



The Church of Bangladesh

# NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● January–February Issue 2022 ●

Volume 13

## Message from the Moderator



Dear sisters  
and brothers in Christ,

I am indeed indebted and thankful to God Almighty for His abundant blessings and guidance that we received in the last years in midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. And also thankful for giving us the tremendous opportunity to enter into

this New Year that is already we have passed two months of this year by His grace and loving-kindness. As we have entered into a new year let us not forget the experiences that we have had and let us not forget the blessings of God in the midst of distress and sorrows. I personally thank God and all of you for your so sincere love and cooperation to run and to lead the Church of Bangladesh and its mission activities and the finance too.

By the grace of God, the nation and the world have gotten some relief from the turmoil of the pandemic which really has made us helpless, and we have been backward economically, physically, and psychologically. As very recently we have seen that all the high schools, colleges, and universities have reopened we got back the real lives to move and to work hard for the nation and church buildings with much strengths and encouragements. Being the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh I would like to urge and request all the bishops, clergy, catechist and lay leaders, and other staff to restart the mission works with full swings and enthusiasts. Let us start visiting our church members and families who are living with many immeasurable and helpless economically and physically. Let us take care of the Children, the Youths, the Women and Disabled, and Elders. Let us rebuild them and stand beside them with possible hands and from our end. The migrants may back to the big cities those who left and lost their jobs because of the pandemic, let us take care of them.

I would request the staff and others of the Shalom, CMCY, Hospitals, Nursing Institutes, Schools, and all other

programs of the COB to concentrate on their works and duties. They should work with close collaborations with the mission and donor partners with the transparency, accountability, and with faithfulness as the followers of Jesus Christ and witness Christ in Bangladesh among the other believers. We are so thankful to the Mission and Donor partners for their loving kindness and support and generosity. They are namely, the United Society for the Partnership in Gospel, Anglican Communion Fund, Methodist Church, UK, Church of Scotland, The Protestant Church of the Netherlands (ICCO/KIA), Episcopal Church of Scotland, The Council for World Mission, The Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Episcopal Church in the USA, the CMS, Switzerland, The CMD, Germany, The Oxford Mission, UK, The Tear Fund, The Bread for the World, The MCC and all our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ worldwide.

As we have had the South Asia Forum Meetings recently with our European mission partners let us work and go hand in hand with and with their advice and suggestions to enrich ourselves spiritually and financially. As we have decided to follow the Strategic Development Plan for the CoB and to follow the MSP4 strategies to make our COB a missional and Christ Centric Church let us together take some challenges to achieve the goals within 2021-2030 starting from 2022 no time to sustain our overall development plans. As we would be having our annual spiritual revival meetings (Borosovas...) let us review and renew ourselves with the Spirit and Truth of God. And let us continue to abide by the Government's health advice and stay and live safe under the blessings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"I look to the mountains, where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Ps 121: 1-2).

**The Most Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin**  
Moderator & the Bishop of Dhaka Diocese,  
Church of Bangladesh.



We must not forget people in the war zones, living with constant terror, especially those in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We pray for the peace that surpasses all barriers, and understanding may cover them with unceasing Grace and protection.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lenten greetings to you in Jesus' precious name. We have entered a blessed time of deeper dialogue with God and a time of reflection, repentance and prayer. It is a wonderful opportunity to unite with God and God's creation. It is a time of hope of a new heaven and earth. It is a journey from darkness to light. To hope, we need to have trust, and to start a journey, we need to take challenges; to fast, we must leave our comfort zone. In Isaiah 58, we can see what God's chosen Fast is! It is to give to the needy, be more altruistic, and depend on God entirely. I hope this year we will take this opportunity to start a life of selfless giving, parting from powers and greed and relying on God so that we all can access the Grace of God.[]

Our Diocese continues to walk with God faithfully. This year, we have been challenged to raise funds to cover all our needs. This is an arduous task, but we faithfully depend on God's provision through God's people. The story of Loving Father assures us that God is there to provide for our daily needs even though we have very little or have lost everything.

We must not forget people in the war zones, living with constant terror, especially those in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We pray for the peace that surpasses all barriers, and understanding may cover them with unceasing Grace and protection.

Let us all practice fasting from hurting to be kind to others, from anger to patience, from bitterness to joy, from selfishness to compassion, from hatred to love, from darkness to the light, from self to God. Amen.

May God bless you all.

**Rt Reverend Shourabh Pholia**  
Bishop, Barishal Diocese.



Therefore, we have taken up the challenge of meeting all the expenses of the diocese on our own income. For that purpose, we have organized a special meeting from 25th to 27th of February. Please remember us in your prayers.

**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 amid 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).

Unlike last couple of years this year we have been able to celebrate the Christmas and New Year with great pomp without cutting off the corona. People no longer want to be at home for fear of Corona. They come out of the houses whenever the opportunity arises to glorify our God.

It is my immense pleasure to let you know that this year 6<sup>th</sup> of January marks the 100th anniversary of St. John’s Church, Kushtia (at present Cathedral of Kushtia Diocese). With this objective keep in mind, we will celebrate the Golden Jubilee on 27th of February with all the clergy of Kushtia Diocese and other distinguished guests. We sincerely remember those who founded this church. Especially I remember CMS (Church Mission Society) with profound gratitude because they were the first to start mission work in this area.

At present we are going through extreme economic problems. Therefore, we have taken up the challenge of meeting all the expenses of the diocese on our own income. For that purpose, we have organized a special meeting from 25th to 27th of February. Please remember us in your prayers.

Nevertheless, we are trying to continue our pastoral work as well as our social services despite 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 Reverend Hemen Halder**  
Bishop, Kushtia Diocese.



## 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Religious Meeting of Haluaghat and Madhupur Deanery held:

The 112th Annual Revival Meeting of Haluaghat and Madhupur Deanery was held on 12th February 2022 at the St. Andrew's Church in Panihata with the permission of the local administration. The motto of the religious assembly was "Go and make all nations my disciples ... teach them to observe them" (Matthew 26: 19-20).

The first session began with the Holy Communion service on the 12th of February. The morning worship was conducted by Reverend Ashish Mondol. After the worship, the reception begins at 9:30 am. Honorable Moderator of Church of Bangladesh Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin and Education Coordinator Mrs. Monita Mankhin were present at the reception. Reverend Benedict Bhanu Chisim and Reverend James Duke Baroi and other priests were present as special guests. Both the Deanery Secretaries Mr. Biplob Ritchil from Haluaghat and Mr. Chandan Chiran from Madhupur deanery were present.

Honorable Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin preached on how "We can bring peace, forgiveness, love and kindness," he also said. We still have the opportunity to follow the footsteps of Father and Sisters who have dedicated their lives in serving the people in this region. He called on all to be changed and renewed. From 11:30 am Mrs. Monita Mankhin spoke on "Bring all the tithes to you ... whether I bless you immensely" (Malachi 3:10).

## Celebrating the centenary



The centenary of St. Andrew's Church, Panihata was celebrated on 12th February 2022. The Church turns 100 years a few years ago. The respected Moderator Most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin unveiled centenary memorial plaque. He was accompanied by Mrs. Monita Mankhin, Reverend Philimon Chambugong and Teize Brother Gium.

Then the centenary cultural program began. A theme song written and composed by Mr Andrew Saral Drong of Haluaghat region was performed and another theme song was sung by Mr Paul April Mree from Thanarbaid Parish of Madhupur Deanery.

## The Confirmation



The service of the Holy Lord supper were solemnized on 13th February. 60 young men and women was confirmed. The Most Revd Samuel S. Mankhin conducted the Lord's Supper. Reverend Jonarson Dio preached the word of God. At the end of the worship, the recipients were welcomed. Deans and Deanery Secretary from the two deaneries delivered greetings.

Then, with the concluding remarks of the Bishop, the centenary celebrations of the 112<sup>th</sup> Barsabha and 100 years of Panihata Saint Andrew's Mission of 2022 AD came to an end.

## Meeting with the Church Leaders of Chittagong & Khagrachori



January 7, 2022, Mr. Paul Subrato Malakr & Mr. Suvojit Mondal had a meeting at Chittagong with the Church Leaders of Chittagong City Pastorate & the Khagrachori area. The main subject of that meeting was, how the Church of Bangladesh and the Chittagong city pastorate can work together to develop the new Churches at the Khagrachori hill tracts area. There are 5 new churches in the Khagrachori area. The Catechists of those churches raise their problems or needs during the meeting. We all decided that by this year we will do organize leadership development training for the 4 Catechists and 1 Deacon who are giving service in those areas. We will also do organize spiritual revival meetings to strengthen them spiritually.



## Pre-Christmas Party of Synod Office Held

As always on December 20, 2021, this year too, the staff of all departments of the Central Office of the Church of Bangladesh at St. Thomas Cathedral celebrated Christmas 2021 with their families. It is to be mentioned that the ceremony is observed in accordance with following the instructions declared by the Government during covid 19 pandemic.

Honorable Moderator Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin and other heads of institutions gave greetings on the occasion. Christmas cake cutting, tea, exchange of gifts, patriotic songs in cultural events and Christmas songs touched everyone's heart. After the competitive sports in different categories, everyone shared the joy by having lunch together.



## Strategy Development MIS Training

From 10-12 January 2022 COB organized a training program for the deans and the few Deacons/Catechists based on the strategy development MIS program. Respected Program and Communication director Mr. Paul S. Malakr and Respected Consultant Mr. Binod Hira gave the training to the participants. This training program trains them about how to do the database in Microsoft Excel. By doing this database survey COB will get the actual number/figure of the whole data of COB at a glance. This is a milestone step of the COB.

# Glorious 100 years - St. John's Church, Kushtia



The 100th anniversary of St. John's Church, Kushtia is celebrated on Sunday, February 27, 2022 AD. In the beginning of the event, the bishop prayed at the old church of St. John's and explained the significance of the day. The Lord's Supper was conducted by the Rt. Reverend Bishop Halder and the Priests assisted him. In his sermon, the bishop gave a brief history of St. John's Church and the present St. John's Cathedral. He said that St. John's Church got off to a good start on January 6, 1922 with the Renwick Company. At that time this church was established mainly for the British officers and the people of the company. The church was later led by some local people who accepted Christ and with members who came to work in the school. After the worship, 100 years are celebrated in memory. Bishop Halder's wife Mrs. Jessica Suporna Halder discussed the importance of the day. The Diocese Secretary Rev Daniel Mondol delivered his greetings, giving a brief history of the church and recalling the glorious days of the church and the mission school run by the church. He also remembers the people who have worked in this school. The new church, St. John's Cathedral, was established in 1991 when Kushtia later became the Diocese. Moreover, Mr. Joseph Mondal, Mr. Shyamal Mondol and Mrs. Swapna Mondol shared some of their memories.

## Seminar on Self Sustainability



On 25-26 February 2022, a seminar on self-sustainability was held at Rupantar Center with all the priests and catechists of Kushtia Diocese. The purpose of the seminar is to enable all priests and catechists to be well-mannered in the present difficult times of the church. The seminar was attended by all the priests and catechists of both the deaneries of Kushtia Diocese. It was also discussed as a way to review oneself. At the seminar, the priests, and catechists of all the parishes openly discussed the special problems and activities of their respective parishes. Some of the issues that came up in the open discussion were land issues, churches, and quarters of new churches in Rajshahi Deanery and

quarters of Ratanpur parish etc.

The next day, the honorable bishop conducted a session on wealth, he said –

“God is the director of the ship or train who manages it well and he provides food for the passengers,”

he said. A treasurer is a manager who manages a large team. “

“An employed person who looks after the property of another. Working as the treasurer –

Leading the people (as Jesus said to Peter - do you love me? Pasture my sheep. Obeying God’s Command, God gave Adam the responsibility. The bishop raised the issue of Joseph’s wealth. He said the treasurer is a custodian. He said in Matthew chapter 25 about the good treasurer - that we may make good use of what we have received. It is not acceptable to hide Talent. If we do not use it properly, God will take it away. Jesus rebukes us if we do not use what we receive properly. “We have to account for time, we have to account for information, we have to account for wisdom, we have to account for relationships, we have to account for responsibilities,” he added.

Reverend Martin Hira Mondal said about the treasurer; “In a sense we can call the treasurer as a manager or servant . He said we are called, nominated, and anointed. At this sense we received God’s call. I must think about why I was called. As chosen, I am chosen by God. We must think about why I was nominated. As anointed, he said we have been separated. Why have I been separated? Am I separated? How can I differentiate myself comparing others?”

In order to make the Kushtia Diocese self-reliant the money received from all the resources and institutions of the Diocese will remain in the Diocese.

- ▶ Kushtia Diocese will create its own friends.
- ▶ will try to increase his own income.
- ▶ plans to become self-sufficient by constructing shops in all the places where it would be profitable to set up shops.
- ▶ Members should be encouraged to make voluntary donations and offerings.

It was discussed that the annual budget of each church would be made up of priests and catechists. We need to increase membership dues, worship donations, and ensure proper use of local resources.

The bishop then discusses discipline and courtesy, as well as a written letter stating what the responsibilities of all priests and catechists are and how to act.

In conclusion, the bishop said that the time of Jesus was also lacking resources and wealth. Our shortcomings will be overcome if we try. Members should come to worship. Need to make a separate project for the new church. Then he thanked everyone and announced the end of the seminar.

## Re-opening of Rajshahi Women’s College Hostel



Rajshahi Christian Women’s College Hostel was re-opened on 26/01/2021 AD. Kushtia Diocese Secretary Reverend Daniel Mondol re-opens the hostel on the advice of Bishop Halder. Few priests and project heads were present at the opening ceremony. Reverend Michael Soren, Reverend Solomon Kisku, Reverend Anil Murmu, hostel Warden Mrs. Deepika Simsang and few heads of the organization and dignitaries were present in the occasion. The hostel was reopened with the aim that the girls of the church would move to the city for higher education after pandemic situation. It is to be noted that the hostel has been closed for the past two years due to the Corona pandemic and other reasons.

The Rajshahi Women’s College Hostel has been playing a special role for many years in educating and empowering the women in the society of the Church of Bangladesh. The dignitaries of the deanery and all present thanked the bishop for reopening the hostel. It is hoped that the reopening of the college hostel will benefit the girls in our church.

## The Church of Bangladesh has resumed Women's Ordination



The Barishal Diocese of the Church of Bangladesh is happy to ordain five deacons and more thrilled to have two females out of the five. The candidates prepared themselves on the 11th of December 2021, and a purification ceremony (as per the Bengali tradition) was held. The Holy Ordination work was done on the 12th of December 2021, following the sacred sacraments at Christ The King Church, Khalishpur, Khulna.

We rejoice with all fellow believers that after 15 years of interval, The Church of Bangladesh has resumed Women's Ordination. And Barishal Diocese has played a prominent role in this. Being a new diocese, this has ensured inclusiveness in all areas of ministry. We are thankful to the respectable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Most Revd. Samuel S Mankhin, for this historic decision. The first two Women Ministers had their deacon ordination in 1996 at the same church under Dhaka Diocese.

The diocese congratulates the newly ordained deacons & deaconesses to the family of clergies and prays for their future ministry. The newly ordained

are Rev. Dn. Suchitra Behera, Rev. Dn. Mridula Boidya, Rev. Dn. Duke Malakar, Rev. Dn. Pallab Sarkar and Rev. Dn. John Amrita Mondol. The diocese also congratulates and pray for the other ten deacons ordained under Dhaka Diocese and Kushtia Diocese, respectively.

### Inter-Religious Dialogue

The Barishal Diocese organized three Inter-religious dialogue meetings in Christ The King Church, Khalishpur, Holy Name Church, Suagram and St. John's Church Rahutpara in the reported period. The program was part of the MSP4 project of CWM. Local leaders from Christian, Hindu & Muslim backgrounds discussed the topics of harmonious living, creation care and loving your neighbors.

The Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia spoke Christian perspective of living harmoniously and taking care of creation. Nearly fifty people joined the dialogue. The faith leaders of various religious groups highly appreciated this initiative at a very grassroots level.





## St. Andrew's Theological College

First of all, thanks to Almighty God for His Grace, Love, and great mercies upon all of our SATC family members during this Covid-19 Pandemic Situation. Thanks God that even in the pandemic situation we have finished Our Collage exam.

Exam started from 11 and finished on 25 January 2022. So, all the students from Dhaka and outside of Dhaka came to our College for the exam and all the students participated in this exam successfully. There are three types of students attend in the college exam BTH, BCS and DCS.

### B.Th, BCS, and DCS Year Final Exam



### Pray for Our Principal



We are sorry to inform that our principal was suffering from Covid-19 and he got serious Eye trouble as bleeding in Retina. We are thankful to God by the healing mercies, our principal is getting better now. Thanks for all your fervent prayers for our College and Principal.



### Prayer for Church Unity

We observed church unity Octave from 18-25 January among the different denominations of Dhaka Mirpur area. Our principal, staffs, and all students actively participated in this program at different churches such as Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Baptist church everyday evening after the exam. Our principal delivered the significant message for the unity in the Baptist church. It paves the way to come together, to worship together, and to have fellowship together. This is the path of unity.

# Brief Report of Christa Sevika Sangha (CSS)



Thanks and gratitude to Almighty God, for His infinite blessings, love, and grace, we have another wonderful opportunity to start a new year.

## ST. ANTONY'S NURSERY SCHOOL (PLAY CENTRE)

Pre-primary school children are being admitted on January in this year. Thank God so much. Classes started on January 10, 2022. After the last two years, the children have come back to their school as if they have regained their lives. We were also very happy to have them back among us. But as the Corona pandemic re-emerged, the school closed again.

## CSS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY-25 JANUARY

January 25, 2022, was the 52nd founding day of our CSS. This Year, due to the Corona Pandemic we have celebrated the day in a very general way. At 11.30 am, the holy Lord's supper worship was performed at Jobarpar

CSS Chapel. Father Francis and Father John SPB, our parish priest Rev: Santi Mondal and all the Sisters were present. The holy Lord's supper worship was conducted by the Dean of St. Mary's Church, Rev. Santi Mondal and Father John SPB. Then everyone went to the tomb of CSS founder, our beloved Mother Susila

and Sister Jharna and offered special prayers for peace and eternal rest of their souls. Finally, holy worship ends with the blessing of Father Francis SPB. Special thanks to the great God for everyone's life. Please pray for the prosperity of our Christa Sevika Sangha (CSS) so that more girls come forward to work for the Lord.

Our prayer to Almighty God is that He may free the world from the Corona pandemic and grant peace to the world.

May God protect us all by His protected Hand for ever.



## Sister Dorothy CSS

Sister Superior  
Oxford Mission, Jobarpar, Barishal.

# Education



## Purify, brighten, beautify my heart oh dear Lord.

" The beauty of Basanta kaal, the Spring Season in nature of Bangladesh will be gradually transformed into the beauty of nature and flowers. Church of Bangladesh Synod Education Department has been working for a long time as a milestone to introduce the beauty and development of Almighty God and to open the way to reach the highest peak of life development by giving the light of education through schools run in cities and villages. According to him, in the last 2021, despite various obstacles like Covid-19, the annual exams including online classes have been held till the end. And the results are satisfactory. Especially the results of SSC examination have been excellent. Please be kind and read the following. Result of SSC examination 2021 is (A+) 111, (A) 239, (A-) 108, (B) 113, (C)114, (D) 6, (F) 22 and Total out of 713 from 7 High Schools under Church of Bangladesh

At present there are 35 schools run by the Church of Bangladesh. There are 6 high schools, 21 primary schools and 5 pre-primary and 2 junior schools. The total number of students in 35 schools across Bangladesh is 6,738 and the number of teachers is 313. Student admission process is also coming to an end in 2022.

We have resumed school activities as per the official guidelines of the ministry of Education. For example, online, visiting and one day and two days a week to

bring students to check the book with 6 Days and 7days. Hopefully, by 2022, we will be able to move forward in the right direction.

Sincerely

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





# Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

## What's happening in the Shalom!



Shalom is an integral organ of the Church of Bangladesh (CoB) to respond to humanitarian needs and has been initiating development activities in support of dignified living of the poor. Poverty Reduction and Community Resilience Project is being implemented at Jobarpar area under Barishal district and Baromari area under Netrokona district funded by the BftW. In that project area there is a huge scope to work development activities and Shalom has started Poverty, Lack of Food Security and Nutrition, Climate Change and vulnerability and Local advocacy and rights program. Through this project three Union level advocacy workshops were held on Social safety net program with group leaders, local elites, union level Govt. representatives and 75 participants attend the program. Organized six advocacy meetings and attended 128 participants, 297 targeted people received follow-up training on Leafy vegetables, homestead gardening and vermin compost, 125 targeted people received follow-up training on Chicken, Duck, Goat and Cow rearing. Cash support received 100 targeted people for resilience crops cultivation, 175 for chicken and duck rearing, 96 for goat rearing, 40 for cow rearing, 17 for Climate resilience crops cultivation, 43 for eco-friendly stove, and 49 leaders received group management training. Number of 295 targeted people received awareness sessions on child rights, women rights, indigenous rights and land rights, 38 received training on conflict resolution and mitigation, 16 received tailoring and 6 received short course of computer within two months. Climate Resilience Sustainable livelihood Project for

vulnerable People (CRSLVP) project is implementing focusing on Church and Community Transformation, Climate Change and Livelihood improvements in the coastal zone Mongla, funded by Tearfund. There is Self Help groups, Church and Community Transformation/UMOJA groups, Ward Disaster Management Committee and directly 2,245 family benefited from the project. By this two months 150 targeted people received support for homestead vegetable, 20 received for fisheries and



crab fattening, 125 received for business development, 30 Plastic Water Tank distributed for Rain water harvest, 20 swing distributed for women and disable person. We have established 20 demonstration plots on smart and saline tolerance agriculture production. The distribution program was well attended in the presence of various guests. Honorable Deputy Moderator of Church of Bangladesh and Chairman of RDC Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia, Bishop of Barishal Diocese, Md.



Washim Akram,( ULO-Mongla), Shuvro Rego, Program Officer, TF Bangladesh. Rev. Monindro Baydda, Dean CoB Khulna, Mr. Simonto Kumar Das (SSAPO-Mongla), Md. Younus Ali, (Upazila Animal Resources officer), Md. Sheikh Sakhoat Hossain (Upazila Agricultural Resources officer), A.Z.M. Tohidur Rahman, (Upazila Assistant fisheries officer) was present as Guest of the program. Total 345 people received IGAs training through the special allocation of COVID-19 and received support. All of the technical or IGA training has been facilitated by technical personnel from project staff or respective govt. officials from the relevant department (Upazila Livestock Officer, Upazila Agriculture Officer and Upazila Fisheries Officer) of Mongla Upazila. Total 440 people have received training. Number of 20 parson received training on fish farming and crab fattening, 125 person receive training on goat rearing, 150 parson receive training on homestead gardening, 75 parson receive training on smart/ advance agriculture, 50 parson receive orientation on value chain management and 20 person received 3 month long tailoring training. The project provides a training module for each participant as they can use it at their home while facing problems.

was 'The social status of the leper, we are all united'. The event was celebrated with the Acting Civil Surgeon of Meherpur, In- charge of 250 bed general hospital, Medical Officer, EPI District Head, Acting District Health, Education Officer, District Sanitary Inspector, TLCA, Nurses, Lepers and Self Help Group Members, Program Office, various NGO workers, district information officers, media workers (NTV, Jamuna TV, Mohona TV, Daily Mathabhanga, Daily Bangladesh Alo, Daily Shyambazar and online journalists). Acting Civil Surgeon and Sadar Upazila Officer Dr. Alok Kumar Das gave lectures on leprosy and COVID-19 awareness to the patients. To increase leprosy awareness, video demonstration, mikeing, billboard making, leaflet distribution and mobile skin camp were conducted with the help of the District Information Office. Two female suspected leprosy patients were identified at mobile Skin Camp. Awareness rising on an estimated 400-450 people was asked about leprosy in the market and about 500 leaflets were distributed. Besides, 298 suspect people were seen in mobile Skin Camp. In order to raise more awareness, banners have been hoisted in 5 places of the city. Meherpur Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Jawaharul Anam Siddique with the team of District Health Department visited the house activities of the identified patients of Shalom Church of Bangladesh. Under this program 93 leprosy patients were found in 2021 and 13 in 2022 and their treatment confirmed from the project.

## World Leprosy Day Celebrated

Shalom, Church of Bangladesh celebrated World Leprosy Day on 30th January 2022. This year the topic





# CMCY

## Christian Ministry to Children & Youth



### HSC- Results

In total 44 children appeared in the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examination and passed 41, of which two failed and one did not appear in the exam, now they all will take admission in different colleges, Trades schools and nursing institutions.

### St. George College Hostel, Mymensingh

So far 6 SSC passed students from St. George College Hostel, Mymensingh has ensured admission in different colleges in Mymensingh divisional town, and it is hoped that recently the HSC passed 16 students with several boys will appear for new admission test in different colleges.

### Wall Making

The construction works of the St. Andrews Hostel and the Church boundary wall (385 feet x 7 feet) of Haluaghat Mission is running at full speed by the supervision of a newly formed local expert committee. It is expected that through this wall once again the lost safety and security of the campus will be recovered, soon. CMCY is thankful to the kind donor CMD – Germany for their every support and prayers.

### CCTS- Jeshore

The Christ Church Trades School (CCTS), CMCY runs residential vocational training institute and has started its journey from the first week of January, 2022 along with the courses of the Automobile, Machine and Electric trade. It is a two years course. The trainees enjoy both theoretical and practical lessons from the kind and experienced staff. An Executive Management Committee has been formed to run its all activities smoothly.

### CIB- News

Compassion International Bangladesh (CIB) runs eleven child support projects that have been running well with 2375 poor children living in severe poverty with their parents in Bangladesh. All sponsored children are getting support services on education, health, social and ethical education, and their parents and family members, on the other hand, are getting financial supports for IGA (Income generating activities) programs like goat, poultry, and duck rearing, sewing training, milking cow rearing, van and rickshaw pulling.

### CHALLENGE

The impact of Covid '19 and the sky-high rising of the essential commodities.

### New Project

The year 2021 has gone, the New Year 2022 has come with new challenges and hopes. This year CMCY has received a new project for Thanarbaid Church from the kind donor- CMD – Germany, which surely will be a blessing point to the stakeholders living in the severe financial miseries being impacted by the fatal Covid 19 and Omicron Pandemic crisis. Thanks be to God. We are also thankful and grateful to the Church of Bangladesh and also to the kind donors of CMS- Switzerland, CMD-Germany, Operation agrees and CIB for all their kind works for the CMCY-stakeholders.

# Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi

## CMC Vellore in my eyes: a one-bed roadside dispensary **and today**



*CMCH Vellore -1900 AD- India*

I've been on vacation for the last four weeks or so. However, I came to CMC Vellore Hospital in India. The purpose is twofold- the first is to help a friend patient by attending, and the second is to try to learn something on the spot from this famous healthcare institution.

First of all, as I have been the Chief Executive Officer of Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi since last year. Why would anyone believe in running a hospital without studying medicine- if I don't know something, this feeling always works inside me all the time, even

though the learning mentality has always been and still is. But the situation of time and opportunity did not favor me before.

What did I see and what did I learn for Christian Mission Hospital?

After much waiting due to heavy crowd, when my patient's time came- the doctor lovingly and skillfully sought to know the patient's problem-he gave us adequate time. Then it was understood why people come to CMC Vellore? The patient do not come here to get life to live for one hundred, two or more forever,



*CMH Rajshahi -1926 AD- Bangladesh*

but come here to get treatment and good advice to stay healthy for a certain lifetime.

Dr Ida Sophia Scudder has played a major role in the development of medicine here. In the 1900's, she initiated a dream medical facility with the main objective of reducing maternal and child mortality, primarily in the service of humanity, loving the people of the area. The slogan is to make the kingdom of God through healing ministries- not to be ministered unto but to minister. Her dream and hard work has been successful today.

Bible words and teachings are present on the walls of each building. No staff enters anywhere without praying and reading this Christian message, nor does the work begin. As far as I understand the Bible's eternal words everywhere except the toilet. People seem to be healed by the powerful words of Jesus and the faith of the sick. I could not have imagined their patient management and drug management as powerfully and skillfully managed. The center of the main hospital building is the multi faced door church. People of many religions are praying for healing. They are giving offerings, making commitment to God and so on. At least 15 priests are employed for conducting prayer service all the time of every day. The nurses pray fervently on behalf of the patient and ask God to cure from the disease in their wards too. The nurses serve the patient with kind word. There is very little chance of error in services and medical services because of the strategy. This service seemed like a meditation. However, it takes a long time to get medical services here. This is happening due to communication ability of the patient parties, huge numbers of patients, language barriers and many other reasons. If the time and cost of medical treatment could be reduced a little, people from poor and lower

middle-class families could also get the service.

It seems that this hospital is providing employment to at least 5000 families. Altogether the IPD and OPD, at least 10,000 patients receive services every day.

It is good to see how many people and families are making a living from the hospital. Gaining people's trust is not an easy task. That's the job the staff are trying to do wholeheartedly. I haven't seen a non-Indian European or American doctor in this hospital for almost a

month now. In other words, the capacity of this hospital has enhanced, and self-reliance has come. The local doctors are showing their skills. This is Dr. Sophia's great achievement. I really think this place is the kingdom of Christ. Not of any individual. If the institution ceases to exist when the founding person leaves or dies, then the purpose is not biblical.

The economy and communication, education, social, political, and technical activities of the region depend on this famous hospital.

Those who work here use Tamil as the language of the place. Most of the patients speak Bengali though. Many staff know Bengali. There are those who are highly educated staff and doctor who know English to communicate with the patients.

Management has a touch of modern technology. Once the patient's number is known, all information is stored on a computer; If necessary, the patient can get treatment in less time later.

From a simple one-bed roadside dispensary of the year 1900 AD. Today it is one of the most reliable thousand-bed dream health care centers in South Asia. I believe that without the Bible-centered goal and diligence that developed as an institution, that would never have been possible.

If we can get out of the person-centered mentality, maybe our Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi will one day be able to become such an ideal kingdom of God through healing ministry.

Nonetheless, the patients to the Christian Mission Hospital are being increased day by day but she needs committed doctors who love to proclaim love of Christ through the treatment service.



# Nursing Institute, Rajshahi



Nursing Institute, Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi is running smoothly with many challenges. Although we have been affected by Covid 19 since late January. Thank God that we all have recovered from covid.

We have admitted 52 new students of Nursing. 10 boys and 42 girls. The 2nd year and 3rd year students of the Nursing Institute will start the BNMC final examination on March 30, 2022.



They are busy with theory classes and studies. Final exams for 1st year students will be later when BNMC will send us a letter.

Good news is that most of the students have been vaccinated for Covid-19.

All the schools and colleges in the country have been closed due to covid-19. Schools, colleges, universities have been opened again. Our students have also started classes physically. We celebrated or remembered the 21st of February in our country which was the struggle of the people of our country to speak Bengali as their own language instead of Urdu. UNESCO later declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

# Bollobhpur Hospital

## Welcoming the New Year 2022

December `21 went out in the flurry of Christmas preparation and celebrations, culminating in a huge bonfire on the night at the 31st, as the students danced and songs for hours on end bidding good bye to the old year and welcoming the new year 2022 with all that it may bring for them.

For we are still being very careful, all our worship and activities take place in our hospital compound, and our chapel and wards were beautifully decorated, and we all wear masks when caring for our patients in the hospital and at the three community clinics we run each with out in the villages at the area.

December `31st said good bye to our senior group of student nurses who had completed their three years training and left for employment elsewhere, and another five laboratory students completed their two years training, and are all settled in good employment elsewhere. We are proud of them all.

Mid-January 2022 has already brought a new group of 17 girls to commence the nurse training course and a further five girls and boys to start the laboratory training.

We are still endeavoring to get Gov't recognition for our course but a heavy amount of palm greasing is needed which is a problem.

We start the year with 90 girls in nursing training and 13 students in the laboratory.

In the Churches year Epiphany has come and gone and we are into the last few weeks before Ash Wednesday and lent begins. The first group of the year have already completed their six weeks operation theatre training at the Church of Bangladesh city hospital in Rajshahi, and the 2nd group have gone to take their place.

On the wards the Incubators are full of tiny arrivals, some very new and some now getting big and naughty. It is a joy to be able to send a mother home eventually baby in arms.

In the maternity ward the beds are not full but sufficient women are opting for normal delivery and the students are getting plenty of experience. Our energetic doctor has completed his first year of contract and we have applied for an extension. You will be pleased to hear that doctor has been granted a further two years extension to his contract.

Please keep us all in your prayers and may you all keep safe and well.

**Sr. G M Rose**  
Director  
Bollobhpur Hospital.

