



The Church of Bangladesh

# NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● January–February Issue 2023 ●

Volume 19

## Message from the Moderator ...

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The first two months of the year have passed so soon with some pleasure, anxiety, and loss of dear ones, and in Bangladesh context many more marriage ceremonies and the Spiritual Revival Meetings in the Deaneries.

Some of us have started this new year chanting Jesus' very precious name "Jisu Nam Moha Nam" and "Jisu Name Pabere Shanti, Jisu Name Pabere Mukti" at the beginning of this year. This is some Bhojon we sing in Bangladesh and India. Moreover, we find, and we believe that if we can start with Jesus' name there will be many blessings upon our work and families. Yes, we have started this new year which should be a blessing for us all, despite there must be some misery, anxiety, fear, and unexpected news for the families and the whole Churches. I myself and families we lost my Mother (90+) and eldest sister, Sister Mira (73) within these two months which brought some mental disaster in our families. But thank God and all the Church members and relatives and other friends and well-wishers for their support and condolence Message to all of us. We have been slowly recovering ourselves and the great losses. It had been so shocking that recently Bishop Michael S. Baroi lost his granddaughter who faced a terrific road accident in Canada.

Anyway meantime the whole world has experienced that the war between Russia and Ukraine passed one year since it started but didn't finish! Due to its continuation, the whole world is again in big anxiety, fear, profound financial crisis, and what not. In Bangladesh, we are not free from this bad impact. God knows when it will stop and the people of poor nations and countries will be survived all sorts of crises



and their spiritual and livelihood will be normal and peaceful. In midst of this, we certainly have hope in Christ that he will save us some days but we should walk with Him and obey Him. For this, we the COB, and some other like-minded denominations had spiritual revival meetings countrywide and tried to encourage our own people and others to fully depend on God, Jesus Christ His only Son, and the Holy Spirit and see how it leads us and guides us towards the salvation, peace, and harmony. The COB has started

working enthusiastically with others and following the suggestions of our dear mission and development partners and all other wing mission institutions trying their best to bring self-sustainability and a new spirit in Christ to live and work together.

May you just go through the newsletter so that you will get all the other news of pastoral, development, childcare, health ministries, education ministry, and other ongoing ministries for the COB to witness and work for our beautiful country Bangladesh. 21 February is being observed as the Language Martyr's Day when Bangladesh only fought for such as Language movement and had to shade many drops of blood and the nation has observed the day with great reverence and mourning, from which we got now the free and sovereign country Bangladesh from East Pakistan. We thank God for our beautiful country and the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose tremendous leadership and dedication brought victory and independence to this country in 1971. Amar Sonar Bangla Ami Tomai Balobashi (My golden country Bangladesh) I love you so much. Loving God and serving fellow country people should be our Christian lives in Bangladesh. May God bless us all!

*May God bless us all!*

## Message from Barishal Diocese



*Dear All in Christ,*

Greetings to you all from the Barishal Diocese.

I hope and believe that this letter finds you well. This year the Barishal Diocese has taken a theme to concentrate on throughout the year. The Theme is: "Jesus shaped Life." We discussed the theme at Jobarpar and Khulna Deanery's revival meetings. We all are challenged to live a Jesus-shaped life here in this world and in our context. To have life we need to follow the life of Jesus which He had in this World and is recorded in the Bible.

We are living in a world where many of us think for ourselves and our close ones only. But Jesus-shaped life calls us to live a life for others. We need to go beyond our boundaries. We need to put others first and should have a heart full of love, forgiveness, kindness, care, grace, humbleness, compassion and so on, which were in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we just have started a new year and also we are now in Lent so it is the right time to drive to have the Jesus-shaped Life.

During Lent, we all try to repent and commit ourselves to living a life with Jesus Christ. We all try to give more time for praying, reading the Words of God and sacrificing for others. When we come closer to the Word of God, we put on Jesus Christ and we be a new creation and that leads us to Jesus-shaped Life.

To live a Jesus-shaped Life demands having faith in God. When we can surrender ourselves to God then we can have means we have full faith in God then we live the life which Jesus encouraged us to live i.e. 'to love God and to love all'. When Jesus is in us then we love God and love God's creation. Like the prophet Isaiah, we believe God is our potter and we are the clay. God shaped us, we must keep up the shape (Image of God).

This year we will try to live Jesus-shaped life by serving and loving God and all. We want to concentrate more on the Word of God and want to live accordingly.

Let us have a Jesus-shaped life to glorify our Lord our God. Amen.

Your sincerely

**Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia.**

Deputy Moderator, Church of Bangladesh  
Bishop of Barishal 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.

The months of January and February are two special blessed and very busy months for our whole Church. At this time several spiritual revival meetings were organized in 7 deaneries of the Church of Bangladesh.

The two deaneries of Kushtia Diocese hold two meetings respectively. 1. “Dhyna Budber Mohasabha” at Ballovpur Deanery and 2. “Hemel Sabha” at Rajshahi Deanery.

Last February 14th and 15th, the largest spiritual revival meeting of the Church of Bangladesh was held in Ratanpur of Ballabpur Deanery, which is called “Dhyna Budber Mohasabha” (Blessed Wednesday Spiritual meeting). In the presence of approximately 12,000 people, this meeting was incredibly impressive. Many people participated including speakers from India.

It has been said that 129 years ago, the Holy Spirit descended on some of the devout people during their fasting prayers in St. Luke’s Church in a village called Maliapota in India. However, this miracle originated from the village of Ratanpur in the Ballovpur Deanery. Keeping this memory in mind, this meeting is being held every year in India and Bangladesh. Personally I am most thankful to God that this year I had the opportunity to be a speaker at Saint Luke’s Church in Maliapota and to be honest it was really a great experience.

The meeting held at the Rajshahi Deanery is called the “Hemel Sabha”. Hemel is a Santali word meaning fellowship. The meeting was held in association with 25 churches of Rajshahi Deanery. This year the meeting will be held on 11th, 12th and 13th March in Asthapukur Parish and the 50th anniversary of that church will be there. By the grace of God, the construction of a new house for the priest in Asthapukur is going on and it will be inaugurated on March 12.

The pastoral work of the Kushtia Diocese has gained new momentum and all the ministers are working with renewed dynamism. We want to build a new congregation in Rajshahi Deanery, where about 200 new believers are keeping in touch with us. We pray to God to keep us healthy and give us grace in the work of expanding His kingdom.

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

**Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder.**  
Bishop of Kushtia Diocese.



## Death of Moderator's mother, Molina Mankhin and prayer meetings for her soul on 40th days held



and commemoration of his mother's death. All the workers of Dhaka Synod Office, all priests of Dhaka and Haluaghat Deanery and invited guests attended the prayer meeting.

The program began with an evening prayer meeting on 22 January 2023, Sunday. The next day, January 23rd, at 9 am, the ceremony concluded with Lord's Supper worship, memorial service following few local traditional rituals.

We are deeply saddened and sorry to announce that on 14 December 2022, Molina Mankhin, the mother of the Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin, left this world and passed away in Christ. She was approximately 95 years old at the time of her death. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

On 23rd January 2023 Honorable Moderator Bishop Samuel S. Mankhin was present to conduct prayer meeting



## CONDOLENCES

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints” (Psalms 116:15)

We deeply mourn the death of Sister Superior Innermost Respected Sister Meera Mankhin of St Mary's Sisterhood Hood, Haluaghat, Mymensingh.

We are grateful for her dedicated, sacrificial, spiritual and Godly Life to Serve God and His People throughout her life. We are grateful for her contribution in our life, in Church and Society and Many More...We are grateful Honorable MP Jewel Areng was present in the Funeral with Holy Communion Service Led by Honorable COB Moderator the Most Revd Samuel S Mankhin (Beloved Brother of Sister Meera Mankhin).

We pray for her soul to rest in peace in the Lord to Worship Him with His Saints and Angels in the Everlasting Kingdom.



## Christmas celebration



Help is given to 250 needy families of New Church at Sundali to spread the peace and joy of Christmas to all. They were very excited and happy to receive this unexpected help and gift. The Bishop of the Diocese first expressed thanks and gratitude to Father God and to Lee Yang and Miss Ivany Chiu for providing this support. A feast is organized after Christmas worship.

## The blessing of the St. Stephen Church



On 26th December, the foundation stone of Saint Stephen's Church was celebrated in Tarunsen village of Barishal Diocese Jobarpar Deanery. Honorable Bishop Shourabh Pholia of Barishal Diocese inaugurated the church building by cutting the ribbon after the Lord's Supper. The parish is over a hundred years old. The parishioners were overjoyed to receive the newly constructed church. After the opening of the church and the ceremony, all those present met for a feast. Barishal Diocese expressed its thanks

and gratitude to all the members of the local church, including the Halder family of Tarunsen Parish, for their overall cooperation in building the concrete building for the church.

## Seminar on Golden Citizens



On 28th February 2023 Barishal Diocese, Church of Bangladesh organized a seminar on Golden Citizens at St. Peter's Church, Barishal. The theme of the seminar was "Life in the mold of Jesus". A total of 38 people including 15 people with special needs, their parents and guests attended the seminar. The seminar was presided over by Reverend Bishop Shourabh Pholia and Reverend Bishop Richard William Atkinson of Church of England was present as special guest.

The Bishop of the Diocese addressed the above. He highlighted the inherent significance of golden citizens' lives being 'cast in the mold of Jesus'. All the guests in their short welcome speech applauded the initiative of organizing such events and expressed the need for more such events for these people.

In the seminar, the differently abled citizens with special needs performed dance, singing, reciting Bible verses, and reciting poetry. Later painting competitions and sports were organized with them. They participated in it very spontaneously.

Finally, prizes were distributed among all the disabled persons who participated and among them two were given wheelchairs and three were given hearing aids. The Bishop of the Diocese expressed special thanks and gratitude to the World Communion of Reformed Churches for helping to provide all these necessary equipment for the people with special needs.





21st December 2022. Karpashdanda Compassion held Pre-Christmas Program. Bishop of Kushtia Diocese Right Reverend Hemen Halder distributed Christmas gifts to the children and cut the Christmas cake and gave a speech. At this time, Dean of Bollovepur Deanery, all the priests, deacons and all the members of the committee were present.

December 10, 2023. Women's Fellowship's Holy Christmas program was held at Ratanpur St Peter's Church of Bollovepur Deanery. The members of women fellowship performed Christmas carols and danced to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Dean Reverend Mrityunjy Mondol was present on the mentioned occasion.



On 13 & 14th of January 2023, a work camp for the foundation work of the priest's quarters of Ratanpur Parish of Bollovepur Deanery was captioned and the yard was cleaned through the camp. Right Reverend Hemen Halder, Bishop of Kushtia Diocese and his wife Jessica Suparna Halder, all priests and catechists of Bollovepur Deanery were present. The work camp ends with the worship of the Lord's Supper on Sunday.



# Ordained 15 priest together



On the 8th of January, Sunday morning, holy ordination was held at Epiphany Cathedral, Oxford Mission, Barishal Diocese. The most honorable Moderator Rt. Revd. Sunil Mankhin ordained 15 ordinands who were from three dioceses of COB. Honorable Deputy Moderator and Bishop of Barishal Diocese Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia and honorable Bishop of Kushtia Diocese Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder assisted him. Rev. Julie Sim from CWM, Fahter Francis Pandey, SPB, Father John Halder, SPB, Sisters from Sisterhood, all priests of COB, gussets from different national and international organizations were present on the occasion.

About 600 believers attended the sacramental service and prayed for the new Reverends and congratulated them after the service. The Ordained Deacons are in the following:

Deacon Suchitra Behera, Deacon Mridula Baidya, Deacon Stalin Pallab Sarkar, Deacon Duke Malakar, Deacon John Mondol, Deacon Mridul

Chambugang, Deacon Ajoy Ritchil, Deacon Satta Mree, Deacon Dibaronjon Sarkar, Deacon Ripon Roy, Deacon Philip Mondol, Deacon Richard Sarkar, Deacon Samuel Hembrom, Deacon Tapon Mondol, Deacon Shorbanondo Rotno.

The Barishal Diocese is proud to offer two women priests among the fifteen candidates. The two women priests are Rev. Suchitra Behera and Rev. Mridula Baidya, they are serving at Barishal Diocese. Thankful to God for all the new priests and continuing our prayers for them and their ministries.





# Spiritual revival meeting was held in each deanery



Like every year, this year too, Spiritual revival meeting for CoB have been organised in each deanery throughout the month of January-February. Each deanery has a different set of values. Bishops of dioceses are keynote speakers at spiritual yearly prayer meeting. Devotees of Christ attend this religious meeting with enthusiastically, walking from parishes in remote areas. A special focus of spiritual

meetings is healing worship. In addition to the believers of their own community, the believers of all the surrounding religions attend this spiritual gathering in the healing worship.

The spiritual mass prayer meeting is a tradition of the Church of Bangladesh. This meeting has a history of 100-125 years in some villages.







## Reflection and Meditation

Last January 22, 2023 AD, a half-day meditation meeting of the synod office workers of the Church of Bangladesh was held at Panihata Prayer Hill 'Shantidham'. Reverend Simson Mazumder, the Chaplain of Saint Thomas Cathedral led the meditation. The theme, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" was much meaningful with the surrounding nature to get close relationship with God. The synod staff and all the priests of Dhaka and Haluaghat deanery attended this meditation meeting.

After the meditation, the workers visited Panihata village and other places of interest nearby. It should be noted that Panihata is a village inhabited by Garo tribes close to the Meghalaya border of India in the north of Bangladesh, located in Sherpur district. It has a hundred years of glorious history of spreading Christianity among the indigenous Garos and many saints and pastors worked here. Panihata Parish is surrounded by hills and pristine nature, there is a pilgrimage site called 'Shanti Dham' owned by COB.

## Pre-Christmas Program held



Pre-Christmas Program held for Synod office staff Last December 20, 2022, AD, at Saint Thomas Cathedral, Dhaka, Pre-Christmas was held with all the officers and workers and their family members of Synod office staff of Church of Bangladesh. The Moderator Right Reverend Samuel S Mankhin and all the priests and families of the Dhaka Deanery were present. Pre-Christmas program starts with morning prayers at 9 am. Chaplain Reverend Simson Mazumder of St. Thomas Cathedral led the prayer. At the end of the worship honorable Moderator Right Reverend Samuel S. Mankhin cut the Christmas cake with children. After that, the pre-Christmas program ends with sports, distribution of prizes, exchange of gifts and finally with a fellowship lunch.



# Anglican Communion Education and Research



Rev. Richard Sarkar of Khustia Diocese and Rev. Suchitra Behera from Barishal Diocese has completed a course at the Anglican Communion Education and Research Centre, Canterbury, London. This course was for newly ordained ministers. Thirty-five participants from 18 countries joined from 30 January to 13 February 2023. It was a great learning experience, and His Grace, The Archbishop of Canterbury, joined all the seminarians and discussed various issues.



27 participants from all the Deaneries and Synod Office took part in an orientation on Project Management and Baseline Survey for USPG project at Retreat & Prayer Garden (RPG) Savar, Dhaka from 16 to 18 January 2023.



# Warm Reception to Honorable Bishop Paritos Canning of Calcutta Diocese and guests at the Church of Bangladesh Synod Office



On March 5, 2023, the Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Samuel S. Mankhin and the staff of the Synod Office gave a warm reception to Bishop Paritos Canning (Calcutta Diocese), Bishop Subroto Chokroborti (Barakpore Diocese), Rev. Prodeep K Nandon and Mr. Raghob Naek at St. Thomas Cathedral and Synod Office of the Church of Bangladesh. We are so much blessed with their



presence, fellowship and sharing. As partners Both COB and CNI Two Diocese share their token of love to each other.

Bishop Paritos Canning shared about the contribution of Oxford Mission in his life and especially in the life of Church of Bangladesh as Bishop James D Blair is the first Bishop from the Brotherhood of Oxford Mission who Establish Dhaka Diocese under his leadership. He also shared in his message about Vision-2025 and Self Sustainability “Esho Gathi” (Let Us Build Together). He emphasizes the Local Committees responsibility is not only list about repair and maintenance but build up all people then they will build the

House of the Lord and then all will be fine. He also said that there should be no drop out children and students in their dioceses and nobody should be unemployed. Therefore, there will be three modes of contribution to meet the budget of the drop out students to study or to do vocational training.

Sunday School, Youth and Women: They need to see Sunday School and Who is dropped out. Youth should go to School College or Vocational Training. Women Fellowship: they are “Mother at Home” and “Mother Outside Home”. They want to see at least Education 80% and Job 60% in their dioceses.

Schools: Mrs. Monita Mankhin wanted to know in her welcome speech about their school system in their dioceses and Bishop also mentioned that the Schools are the best resources for sustainability.

Calcutta Diocese has one of the best Lamatinia School in Kolkata, students more than 3000. St. Thomas School another best school they have. So, English Medium schools are the best support to Diocese as they get: Land Assessment, Property Assessment, and Chaplain, 2% for Development Work and other expenses covered by the schools.

Bishop Subrato Chakrabarti Bishop of Barakpore Diocese also shared the Vision 12 Commandments by following footsteps of Calcutta Diocese. They are inspired by Bishop Canning and working together as following him as Mentor. He expressed that if you welcome and invite Bishop Canning then he will help us to develop Brotherhood and help for sustainability as you aspire in Bangladesh.





# The Lent Appeal

Respected friends and members of the Church, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the period of fasting or penance gives us an opportunity for self-purification in our lives. In this mortal world we constantly must go through various temptations and demands. We become corrupted and confused. To get rid of this we need purification or self-purification. Through self-restraint or austerity during fasting, we once again take the opportunity to become worthy children of God.

According to the strategy paper of the Church of Bangladesh, 'Propagation of Christ and establishment of new churches' - which will be continued till 2030 AD. The money collected through the charity in Dhaka Diocese will be used to spread the word of Christ and establish new churches. Dr. William Carey said- Expect great things from God and take steps to do great things for God. So by continuing this work, we hope for a good harvest in the future. In Dhaka Diocese, especially in Dhaka, there are many businessmen, capable, doing good jobs, if we receive their donations and cooperation, the preaching work of the church and the establishment of God's kingdom will be easier. Your sacrifices are requested to be sent to Dhaka Diocese.

Several new churches have been established in the Rajshahi Deanery of Kushtia Diocese. It has not yet been possible to build a catechist's residence in those villages and a church in two villages. So a lot of money and cooperation is needed to run the church work properly. We know that there are many people in Kushtia Diocese who are capable, are staying abroad and doing good job with handsome salary, it is humbly requested to send donations and financial support to the address of Kushtia Diocese.

Meanwhile two new churches have been established in Barishal Diocese. There is no designated place or place of worship for the people of the new churches. There is no accommodation even for attendants or Catechists. It is necessary to purchase land for the new church, build a house of worship and house for catechists. Donations or money collected through austerities in the Diocese of Barishal will be used to build two new churches with their own space, a house of worship and accommodation for attendants. The Scholars and rich people of Barishal Diocese who have been living in Dhaka or other parts of the country, have been specially requested to send sacrifices or special donations to Barishal Diocese.



# St. Andrew's Theological College



## Church Partners Meeting

Mission Partner's of KIA Netherlands held in Bangladesh on 6 January at NCFB Office in Mirpur, Dhaka. We had nice fellowship and sharing of Mission and Ministries of Church Partners and Mission Partner's. There's discussion Way forward in this challenging time and global crisis period.



## Visit of Church Partner KIA Netherlands

They visited SATC College on 19 January. The KIA Program officer of Asia Mr. Martin Teunissen came along with their communication team: Arjan Bikker, Iwan Dekker, Heleen, Mathilde. They visited our Lay People's Course, and met with BTh & BCS Students. They took interview and videos of our students from each groups and Principal Rev John P Hira. They are focusing how this theological seminary and learning impact in their personal, Church lives and society as a whole to sustain ministry as Christians in minority context. It's really great joyous and blessed time together for the Glory to God and for His Kingdom.

# Brief Report of Christa Sevika Sangha (CSS)

## Farewell Ceremony Of Fifth Chaplain Father Subash CSC



Father Suvash CSC faithfully performed the duties of our Chaplain from January 2018 to December 2022. Special thanks to Father Suvash CSC, on 26 December 2022, for serving as Chaplain for 5 consecutive years. He conducted bi-monthly conferences of our Father Sisters, received our sacrament of Confession twice a year and conducted retreats. He also gave us various suggestions especially from filling sand to planting trees in our new orchard, we are very grateful to our Chaplain Father, may God protect him always.

## Celebration of founding day of Christa Sevika Sangha(CSS)



January 25th 2023, along with all Sisters of CSS, we were blessed with the presence of our parish priest Rev. Santi Mondal (dean), Fr. Francis, Fr. John, Mrs. Bithika Pandey (former head teacher of

our St. Gabriel Primary school) and all our Staffs. We give our thanks for all graces and gifts that God had extended on us in all time during this year.

## Annual sports day, 2023

St. Gabriel Primary School arranged annual sports on 16th February 2023 and students participated into various events and spent a very joyful day all together. Some won the events and were awarded but many participated but enjoyed their time fully with joy and happiness.

## OUR GUESTS

After the last report many guests came to our house, especially the director of World Concern and his team. Bishop Hemen Halder and his wife, Bishop Paul S. Sarkar, Synod Secretary Rev. John Probhudan Hira's wife and her relatives, also came Rev. Dilip Jana the famous preacher of India and his team and many others. We give special thanks to the great God for the lives of all of them.

## PRAYER REQUEST

We already know that many people died in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, whose bodies are still missing, please pray for the peace of all souls and for those who have lost their homes and relatives.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Mira, Superior of Haluaghat St. Mary's Sisterhood and for the comfort of the Sisters and relatives of Sister Mira. Bishop Michael S. Baroi's elder son Mr. James Sunam and Mrs. Mitali's elder daughter Angela Shreya Baroi and two other students who died in a road accident in Canada, will specially pray for the repose of their souls and for the comfort of all the bereaved families. Also pray, the son of Bangladeshi famous singer Mr. Kumar Biswajit is undergoing treatment in a Canadian hospital, for his recovery and will specially pray for the recovery of all the patients.





# Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

## Kerk in Actie (KiA) Communication Department Visited Shalom



The Communication and fundraising team of KiA has visited Shalom and collected photos, videos and stories in Haluaghat area on 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Five members from KiA Netherlands Mr. Martin Teunissen, Programmamedewerker Kerk in Actie, Arjan Bikker, Heleen Platschorre, Mathilde Schouwstra, Iwan Dekker and Ms. Matilda Tina Baidya met with the different beneficiaries. They focused more strong visible activities of Shalom, that have full support to change their life and film tube well installation, cow rearing, IGA with sewing machine, IGA with artificial hair, model agricultural village and vermin compost.

## Tearfund Visited Shalom



Visitors from Tearfund Netherlands has visited Slalom, Mongla "Climate Resilient Sustainable Livelihood Project for Vulnerable People" in 2nd to 3rd February 2023. Mr. Matthus van Pykeren, Team leads Asia; Mrs. Anne Markx, Country Lead, Bangladesh; Mrs. Thamar

Blokheu's Communication Officer and two members from Tearfund Bangladesh office were present with the team. They meet with Church leaders, CCT's and SHG's group members, observed their activities, lifestyle and vulnerable situation of the community people. Visitors were welcomed by the Shalom Mongla team and honorable Deputy Moderator, CoB and Director of Shalom attend the program.

## Exposure Visit at Chilmari, Kurigram

Shalom is developing a new project proposal for the year of 2023 to 2025 and got an opportunity to visit World Concern project 'PROTTASHA' at Chilmari, Kurigram. It was a very fruitful exposure visit for Shalom. The staff of Kerk in Actie Ms. Matilda Tina Baidya arranged, planed, designed and gave financial assistance of the total program. The main objectives of the exposure visit were; To gain knowledge on different models or approaches. To explore the innovative activities of different groups (Child, Adolescents, Women's). To learn about the sustainability of the project and community participation. To understand the practical intervention of Self- Help Group (SHG)- Approach.

## Workshop on Reviewing Contingency Plan



Shalom arranged a Reviewing Contingency Plan Workshop at Central Office of Shalom. Total 20 staff attend the capacity building training on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Mr. James Rana Baidya, Mr. David Badal Gomes from Tearfund facilitated the workshop. Now Shalom has a reviewed contingency plan to work for the emergency response in Bangladesh.



# CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

## Appointed New Director of CMCY



After long years of service as the Accountant of CMCY with much sincerity and wisdom Mr. Shyamal Sarker has been promoted to the position of the CMCY- Director from the first January, 2023 and Ms. Shila Kisku has been appointed as the Program Monitoring Officer (PMO) from the February 2, 2023; in place of Mr. Charles Benedict Sarker. We urge for each one's support, cooperation and prayer for the newly appointed Director and PMO.

## Blanket and Bed sheet distribution



Due to the worldwide extreme climate changes, the nature behaves whimsically and each one has to be victimized for it. In January 2023, Bangladesh saw its lowest temperature of 4 degree Celsius at its north regions and because of the foggy weather, the sun was mostly invisible in many parts of the country, worsening the cold. People went outside for different purposes



suffered due to the bone-chilling cold wind and became sick. Discovering insufficient blanket of the CMCY children at projects and their sleeping by folding legs and arms to get some protection from the unpleasantly cold at night, CMCY appealed blanket help for them to the CMD-Germany and CMS-Switzerland donors. Receiving timely help from the kind donors', CMCY is glad to distribute 960 blankets and 960 bed sheets to each hostel child.

## Project visit



From January 13-17, 2023; CMCY- Director, Liaison Officer and Program Monitoring visited 4 residential hostels and 4 CDSPs and met with the project committee members, staff and children checked office documents and cleanliness of campus. Encouraged staff's to become more punctual and respectful towards their duties. Urged staff and committee members to take timely initiative for doing the needful repair or white-washing works of the project infrastructures. Advised children to do study with mind.



# CoB Education Program



All the educational institutions of Bangladesh are running normally after the last two years Covid pandemic shutdown and stalemate. However, the schools run by the Synod of Church of Bangladesh are regularly being run in a joyful atmosphere. The main objective of the education department of the Church of Bangladesh is to bring the light of education to the children of poor families in remote areas. Most of the Church of Bangladesh schools are in remote areas. The education program of the Church of Bangladesh is a traditional program of two hundred years. The annual examination for the academic year of December 2022 has been successfully completed and the results have been satisfactory. As a missionary educational institution, along with general education, the teachers are working tirelessly to

provide moral education to the students.

Besides regular education, schools also emphasize moral education. Regular sports are done for body building and health awareness. Almost every school has an annual sports event at the beginning of the year.

Currently there are 35 schools run by the Church of Bangladesh all over Bangladesh. It has 7 high schools, 21 primary schools and 5 pre-primary and 2 junior schools. The total number of students is 7,910 and the number of teachers is 313.

**Mrs. Monita Mankhin**  
*Education Director*  
*Department of Education, Synod*  
*Church of Bangladesh*



# CoB-Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



*Divisional Commissioner in the middle came to Mission Hospital on 20 February 2023*

The significant events in the last two months are - the high government administrative officer of this area, Divisional Commissioner Sir came to the Mission Hospital to inaugurate the Vitamin "A" Capsule Plus Campaign 2023 program and participated in the national agenda through the inauguration on 20 February 2023.



*Mr Stephen Chia, 4th from the left side visited Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.*

Likewise, on 28 February 2023 Mr Stephen Chia, one of the managers of CWM, visited the Mission Hospital and Nursing Institute. Mr. Paul Subrata Malakar, Program and Communication Director of the Church was also present during the visit. The Dean Rev. Michael Soren joined the guests in various meetings.

We happily thank Heavenly Father God that with all your cooperation and prayers we have got the desired digital license number of this hospital from DGHealth Dhaka. Our development work has made a progress, especially procurement of modern medical equipment in the first step of treatment- testing and diagnosis.

Besides, due to the construction of the gentle and smooth stepping Ramp (ground floor to first floor 120 feet long) with everyone's support and love, we can serve patients easily on the first floor currently. Reconstruction work has begun on the required seven cabins. Also, more establishment work is going on to introduce medicines for the patients and food for the relatives of the patients. Hopefully it will be over soon, and another step of improvement will be possible to reduce the suffering of the patients.

Arrangements and preparations are being made to start two outreach mobile clinics at Nimghutu and Naogaon to strengthen the community health system and facilitate access to treatment for the local and tribal people of the rural areas. These will begin soon after the Easter Sunday if God wills.



*The senior staffs and Doctors, Nurses joined in the International Mother language day on 21 February*

**We want your prayers.**

CEO  
Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



# CoB-Nursing Institute, Rajshahi



Happy New Year warm greetings to you all. Nursing Institute (NI) offers education for the student's curriculum a 3 year course of Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery. NI would like to share their study and activities to you. Academic Activities are- Internship 40 students have completed written Internship examination after completion of 6 months clinical practical in the Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi. Hospital and NI have given them 6 months Internship certificate. Their Comprehensive/ licentiate examination will be on 31st March, 2023. The 3rd year 49 students written their final test examination internally. Their forms fill up have been done through the online to the BNMC. These 49 students are going to sit for their year final examination on 13th March, 2023 at the

outside examination Centre. The old 1st year 52 students have been passed with good results. Now they are 2nd year. New 1st year 44 students have completed their internally test examination. NI has given their clinical practical material then students can do well their clinical practice with patients.



General Activities are: SMC drugs company Rajshahi regional officers have oriented and presented Awareness Building Program on "Personal Health & Hygiene" in Adolescent Age through our CEO.

NI teachers and Students celebrated/ commemorated Omar 21th February & International Mother Language Day.

**Sulota Drong, Principal,**  
*Nursing Institute, CMHR.*



# CoB-Bollobhpur Hospital



*Dear Friends,*

Greetings from us all at Bollobhpur Hospital, as we step into another new year together and one only wonders what the new year will bring, with wars and rumors of war, famine and floods and earthquakes creating havoc and trauma everywhere. But against this background Bollobhpur Hospital continues its ministry of healing, and welcomes all who come for care and continues its training programmes for young women and boys.

The last day of December saw us saying good bye to 17 successful students who had completed their three year training and leave us for employment elsewhere. None will remain idle, and soon we will be receiving news of their new places of work.

And December 31st in the evening, a service of light in the Parish Church culminating in a good bye to the old year all dancing around a huge bonfire, lighted candles in hand.

January 1st is another festival day for the Church of Bangladesh, and all join in a joyful parish communion service together. A proper start to a new year.

January 16th saw a group of 17 new girls complete with boxes and bedding rolls, eager to begin their 3 year nursing training with us, and at the other

end of the compound, a new 9 new boys are arriving to begin the 2 years laboratory training course, bringing the number in training up to 18. 16 boys and 2 girls, and a total of 91 girls in nursing training.

January 2nd and the classroom open again and classes for all groups.

End of the year examination results are out, and the 2nd year girls are now proudly wearing their new red striped 3rd year caps, and the 1st year group following along, proud of their new orange striped 2nd year caps.

Mid-February brought the Annual Holy Wednesday prayer and praise meeting held this year at Ratonpur, our neighbouring village, and sister Nilsury took a group of 50 students to join guard of honour, and march behind a beautiful banner they had made.

Please keep our students in training, our village hospital and all that we are trying to do here, in our prayers.

**May God bless you all.**

**Sister Gillian Rose**

*Director  
Bollobhpur Hospital.*