



# NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● September–October Issue 2023 ●

Volume **23**

## *Message from the Moderator ...*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



As I compose this message, I find myself reflecting on the profound challenges we have recently faced, challenges that persist and seem to be multiplying with each passing day. The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted severe physical, mental, and economic hardships upon our world. We mourn the loss of our loved ones, a pain that

continues to haunt us.

Soon after, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine erupted, casting a dark shadow over our global economy and way of life. Millions of people have been displaced, enduring dire circumstances. We fervently prayed for an end to the war, yet it persists, leaving us frustrated with the failure of world leaders to find a resolution. While this conflict has brought suffering to the world, it did not directly impact us as much as the economic degradation it caused.

However, the events unfolding in Israel and Hamas are utterly harrowing, unacceptable, and can only be described as a humanitarian crisis, resembling a genocide. To date, ten thousand civilians have lost their lives, and many more are injured, with a significant number being children and women. Millions of people are left without access to food, clean water, or shelter. Hospitals, churches, and mosques have been targeted and bombed, and even ambulances have not been spared. Israel's actions have disrupted the global supply of food, oil, and gas.

This situation has created tremendous tension, especially in countries where Christians are a minority. Why, you may ask? It is because extremists have seized upon this crisis to exact revenge on us, given the direct and indirect support from the USA and several European countries to Israel.

We, the Christian community of Bangladesh, vehemently condemn this inhumane war and terror. We implore for an immediate cessation of hostilities and fervently pray to God

Almighty to oversee the situation and bring an end to the suffering inflicted upon the people of Israel and Hamas.

In the midst of these turbulent times, our Church of Bangladesh (COB) is preparing to hold its 11th Synod from November 16th to 18th. During this gathering, we will come together in prayer, share our experiences, engage in discussions, evaluate our past endeavors, assess our progress, and plan for our future as we strive to uphold the COB's mission and bring hope through Christ Jesus amid these challenging circumstances. Your prayers for our success and for the extension of God's Kingdom in Bangladesh are greatly appreciated. Additionally, we ask for your prayers for our country, Bangladesh, as it approaches its Parliamentary Election in January 2024. The government is facing significant pressure from the opposition and anti-government forces, making divine guidance and protection essential. Minority faith communities are facing escalating challenges as the situation worsens day by day.

At present, our country experiences frequent internal strife, with weekly incidents of vehicle burnings and public transportation disruptions. The cost of living has become exorbitant, despite the government's commendable achievements such as the Padma Bridge, an ambitious tunnel project, a metro rail system, and a new international airport in Dhaka.

As our Kopot magazine and English Newsletter prepare for their next editions in January, we encourage you to contemplate the upcoming Advent season. In the face of a multitude of challenges, we eagerly await the second coming of Jesus Christ, celebrating His birth at Christmas and placing our hope in Him to bring peace, unity, and harmony to our troubled world. He is the only begotten Son of God who took human form in Bethlehem, Israel, the very place where the worst war in human history rages on. Everything is possible through God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whom He will send to judge and rule over the world. Let us continue to live in righteousness and fervently pray as we follow this path.

*May God bless us all!*



“

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:6-7*

”

Dear all in Christ,

We are now living in times of conflict and turmoil. We often turn to the Bible for guidance and solace. It offers timeless wisdom and guidance on how we can seek peace, even in the midst of challenging situations. Today, as we witness ongoing conflicts in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, it's crucial to remember the biblical principles that inspire hope, reconciliation and peace.

The Bible teaches us in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” We are called to be peacemakers in a world torn by strife. Our actions and prayers should reflect this divine calling, advocating for peace and reconciliation.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus reminds us of the second greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31). Regardless of our differences, we must strive to love one another and extend compassion, understanding, and kindness to all, especially in times of conflict.

The Bible emphasizes the power of prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 states, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Our prayers can be a source of comfort and strength for those affected by conflict.

In Micah 6:8, we are reminded of our duty to, “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” This verse underscores the importance of pursuing justice and fairness while showing mercy and humility. Justice and reconciliation are integral to lasting peace.

Let us draw inspiration from these biblical references as we navigate through these challenging times. In our pursuit of peace, let us be reminded that hope and healing are possible, even in the face of deep-rooted conflicts.

Together, as a global community, we can make a difference. By embodying the values of love, compassion, and peacemaking, we can help bring light to those living in the shadow of war. As we pray for peace in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, may our actions and intentions be guided by the wisdom of the Scriptures.

With faith and unity,

**Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia**



## Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ.

Nature is in the mood for winter now. This weather reminds us that Christmas is coming. Obviously Christmas means a time of great joy but for me this Christmas is not bringing that much joy. Because Jerusalem, where Jesus was born, is now a scene of bloodshed! Remembering the innocent children King Herod brutally killed. I am afraid that it will not affect some of the countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh. We pray to God to put an end to this war.

The months of September and October were very busy and full of many activities for Kushtia Diocese. Plantation of trees, football tournament, youth seminar, women seminar and many other activities which we found very meaningful.

I had an opportunity to join the Anglican Alliance meeting which took place on 11-15 September in England (Wells) where we discussed connecting, equipping and inspiring the worldwide Anglican family to work for a world free of poverty and injustice and to safeguard creation. The international board, which is made up of members from every continent in the world, meets once a year in person and this year it was decided the group should come together in Wells. Included among their number is the Most Revd Albert Chama, from Zambia who is Chair of the Alliance. Bishop Michael who is a Vice Chair of the group said, "It's like the world has come to Wells. It is astonishing they are talking about things that are making a colossal difference to people's lives. We've also been telling each other stories about the amazing difference that churches can make." The group also had the opportunity to share stories about the difference churches around the world are making. One member shared how they had been supporting the climate justice group in Malawi and this had resulted in them being able to lead on the banning of single use plastics in Malawi. They were later able to ensure the government of the country held true to that decision.

We the people of Kushtia Diocese are trying our best to make the pastoral work progress smoothly with all our efforts. Several developmental works have already been completed. We have very good news that in the Rajshahi Deanery there are hundreds of people who are ready to accept Christ. I pray to God to shelter these people in His Church in due time.

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.**

### MSP-evaluation held at Haluaghat Deanery



On September 15, 2023, an evaluation of the MSP-4 Mission Support Program-4 took place at Saint Andrew's Church, Haluaghat Parish. The evaluation was conducted by Mr. Binod Hira from Dhaka, the Mission Support Program evaluator. In attendance were 20 members of the Standing Committee of Haluaghat Deanery.

The Deanery leaders expressed unanimous appreciation for the positive impact of MSP-4. They highlighted its significant contributions to various aspects of the church, including Sunday school, teenagers, youth activities, women's fellowship, inter-religious dialogue, and climate change awareness workshops. Moreover, the program has facilitated spiritual awakening among the congregation.

As a result of MSP-4, there has been a noticeable increase in attendance at church services and active participation of members in various church activities. Many individuals have expressed their belief that MSP-4 has played a significant role in fostering self-sufficiency both in material and economic terms.

### Madhupur Deanery Youth Seminar

On October 19-20, 2023, a two-day youth seminar took place at Thanarbaid Parish in Madhupur Deanery. The seminar's theme was "Praise Him, O heaven of heavens; Praise Him, ye waters above the heavens" (Psalm 148:4). Reverend Jonarson gave an inspiring talk on the importance of taking climate change and weather seriously as part of God's creation. Dean of Madhupur Deanery, James Duke Baroj, advised the youth to be strong, courageous, and morally upright. The seminar concluded with a mock competition and an evaluation.



### Chittagong City Pastorate's 32nd Revival Meeting



On October 13, 2023, Chittagong Christ Church hosted its 32nd celebration. The theme of the meeting was centered around "doing the works of the Lord" and emphasized the transformation in Saint Paul's life and the challenges he faced for his faith. The event also highlighted the consequences of our actions, drawing from Galatians 6:7. Additionally, the wisdom of women in building their households was discussed based on Proverbs 14:1. The meeting concluded with a message on the significance of bearing the yoke



in one's youth, referencing Lamentations 3:27. A special 'healing worship' was conducted by Dean Reverend Immanuel Mithu Mollick, of Dhaka Deanery. The event ended with a congregation-led prayer and music.



### Bollovepur Deanery Kirton (Carol) Festival - 2023

On October 12-13, 2023, the traditional Kirtan Festival of Bollovepur Deanery was celebrated at Bollovepur Immanuel Church. The Bishop of Kushtia Diocese inaugurated the festival by lighting candles. Ten kirtan teams performed songs from the Old and New Testaments. The festival concluded with Nagar Kirtan, (a traditional procession with carol).

### Bollovepur Ujjibani Sova (Revival Meeting) - 2023



On October 1, 2023, Bollovepur Immanuel Church's Ujjibani Samiti organized a meditation meeting. The theme was "For as many as are led by the Spirit of

God, these are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). The meeting included a sermon, an overview of the history of Ujjibani meeting and Dhanyabudhbar Mahasabha, and a message on mercy. The meeting concluded with congregational prayer for the sick.

### Youth Seminar Ratanpur



On September 30, 2023, the Bollovepur Deanery held a youth seminar at Saint Peter's Church in Ratanpur Parish. The seminar, attended by 50 youths from various parishes, focused on the theme "Humble yourselves, seek the word of the Lord today" (1 Kings 22:5). Reverend Mrityunjay Mondol, Dean of Bollovepur Deanery, delivered an address. The event featured morning worship, discussions on youth's role in the church and society, and a Bible quiz and sports conducted by Mr. Paoash Mondol and Mr. Rony Mollick.

## BARISHAL DIOCESE

### CCT Activities in Barishal Diocese



A Church and Community Transformation (CCT) module training was organized on 5th-7th October at the Caritas Conference Hall, Sagardi, Barishal. The event was organized by the Barishal Diocese, Church of Bangladesh and funded by Tearfund. The honourable Bishop of Barishal Diocese, Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mrs Jui Sima Das and Pastor Richard Biswas from Tearfund led the training program. There were 40 participants, including Deans of Jobarpar and Khulna Deanery, priests, catechists and selected individuals from the churches who will serve as facilitators in the CCT program in their respective places.

During his speech, the honorable Bishop of Barishal Diocese emphasized the need to first undergo spiritual reform through Bible study to align the church with the strategic plan of the Church of Bangladesh. The trainers provided a detailed description of the program and demonstrated how the baseline survey and Bible study would be conducted during this three-day module training. Participants were divided into four groups and engaged in Bible study according to the program manual.



On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Barishal Diocese, Church of Bangladesh, organized a values training for Youth and CCT facilitators at Christ the King Church, Khalishpur to develop moral and ethical values among the youth.

Mr. Roton Jockley Halder, Secretary, Khulna Deanery, delivered the welcome address. The honourable Bishop of Barishal Diocese discussed the theme of the seminar. Rev. Duke Malakar led a discussion on a successful class. Mr. Francis Mistiri presented short plays illustrating the ethical values of Christ based on stories from the Bible. The event was met with joyous participation from all attendees. Mr. Alfred Roy delivered the closing speech, Rev. Mridula Boidya concluded with a prayer.

### Inauguration Ceremony of the Catechist House of St. Matthew's Church, Sundali



On 29<sup>th</sup> September, the Honorable Bishop of Barishal Diocese Shourabh Pholia inaugurated the newly developed Catechist House at St. Matthew's Church, Sundali, Abhaynagar, Jessore. This marked the official commencement of activities at St. Matthew's Church. Present at the occasion were Rev. Monindra Boidya, Dean of Khulna Deanery, Rev. Philip Biswas, Rev. Uttam Biswas, Rev. Duke Malakar, Mr Richard Ratan Halder, Secretary of Barishal Diocese, Mr Ratan Jockley Halder, Secretary of Khulna Deanery, Councilors of Khulna Deanery, local Chairman Mr Bikash Roy, UP Member, local High School and Primary School teachers; and church members. A Communion Service was held, and a Catechist house was blessed to reside in the house. The veranda of the house will be used for regular church services and making disciples until a church building is constructed. All the guests expressed their appreciation for this initiative by the Church of Bangladesh and pledged their support for Church activities.

## *A Fruitful Coming Together*

### The Anglican Inter Faith Commission Zoom Meeting

In a recent virtual assembly, the Anglican Inter Faith Commission came together in a promising Zoom meeting, bringing together diverse voices from across the globe. With participants eagerly anticipating the event, the meeting successfully unfolded, leaving a mark of productivity. Mr. Suvojit Mondal, a representative from the Church of Bangladesh, joined the discussion, adding valuable insights and perspectives to the discourse.

## *Fostering Empowerment*

### Synod Youth Fellowship Training in Harmony with COB's Strategic Vision



In line with the Church of Bangladesh's (COB) Strategic Plan, a transformative Synod Youth Fellowship Training was held at Savar RPG from September 21 to 23, 2023. Attracting 60 enthusiastic participants from three diverse dioceses, this event underscored a unified dedication to realizing the COB's strategic objectives. With the involvement of passionate trainers, this initiative marked a substantial stride towards nurturing empowerment and providing the youth within the COB with the tools to strengthen the fabric of an even more inclusive and vibrant church community.



### Synod Women's Fellowship Training in Alignment with COB's Strategic Plan

The Synod Women's Fellowship Training, aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Church of Bangladesh (COB), took place from October 5 to 8, 2023, at Savar RPG. This training program attracted 60 participants from three different dioceses, highlighting a collective commitment to the goals outlined in the COB's Strategic Plan. The event, featuring dedicated trainers, proved to be a significant step towards empowering and equipping women within the COB, fostering a stronger and more inclusive church community.

### Teacher's Training



The COB Synod recently conducted a focused training program for the dedicated educators of COB Schools, spanning from September 15 to 17, 2023, hosted at RPG Savar. The event was spearheaded by the Education Director, Mrs. Monita Mankhin, and featured skilled trainers from both the Government and YWCA. The outcome of this training endeavor proved to be highly fruitful, further enhancing the skills and knowledge of the participating teachers, ultimately contributing to the betterment of education within the COB school system.

## NCCB AGM & Leap Award

On October 20, 2023, a significant event unfolded at the NCCB Hall room, where numerous COB SSC and HSC students were honored with the prestigious Leap Award by the National Church Council of Bangladesh (NCCB). These exceptional students had attained a remarkable Golden GPA, showcasing their dedication and academic excellence. The event held special significance as



the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh (COB) presided as the president, personally conferring



the coveted crest and certificates to the deserving students. Furthermore, he demonstrated leadership in steering the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NCCB.

## Rev. Uttam Biswas' Successful Heart Surgery and The Moderator's Pastoral Visit



Rev. Uttam Biswas, a dedicated priest of the Church of Bangladesh, currently serving in Jessore, recently underwent a critical surgical procedure at Square Hospital in Dhaka. His surgery, necessitated by a deteriorating heart condition, involved the installation of two rings in his heart. We are relieved to report that the operation was a success. Following the surgery, the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh personally visited Rev. Uttam Biswas at Square Hospital, extending support and well wishes for his swift recovery.

## Prayer for the tragic loss of life in the Israel-Hamas



On Friday, October 20, 2023, the congregation of the church of Bangladesh Synod office, gathered to express their condolences for the tragic loss of life in the Israel-Hamas clashes, urging for peace and unity. Simultaneous prayers took place in mosques, temples, and churches across Bangladesh. The Church of Bangladesh Synod office and the Moderator also joined in offering their condolences, further emphasizing the importance of compassion and collective support during these trying times.



# St. Andrew's Theological College



## Training of Trainers

Lay Leaders "Training of Trainers" by St. Andrew's Theological College held on 15-17 October 2023 at St. Andrew's Church Haluahgat, Mymensingh. Theme was "Equipping Leaders to Transform the Church and Society". There were about 40 Participants attended including volunteers.

Training was given on five subjects through Power Point Presentation by the following persons:

Rev P Hira	-	Jesus
Rev Jonarson Dio	-	Disciple
Rev Duke Baroi	-	Church
Rev Bhanu Chisim	-	Family
Rev Romeo Chambugong	-	Neighbors

After this training the materials of Lay People's Training Course was given to every Church and Participants to run this Lay People's Course in their respective Churches. They were also given Evangel Cue tools of Preaching Materials (Sharing

Jesus Christ) to teach and preach in Sunday School, Youth and Women Fellowship.

## BTh, BCS Class and Exam of SATC

BTh first semester and BCS yearly class has finished and their exam will begin from 1-18 November 2023. Please pray for them so that we can complete this year successfully by God's Grace.

## Theological Association in Bangladesh (TAB)

Yearly gathering of lecturers, students and faculties of all protestant theological colleges and seminaries will be help on 17 November 2023 at CCTB Campus. Please pray for this reunion of TAB so that it would bring some greater impact to our churches and societies through this theological education.

# Brief Report of Christa Sevika Sangha (CSS)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Death anniversary of Sister Jharna



On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Sister Jharna's 5th death anniversary, we observed the day very generally. All the Sisters were present at Jobarpar. At 6.30 am, the spiritual worship was conducted by the Sister Superior, Sister Dorothy, due to special reasons our Parish Priest Rev. Santi Mondal was not attended at Jobarpar.

After the holy worship all the sisters went the tomb and offer special prayers for the peace and eternal rest of Sister Jharna's soul, then the holy worship ends with the blessing of the Sister Superior.

## Sharbha Dhuter Girls' Hostel's birthday



29 September 2023, was the birthday of our 'Sarva Dooter Girls' Hostel'. On that day the girls, at 6.30 in the morning, participated in the Holy Worship in the Sisters' Chapel and took candles in their hands to give thanks and gratitude to the great God for the whole year and highlighted the significance of 'All Angels'. At the end of the worship they paid their respects at the tombs of Mother and Sister Jharna.

Then at 11.30 am, they organized a function and conducted it themselves. All the guests enjoyed their cultural function. This year, Mr. Pradeep Majumder, manager of Barishal Oxford Mission, was unexpectedly present among us and he was also very happy. Thank God for the lives of all, especially for the little lives of our girls.

## Thanks giving and special prayer



Thanks to the Lord for the life of Sister Agnes because the ceiling fan in her room fell down but by the mercy of the Lord she was unharmed.

Many of our Christian families are in turmoil today, many families are breaking up, many are sick, many are childless, they have asked us for prayers. Let us all pray together for everyone.

### Sister Dorothy CSS

Sister Superior  
Christa Sevika Sangha  
Jobarpar and Barishal.



# Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

## Awareness Program on Child Marriage held



Shalom Mongla organized awareness campaign for stop Child Marriage on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Awareness program was scheduled by rally, discussion session and quiz competition with the students of class eight, nine and ten. A total 80 students and 22 teachers were participated the awareness session. Mr. Sourendrow Mondol, Area Coordinator facilitated the program and Molla Tariqul Islam, the Chairman of Chandpai Union Parishad was the chief guest of the program.

The speakers said that, under the law of Bangladesh under 21 years of boys and under 18 years of girl's marriage considered as child marriage. Child marriage is a social stigma and a punishable crime. The main reasons for child marriage are poverty, dowry, social customs, religious and social pressure, fear of remaining unmarried, less possibility of girl's income. Many times, mothers and newborns die to malnutrition due to child marriage and early pregnancy. Girls should progress in education and other technical knowledge along with boys. After the discussion the program ended with a joyous rally.

## Distributed Cash Support by BftW and Sewing Machine by MCC

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Shalom-Jobarpar, PRCRP project has distributed cash support



among the beneficiaries through checks funded by the Bread for the World (BftW). The event was chaired by Rev. Shanti Mondal, Dean, Jobarpar Deanery, Church of Bangladesh. The chief guest Md Sakhawat Hossain Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Agailjhara, Barisal said, 'Everyone should be self-reliant to build a hunger-free and poverty-free Bangladesh. He also suggested to concern authorities to conduct development activities through transparency and accountability as good as possible.'

Honorable Ms. Mahamuda Hasan, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Haluaghat visited Shalom Haluaghat office and distributed sewing machine to the poor and marginalized women funded by the MCC.

## DMEAL and KoBo Toolbox training held at Central Office

Shalom central office arranged a DMEAL and KoBo Toolbox training specially for the monitoring staff. Number of 24 staff attend the training on establishing DMEAL process, system and report and 8 staff participated the KoBo Toolbox training.





## CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

### Sink up a deep Tube well at CMS Girls Hostel in Rajshahi

For a long time, the girls and staff of the CMS Girls Hostel Rajshahi were suffering from the acute shortage of water. For collecting water from the local resource, they had to suffer a lot, which disrupted to their study and discipline of the hostel. Sometimes, while went outside for fetching water, local youth eve-teased to them. Due to shortage of water, they couldn't do bathing, washing and even toileting properly and as per hygienically. Now, thanks God and also thanks to the generous CMD- Germany donors for kindly helping girls to get a submersible deep



tube well at their campus from last September, which provide them sufficient water for their using. It is also a pleasure to share with you that through this tube well the girls of the Nabokoli Craft Center, Rajshahi also has been much benefited, who were suffering from the pure drinking water. A 500 feet pipeline with a water reservoir has been set up to share water to the Nabokoli Craft Center's girls from CMS girls' pump. This tube well is a blessing to both the projects located at the same campus.

### Project visit by CIB Global Leaders

On September 26, 2023, Global Leaders of the Compassion International the most National Director of CIB, National Director of Asia, Area Director of Program Operations of Asia, Regional Manager of Partnership, PF and Program Monitoring Officer of CMCY visited CDSP BD 320, Suagram and visiting team members expressed their satisfaction over the project activities.

### Distribution of the Sewing Machines and Certificates at Nabokoli Craft Center Rajshahi



On October 14, 2023, along with the presence of CMCY Director, Program Monitor, members of the local project committee and trainees of the Nabokoli Craft Center's, a total of 18 girls, who completed their courses successfully from Nabokoli Craft Center received Sewing Machines and Certificates. Surely this training will make them self- supported and happy in life.

### Thanksgiving service of Mrs. Monjulika Chatterjee, Hostel In-charge, Nabkali Craft Center, Rajshahi

Mrs. Monjulika Chatterjee after a long service as the project In-charge at Nabokoli Craft Center, Rajshahi with much dedication and sincerity has been offered thanksgivings by CMCY on September 14, 2023. CMCY is extremely thankful to her duties as the project In-charge. CMCY Director Mr. Shyamal Sarker, project committee members and CMCY Program Monitoring Officer were present at her thanksgiving ceremony.

### Project visits

On September and October, 2023; CMCY-Director and Officers had visited Khalishpur Girls Hostel, Paitapukur Boys Hostel, CMS Girls Hostel, Nabokoli Craft Center-Rajshahi, CDSP Babulang, CDSP Khamarmaria, St. Mary's Girls Hostel, St. Andrew's Boys Hostel, St. George College Hostel and also CDSP Katolmari. During these visits, they met along with the project staff, children and members of the hostel committees and urged all to carry on each one's duties with befitting manners and joy.

The loving God bless us all.

# CoB Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi

## Capacity Enhancement of Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



Since the hospital's reopening in February 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have dedicated significant efforts to development and capacity-building over the past two and a half years. These endeavors have been possible for local revenue sources. We would like to state several notable achievements during this time.

We have secured a DG Health digital license and ensured that all land tax is up to date. The hospital has been transformed with the procurement of useful medical equipment, including a Laparoscopy machine, advanced ultrasound machine, patient monitor, 2 OT tables, 2 LED OT lights, 5 patient trolleys, stretchers, 80 new beds, 1 portable X-ray machine, dental bed, Suction and Diathermy machines, Automatic Electrolyte Machine, Cell Counters, Ophthalmology Machine, Microscope Machine, and more.

Additionally, we have improved amenities for both our medical staff and patients, including comfortable waiting chairs and tables. The hospital, originally a 20-bed facility for the last 15 years, is now officially approved by the government as a 100-bed hospital, serving an average of 6,000 patients each month.

In addition to medical equipment, we have made investments in various electronic equipment, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, TVs, laptops, desktop computers, fans, and CCTV cameras. We've also enhanced the hospital's infrastructure by installing new electrical cables, an ATS machine, and adding a double power line, greatly improving overall efficiency and functionality.

Our focus on structural improvements and renovations has been significant. These include the construction of ramps, a canteen,

and shops, 12 newly reconstructed cabins, renovation of the Labor OT, construction of a parking garage, laundry renovation, building of new safety tanks and glass doors, and the addition of 10 AC-equipped doctor chambers. Furthermore, we've executed essential improvements to the front area, tiling, construction of four toilets, and upgrades to the water and sewage systems.

The challenges faced by the hospital in 2020, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the age of the entity, prompted our Board of Trustees to initiate an extensive renovation and equipment acquisition project. Toilets across all buildings have been tiled, false ceilings have been installed, and the wards have undergone repair and decoration.

We are immensely grateful for the support and prayers of our community and friends all over the world, which have led to substantial enhancements in the hospital's utility, aesthetics, and capacity as of October 2023. It is worth noting that we have achieved these improvements with a budget that is double the amount initially taken loan for hospital redevelopment, resulting in medical benefits for its patients.

Our MM fund, especially for the impoverished tribal population in the region, has enabled us to provide discounts on medical expenses. Over the past two years, an average of 1,387 individuals have received medical assistance totaling 25 lakh Taka.

In the realm of primary healthcare, we are in the process of re-establishing our mobile clinics in Naogaon and Nimghutu. The hospital has successfully attracted patients from Nimghutu, and our volunteers are actively engaged in every upazila. Fieldwork has yielded satisfactory results, with ongoing distribution of festoons and leaflets.

Our current challenge is to establish an ambulance service, set up a blood bank, create a new post-operative unit, and provide 50 new patient care facilities. While these endeavors may be challenging, these are essential to transform our hospital into a medical college where not only physical health but also the love of Christ can be shared through the doctors we will make from here as we do for nurses.

In conclusion, we remain profoundly grateful for God's grace and guidance in our endeavors. We recognize the undeniable need for this institution, which has a century-long legacy of conveying good news to people and promoting health. We aspire to uphold the tradition of starting our work with a prayer and are considering providing theological education to our staff or appointing an ordained chaplain to the hospital. In closing, we extend our heartfelt respect, greetings, and gratitude to all of you who have supported us in many ways.

**Thank you for your ongoing support.**

Sincerely,  
Chief Executive Officer

# CoB-Nursing Institute, Rajshahi

I am pleased to share a brief update on the Nursing Institute. We have experienced both successes and challenges during this period.

In August 2023, 46 NI students commenced their 6-month internship at Christian Mission Hospital. We are proud to note that the hospital management provided them with new uniforms, a first-time gesture of its kind.

Furthermore, the first and second-year students' final written examinations took place from September 14th to September 25th, 2023. Currently, they are undergoing their oral and practical examinations, which began on October 10th and will conclude on October 16th, 2023. After completing their examinations, the students will have a 14-day holiday, scheduled on a rotation basis. Our new first-year students have already

commenced their classes.

In addition to our academic and professional activities, I must mention that Rajshahi experienced two instances of heavy rainfall and a poor drainage system, causing significant flooding on September 24th and October 5th, 2023. These were unprecedented flooding events in Rajshahi, and unfortunately, NI was also affected. Water entered the boys' hostel and the surrounding areas.

We are grateful to report that the Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) country director and other officers visited NI, CMHR, and attended the City Church. The MCC has been a valuable sponsor, supporting the education of 50 NI students.

**Sulota Drong, *Principal, NI-CMHR***



## CoB Bollobhpur Hospital



September & October in the life in the hospital are very routine months, and the class room has been busy with each group preparing for end of year examinations, eager to move up to another year of their training.

The new group of girls who commenced training in the middle of September, completed their three months preliminary training school (PTS) and today October 27th are in the class room sitting the PTS final examinations. They are a good group and we do not expect any failures.

And a pass mark means the joy of receiving their first nurse's dress, and a capping ceremony during our Friday morning communion service-both that will be news for next month.

And we are already receiving many applications from those an eager to commence training with us next year.

And on the wards steady arrival of very small babies for care in our incubator's, giving our senior students god experience for their future.

In the geriatric ward (G Ward as it has become). We said good bye to blind Lily who has spent six years with us, being cared for by our junior students. She was and educated lady in a

good position with world vision Bangladesh and the loss of her eye site meant the loss of everything.

It was winter in Bangladesh when she first arrived having been stuck in a high rise flat in Dhaka and she was taken outside with the other imitates to be bathed and to sit in the sun. I shall never forget my meeting with her, sister, she said, this is the first time I have set in the sun shine for four years. She was very frail towards to the end, and died peaceful and was buried at Bollobhpur. Her son and daughter and children come to pay their last good byes.

This is just a small example for what we are trying to do for our elderly G ward.

I must do not forget to report that our hospital management committee on twelve October, we are very grateful for their advice and encouragements.

Please keep our small hospital, our students, staff and patients in your prayers, and thank you for keeping alongside.

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