. Shown Hazra, Mr. Sumon Mondol and John Tarun Mondol, a team leader, joined the workshop. Rev. Sim Joo Yee (Julie), Mission Secretary of CWM conducted it successfully. We are very grateful to Hon. Moderator, Rt. Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin for his nomination and blessing to the team.



CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

Thanksgiving event for college hostel

CMCY, a child care organization of the Church of Bangladesh, has been running its journey with a new spirit, gave special thanks to the Taizee Brother of St. George Church, Mymensingh due to leaving the compound willingly, With this end a thanks giving prayer and discussion event was held led by Honorable Moderator Rt. Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin, with the participation of Brother Arik, brother Geiom, their staff and students and local church leaders of Haluaghat Deanery, senior staff members of CMCY on 25th September, 2021. Here all church leaders has welcomed the move of new a initiative to begin a college hostel for the poor college students.



closed as per the instructions of the Govt. of the Republic of Bangladesh. The children were sent to their own homes to live with their parents. During these days, they received taka one thousand for food support. Now they are very happy and got back life in coming to the hostels.

CMCY- children getting life back

CMD-Germany and CMS-Switzerland are kindly financing all residential hostels. Recently all children returned to hostels once again with new hope, spirit and encouragement to get benefit from the hostel life. Before opening, each hostel campus and dormitories have been maintained and cleansed properly. CMCY personnel visited some of the projects to check their cleanliness. Since March 17th, 2020 till September 20th, 2021, duration this period the hostels were

Visit Usha children village

Hon. Chairman of CMCY and senior staff have visited the Usha Children village, Idilpur, Modhupur on 24 Sepetemer, 2021, with an aim to assess the overall situation as well as environmental and cleanliness of the big hostel. The team found everything was good and safe to all children. All the present children were very happy being came to the hostel after 18 months closure, welcomed the the team with flowers, singing and dancing and parsing the merciful Lord for His abundant blessing.



Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



The CMHR as it were is a shipwreck in stormy weather to reach any prosperous country. It is hard work but not impossible. However, even if this ship is slightly repaired, we can sink at any time if we are not very careful for it is having many holes.

On 1 February 2021 the hospital was reopened by the Leaders of the Church of Bangladesh after jointly working with the Government to combat against the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

Few very essential equipment and machines have been installed e.g. Cell counters, OT lights and patient monitors. A new submersible water pump installed, HRM policy has been placed to practice at CMHR, the hospital has started getting more patients after the lockdown has gone up since transportation facilities have been added for commuting. New ECG machines have been purchased and installed for better reporting. All required registrations and licenses have been renewed, audit for the fiscal year January-December 2020 has been accepted. For up to June 2022 the useful registration and licenses are renewed, CMHR replied and satisfied the NGOAB questions and audit reports 2019 has been accepted. Staff performance is improving at a satisfactory level. The skillful Principal Sulota Drong is running the nursing institute smoothly under the guidance of the different committees of the BOT.

CMHR's monthly income in September 2021 is at a satisfactory level, although the number of patients has been started to decline for uncontrollable logical reasons. The capacity of the staff in different units needs to be

enhanced. We need to appoint our own consultant doctors, introduce new strategies with a special focus on safe maternity and child health care approaches. Similarly, two units of maternity wards can be introduced one ward should have normal vaginal delivery- NVD and the other should have a cesarean section (c-section). We only need to hire female consultant doctors who can do C-section and NVD. We hope that in CMHR's journey to self-sustainability we will find committed skilled consultant doctors soon.

At times, OT space is less than the doctors needed and we are compelled to decline c-section patients due to lack of cabin facilities and OT space and OT light. Most of the existing equipment is too old to produce accurate reports. Lack of own gynecologist, supply of medicines is also very limited. Most of the equipment in the eye department is not good and not working but satisfactory number of eye patients come to get treatment regularly, we can not serve them properly.

To make the hospital program a success, COB needs its own specialist consulting doctors, nurses, technicians and support staff who will sincerely respect each other. The CMHR administration needs to spend more time resolving legal and political relations.

We would like to celebrate CMHR's self-sustaining first centenary in January 2026 with the same goal and mind to improve better organizational behavior for better relationships among stakeholders. It would be best to have a retired female foreign gynecologist volunteer from a friend's church or hospital.

Nursing Institute, Rajshahi

Covid-19 Lockdown ends

The Nursing Institute was reopened on September 13, 2021 as per the directions of Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council after a long 5 months lockdown holiday for Covid-19. Each student was asked to test the Covid-19 RT-PCR before entering the hostel. Many students found positive result after Covid-19 test.

When the students entered the hostel they came with covid-19 negative result. Again, those who entered the hostel with Covid-19 negative showed symptoms like fever, sore throat, cold, cough, etc. All the students were tested for Covid-19 again from the hostel and 3 students tested positive. They were kept in an isolation room and given Covid-19 treatment. At present number of students: 2nd year 49 students, 3rd year 41 students, 1 absent for more than 1 month.

Regarding the admission of new students

A total of 75 students applied for admission in the 1st year of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The members of the local working committee saw each application and in the verification phase of the students, the result of the BNMC admission test and the students of the Church of Bangladesh were given priority. In the first round, 50 candidates were selected and the remaining 25 were placed on the waiting list. Each of the 50 selected applicants is notified by phone. So far we have admitted 42 students, out of which 10 are male students and 32 are female students. 5 applicant students have confirmed that they will come for admission only after the transport strike is called off. Hopefully we will be able to admit 50 students. Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council has extended the admission deadline for non-governmental organizations till 30/11/2021. The final test of 2nd and 3rd year will start on 21st November, 2021 and will end on 29th November, 2021. I wish you all the best.

Sulota Drong,
Principal, Nursing Institute, Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.



Bollobhpur Hospital



Greetings from us all at Bollobhpur Hospital, Bangladesh.

To bring you up to date with our Nursing Training Centre. Bollobhpur Hospital has run a three year Junior Nursing & Midwifery Course for many year how Bollobhpur trained nurses & midwives can be found working in hospital, Clinic, community programmes all over Bangladesh. Many in the sickrooms of the Garments industry, and other care for patients in their houses.

We have two intakes in a year, one in January and one in July. At present a total of 85 girls are in training, and alongside we have a two year laboratory training course for young men. At the moment twelve students are in training.

The newest group of Nursing Students who commenced their training in July of this year, have just completed the three year preliminary training school, this week found them sitting the final exam. It is good to be able to report that they had prepared well, and we are not expecting any failure.

Once the results are published they will receive their

first uniform and caps, in a simple capping ceremony during our Friday morning service of holy communion in our hospital chapel. The senior group are preparing for their final examination, and the second year girl for their 2nd year examination, eager to move up into the third and last year.

The students also receive a six week operation theater training in Rajshahi Christian Mission hospital. During their final year to prepare them well for their future carriers.

And during their three years with us they have plenty of experiences in bed side housing of the elderly and infirm.

They care for mothers during their pregnancy and deliver their babies. They spend some times at our community village clinic's to enhance their experiences and they become competent nurse midwives. We are proud of them all.

Please keep them in your prayer and thank you for your continuing interest in our work.

Gillian M Rose
Director.

Major correction in the last issue of the COB English Newsletter dated 12 September 2021

News Topic	Page No	Mistake	Correction	Remarks
Obituary-Rev Mark M Mondol	14	Death: 08/08/2021 Ordination as Deacon: 14/6/1980	Death: 08/07/2021 Ordination as Deacon: 14/6/1970	Extremely sorry for the mistakes in the last issue.
Obituary- Mr. Rajkumar	14	He served as a part-time caretaker of the church for several years.	He served the church as a volunteer for several years.	