



The Church of Bangladesh Newsletter

● Newsletter ● May–June 2024 ●

Volume 27

Message from the Moderator ...

Greetings to all sisters and brothers in Christ, both at home and abroad!



Communion, along with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury—had the opportunity to have an audience with Pope Francis in Vatican City. This meeting was a profound moment of unity and spiritual renewal, reinforcing our shared commitment to the mission of the Church.



I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to share some significant updates and experiences that highlight our ongoing mission and evangelism work, as well as our focus and priorities for the future.

Recently, I had the honor of attending the South Asia Forum meeting held in Cardiff, which provided a fruitful platform for discussions and collaboration. Following this, we—the 34 primates of the Anglican



Message from the Moderator ...



Furthermore, I embarked on a mission visit to Khagrachori, where I witnessed the dedication and resilience of our mission centers in some of the most remote areas. Accompanied by Revd. Ajoy Ritchil, we successfully visited several mission centers despite the challenging journey. Our travels took us through water, streams, torrents, heavy rains, and thunderstorms. We walked 5 kilometers through these conditions, navigating up and down muddy, slippery pathways and traversing several hills.

During our visit on May 18-19, we reached the mission centers in Notun Bagan Para (35 km), Dukhiram Para





(32 km), and Alobortika Para (35 km) in the Bhaibon Chora Union Parishad, as well as Lomba Chora (30 km) and Bhalukkhe Chora (35 km) in another Upazila of Khagrachori District. Despite the physical challenges, we experienced the Day of Pentecost 2024 profoundly, feeling our hardships were minimal compared to what St. Paul endured to witness the Gospel of Jesus. I also acknowledge that the Barishal & Kushtia Diocese is also enthusiastically running its mission and evangelical works.

Reflecting on our journey, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: "We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." These words resonate deeply as we continue our mission work, facing various challenges but remaining steadfast in our faith and purpose. Our journey, though filled with obstacles, is a testament to our unwavering commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving our communities.

As we continue our journey, our focus and priorities remain steadfast in mission evangelism, spreading the love and message of Christ to all corners of Bangladesh. I encourage all members of our Church to stay committed and inspired by the example of those

who tirelessly work to bring the Gospel to even the most remote areas.

Additionally, I ask you to join me in prayer for the landslide victims and families in Papua New Guinea. Merciful God, we come with hearts full of grief and compassion for the people of Papua New Guinea. We bring before You the communities devastated by the recent landslide and those engaged in the rescue efforts. We mourn with our brothers and sisters



in the Enga Province and pray for the discovery of more survivors and the reunion of families. Surround them with Your love and grant them the strength to endure this tragedy. Bless the efforts of the United Church in Papua New Guinea, the national and local governments, and all volunteers working to provide aid and relief. May Your presence be profoundly felt, bringing comfort, protection, and provision to those affected. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May God bless you all abundantly as we move forward together in faith and mission.

In Christ,

The Most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin



Prayer is the foundation of our ministry, and this novena provides a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in prayer, seeking God's guidance and blessing. In Philippians 4:6, it is written "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to share some updates and initiatives from our diocese that aim to strengthen and support our clergy in their pastoral care responsibilities and our congregation as well..

Recognizing the vital role of our clergy in providing pastoral care, we organized a series of capacity-building training sessions. These include counseling training, discipleship training, and church and community transformation training. These programs are designed to equip our clergy with the necessary skills and knowledge to serve our communities more effectively. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:12, these efforts are "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Additionally, we encouraged everyone to dedicate time to prayer, especially through the novena "Thy Kingdom Come" before the Pentecost. Prayer is the foundation of our ministry, and this novena provides a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in prayer, seeking God's guidance and blessing. In Philippians 4:6, it is written "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." We are proud to be a part of this Prayer movement which was celebrated in all the churches in Anglican Communion and was lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury, his grace the Most Revd. Justin Welby.

We are delighted to join in the celebration of the Church of Bangladesh's 50th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to God's faithfulness and the dedication of our community. On the 19th of June, the Pentecost Day we celebrated this joyous occasion in all the churches of the Barishal Diocese. We thanked God for the past and looking forward to the future with hope and determination. Psalm 126:3 reminds us, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia.



To sum up, we took an oath that being up-to-date with current world affairs we will open our eyes, do the right things at the right time and go through the foot-steps of our Lord Jesus Christ with humility and 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.” The present state of nature forces us to believe how helpless we are without the grace of God alone. The heat that has fallen in the country for the past two months is beyond endurance. In nature, there is no rain in the rainy season. In this scorching heat, I am reminded of a song by poet Rabindra Nath Tagore which is my heart’s prayer, “Give this world a little rain, which will give us peace”.

In the present context one of the worst scenarios in Bangladesh is the extreme increase in price of daily necessities in the market, which has caused extreme disaster in people’s lives. The common human being is facing so many problems which have not happened in the last 12 years. In addition, Bangladesh is a country where natural disasters are regular phenomena. Either drought or flood we have to suffer anyone and this is our destiny. How helpless we are, helpless to humans, helpless to nature. However there were sufferings and deaths all around, but human societies have also seen resilience, hope and continuity in the face of catastrophic events. Through our mission work we are trying to be the ray of hope among the hopeless.

Last two months a lot of developmental work has taken place in the Kushtia Diocese. Tree planting continues in every parish. Few seminars took place based on contemporary issues like pastoral care and counseling amid crisis, stewardship and dialogue with others faiths etc.

There are enough opportunities for mission and evangelical work in Rajshahi Deanery especially among the Santali People. We are trying our best to do something good for them. To sum up, we took an oath that being up-to-date with current world affairs we will open our eyes, do the right things at the right time and go through the foot-steps of our Lord Jesus Christ with humility and prayers.

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

Prayer for the Landslide Victims and Families in Papua New Guinea



Merciful God, we come with hearts full of grief and compassion for the people of Papua New Guinea. We bring before You the communities devastated by the recent landslide and those engaged in the rescue efforts. We mourn with our brothers and sisters in the Enga Province and pray that much-needed aid and rescue will reach these communities in time. We pray for the discovery of more survivors and for the reunion of families. Loving God, we ask for Your protection and provision for those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. Surround them with Your love and grant them strength to endure this tragedy. Bring comfort to those with broken hearts and peace to those filled with fear and anxiety. We pray for our brothers and sisters in the United Church in Papua New Guinea, that they may be a beacon of hope and a source of comfort. Bless their efforts, as well as those of the national and local governments, medical staff, and all volunteers tirelessly working to provide aid and relief. Grant them wisdom, patience, and resilience as they serve their communities. We also call on the government and churches to urgently attend to the disaster in Maip Multitaka. We urge all citizens to kneel together in prayer for the affected areas and to offer aid or assistance in any way possible.

Lord of healing, in the face of destruction and loss, may Your presence be profoundly felt. Let Your love flow through every helping hand and every act of kindness. Help the people of Papua New Guinea to rebuild their lives and communities with courage and faith. We also ask You to heal all creation and living things in Maip Multitaka. Restore the land and the environment that has been ravaged by this disaster. Let Your healing touch reach every creature affected, renewing and sustaining life amid this devastation. We trust in Your unfailing love and mercy, believing that You can bring beauty from ashes and hope from despair. Our hope and faith remain in Christ our Lord. May Your light shine brightly in Papua New Guinea, now and always. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen



28 May 2024

Devastating Landslide in Papua New Guinea - Call for Prayers

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today following the catastrophic landslide that has devastated the remote villages in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. This tragedy, which struck the six villages in the Maip Multitaka area early last Friday morning while most were asleep, has resulted in a significant loss of life, with many people still unaccounted for.

As we gather in prayer, we bring before you the grim reality:

- Approximately 4000 people called these villages home.
- 140 houses have been buried under the rubble.
- An estimated 2000 individuals are believed to be trapped beneath the debris.
- Nearly 670 lives have been lost.

The rugged terrain of these remote parts makes rescue efforts and aid delivery extremely challenging. Despite these difficulties, local villagers are doing their utmost to find and save survivors, though their chances diminish with each passing hour.

In this time of profound grief and urgent need, we call upon all churches to join in fervent prayer and compassionate action. We implore the community of faith to respond to this tragedy with an outpouring of prayer, compassion, and support. Let us stand together in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea.

Yours in God's Mission,

Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum
General Secretary

The Lord's Prayer:

Nicaraguan version



Chaplain: Do not say 'Father' if you do not behave like the child of God each day.
And do not say "Our' if you only think about yourself.

All: Our Father who art in heaven

Do not say 'Hallowed be your name' if you don't honour that name.
Do not say your kingdom come if you are weighed down with material goods.

Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Do not say 'your will be done' if you do not accept the hard times as well.
And do not say 'As it is in heaven' if you only ever think of yourself.

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

Do not say 'Our daily bread' if you have no concern
For the hungry, orphans, widows, foreigners, and the poor.

Give us this day our daily bread

Do not say 'Forgive us our sins' if you remain angry with your neighbors.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Do not say 'Lead us not into temptation' if you intend to continue living selfishly.

Do not say 'Deliver us from evil' if you will not make a stand against injustice

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Do not say 'Amen' without considering the words of your prayer.

For the kingdom and the power and glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen

[Collected by the Moderator from the GA of CWM, held in Durban]

CWM Assembly held. Moderator Elected as the Board of Director of CWM



The Council for World Mission (CWM) Assembly 2024 took place from June 12 to June 19 in Durban, South Africa. Under the theme “Rise to Life: Together in Transformation,” this quadrennial event brought together delegates from various countries to engage in fellowship, worship, and discussions focused on mission and transformation.

The Assembly saw participation from representatives of 32 member churches from 41 countries. Over 200 delegates attended, including church leaders, youth, women, and mission partners. This diverse gathering aimed to address global challenges such as socio-political instability, environmental crises, and economic inequalities through the lens of faith and mission.

Moderator Elected as the Board of Director of CWM

A notable highlight was the participation of the Church of Bangladesh. The Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, The Most

Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Council for World Mission, making him the first-ever Bangladeshi to hold this significant position. This election marks a historic moment, showcasing the growing influence and contribution of the Church of Bangladesh within the global mission community.

Please keep The Most Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin in your earnest prayers so that he can fulfill this important role with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Church of Bangladesh is proud of this great international achievement of the Moderator.





The Reverend Dr. D.J. Ajith Kumar of CNI visited Church of Bangladesh

On May 6th, Reverend Dr. Ajith Kumar was warmly welcomed at the Dhaka Synod Office. During the reception, the Honorable Moderator presented him with a special commendation crest marking the 50th anniversary of the Church of Bangladesh. Reverend Dr. Ajith Kumar expressed regret that due to urgent reasons, he could not accept the invitation to the 50th



anniversary celebrations. Nevertheless, he handed over his book 'GOD REAL & RELIGION' and an honor stole to Moderator Right Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, conveying his regards on behalf of the Church of North India. All staff members of the Synod Office attended the special reception ceremony.

The Reverend Dr. D.J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary of the Church of North India, also visited Christian Mission Hospital and shared valuable insights on May 2024.



Training of Trainers on Anti-Human Trafficking Held



A comprehensive Training of Trainers (TOT) program on anti-human trafficking was conducted at RPG Savar from 24 to 27 June 2024. The training aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to combat human trafficking effectively. The program featured three esteemed guests from the Diocese of Durgapur: Mr. Raja Mosses, Program Coordinator; Mr. Arnab Mondal, Consultant and Resource Person; and Mr. Shyamol Kisku, Field Officer for Anti-Human Trafficking. These experts led the training sessions, sharing their extensive experience and insights on the subject.

Throughout the four-day training, participants engaged in various activities and discussions designed to deepen their understanding of human trafficking, its indicators, and strategies for prevention and intervention. The sessions emphasized the importance of community involvement and collaboration in addressing this critical issue. By the end of the program, participants were well-prepared to take on the role of trainers themselves, spreading awareness and knowledge within their own communities. This initiative is a significant step towards building a network of informed and proactive individuals dedicated to eradicating human trafficking.

Church of Bangladesh Empowers Communities Through Workshops and Fellowship

In a bid to foster awareness and combat pressing issues, Church of Bangladesh recently organized two impactful workshops funded by CWM and USPG



respectively. Hosted at the serene Retreat & Prayer Garden in Savar, the Ecology Commission workshop focused on material development for ecological awareness, while the Anti-Human Trafficking Commission workshop emphasized IEC & awareness materials development. Under the guidance of Director Suvojit Mondal and the care of Rt. Rev



Hemen Halder, deans and commissioners pooled their experiences, contributing significantly to the workshops.

Simultaneously, in Thanarbaid, Modhupur Deanery, Church of Bangladesh, supported by the Anglican Communion, convened a women's fellowship attended by over a hundred enthusiastic participants from Thanarbaid, Sridampara, Beribaid, and Idipur. Led by local women, including the inspiring Mrs. Monita Mankhin, and buoyed

by the empowering words of Mrs. Kolika Biswas, the fellowship served as a beacon of support and empowerment for women in the community. This dual effort underscores the Church's commitment to holistic community development and empowerment."

Awareness Training on Anti-Human Trafficking Conducted for Women's Group in Rajshahi

An awareness training on anti-human trafficking was successfully conducted for a women's group in the Rajshahi deanery. The training session, held on 28 June 2024, saw the participation of 70 women, primarily from tribal groups and border areas. The program was facilitated by Mr. Raja Mosses, the program coordinator of the Diocese of Durgapur, India, along with his dedicated team. The training aimed to educate and empower the women on the critical issue of human trafficking, equipping them with the knowledge to protect themselves and their communities from this pervasive threat. The session highlighted the signs of human trafficking, preventive measures, and the importance of community vigilance. By raising awareness among these vulnerable groups, the initiative seeks to foster a safer environment and reduce the risk of trafficking in the region. This training is part of a broader effort to combat human trafficking and support the welfare of marginalized communities, ensuring they have the tools and knowledge to safeguard their rights and well-being.



Church of Bangladesh Develops Six New Policy Guidelines



Rajshahi, July 4, 2024 – The Church of Bangladesh, with invaluable support from the Methodist Church Great Britain, is proud to announce the development and launch of six policy guidelines. These guidelines, crafted in both English and Bangla, are set to enhance our operations, ensure the safety and inclusivity of our community, and foster effective communication.

Introducing Our New Policies:

- **Finance Policy Guidelines:** Ensuring transparent and accountable financial management.
- **Administration Policy Guidelines:** Streamlining administrative processes for greater efficiency.
- **Human Resources Policy Guidelines:** Focusing on staff well-being, recruitment, and training.
- **Child Protection Policy Guidelines:** Establishing standards to safeguard children from harm.
- **Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy Guidelines:** Promoting respect and dignity for all members.
- **Communication and Public Relations Policy Guidelines:** Enhancing our internal and external communication strategies.

Celebrating the Launch: The official inauguration and introductory conference for these policies took place in Rajshahi from July 1 to 4, 2024. This momentous event saw the gathering of nearly all clergy and bishops from across our dioceses, reflecting our unified commitment to these new guidelines.

A Heartfelt Thank: Our deepest gratitude goes to the Moderator for his exceptional guidance in developing these policies. We also extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Edisson Mollick, our dedicated consultant, whose expertise was crucial in bringing these policies to fruition.

Looking Forward: We believe these new policies will bring blessings to the entire Church of Bangladesh community. They represent our dedication to creating a more organized, inclusive, and safe environment for all.

Mother's Day was celebrated uniquely



On May 12, 2024, Mother's Day was celebrated uniquely at St. Thomas Church in Idilpur. Mothers and other members participated in the worship ceremony. To enhance the solemnity of the occasion, 230 fruit trees and Acacia trees were planted. In 2023, 450 Acacia trees were planted to enhance the parish grounds. Among the other trees planted were mango, jackfruit, Lotkon, pear, lemon, and more. Additionally, there are plans underway to establish an advanced variety litchi orchard next month.



Haluaghat Deanery's Women's Event

The Women's Event for Haluaghat Deanery was held from Friday, May 17, 2024, at 6 PM to Saturday, May 18, 2024, ending at 2 PM with a blessing at Haluaghat St. Andrew's Church. Approximately 80 mothers attended the event, reflecting a strong turnout and interest in the topics discussed.

Mrs. Monita Mankhin led discussions on the main topics of the event, providing valuable insights and guidance.

Mr. Bernard Richil educated the attendees about climate change, raising awareness about its impacts and the importance of environmental stewardship.

Mrs. Seema Sarker through a dramatic presentation, Mrs. Sarker addressed the serious issue of human trafficking, creating awareness and urging the community to take action against such practices.

The event concluded with a blessing, providing a spiritually fulfilling experience for all the participants and encouraging them to apply the knowledge and insights gained in their daily lives.



Wheelchairs and hearing aid machines are distributed

As part of the program for the elderly and disabled, wheelchairs and hearing aid machines were distributed among the people of Kushtia Diocese. A wheelchair was provided to Debraj Sarkar, a child with a disability, at St. Andrew's Church in Vabarpara Parish. During the distribution of these gifts, Rev. Mrityunjay Mondol, Parish Priest Rev. Ashis Mondol, and Rev. Deepak Ujjwal Biswas were present.

World Mother's Day and Nurse's Day



On May 12, 2024, World Mother's Day and Nurse's Day were observed in all parishes of Bollovepur Deanery. The celebration took place during the worship of the Holy Lord's Feast. Mothers and nurses were honored with flower greetings from different parishes came with their families, bringing blessings in the form of crops to offer during the holy worship, thanking God the Father for the bountiful harvest this year.

Pentecost and Harvest Festival in Bollovepur Deanery



On Sunday, May 19, 2024, Pentecost, the Church's birthday, and the Harvest Festival were celebrated with solemnity and the Lord's Supper in all the churches of Bollovepur Deanery. Members of the congregation brought crops from their family's stores to the holy God through worship and thanked Father God for the successful harvest. However, we praise that everything belongs to God.

Bishop's pastoral visit and observed the 50th Anniversary of COB



On May 19, 2024, Sunday, Bishop Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese and his wife Jessica Suparna Halder visited Khejura Parish of St. James' Church. On this day, the Bishop conducted a worship service commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Holy Lord's Communion and delivered a sermon. Members of Khejura Parish greeted the Bishop with flowers during the celebration. After the service, a cake was cut to celebrate the Church's anniversary. The Bishop inquired about the well-being of all the members of Khejura Parish and offered special prayers for them.

Thy Kingdom Come



Just as in previous years, the Diocese of Barishal, in unison with the Anglican Communion, actively participated in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' novena prayer fellowship from 9th to 18th May 2024. This was a time when worshipers from every church in the Diocese of Barishal came together for daily devotional prayer meetings, fervently praying for the anointment of the Holy Spirit, the welfare of each other, and peace for all the churches in the world. The spiritual revolution that unfolded during this time was evident in every church, with children, youth, men, and women of the churches willingly attending the prayer meetings.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of CoB



On the 19th of May, each church of the Diocese of Barishal celebrated Pentecost Day in their own unique and joyous way, brimming with sacraments. This day also marked the Golden Jubilee of the Church of Bangladesh (CoB), a significant milestone in the church's history. A special devotional prayer was held to express gratitude to the almighty God for all Bishops, Fathers, Sisters, Ministers, and Catechists of CoB and for all the blessings God has bestowed upon CoB in the past

years. The chosen theme, 'Live in Love & Grow in Christ', was a testament to the occasion and was inspired by Ephesians 4:14-16. We fervently hope and pray that all churches in the Diocese will continue to pray for CoB and strive to grow in the love and faith of Jesus Christ throughout the year, reiterating our unwavering commitment to continued prayer and spiritual growth. The esteemed Bishop of the Diocese led the holy communion on this special day at St. Mary's Church, Jobarpar.

Transformative Counselling Course



The Diocese of Barishal, The Church of Bangladesh, recently held a transformative Counselling course on 'Comforting the Comfortless' from May 13th to 16th, 2024, at the prestigious Oriental Institute in Barishal. The course's primary objective was to empower participants with practical skills for offering comfort and support to those in need. The event saw active participation from the diocese's clergies, fathers, and sisters, under the expert guidance of Dr. David Premkumar, the esteemed Director of the Cherish Kingdom Training Centre in Tirunelveli, India, and Mr. Liton Baidya from YWAM, Barishal.

The training sessions focused on honing essential skills such as effective listening, demonstrating kindness and acceptance, and comforting individuals facing challenges. This hands-on approach not only provided participants with an invaluable opportunity to put these skills into practice immediately but also ensured that they could see the immediate impact of their learning. The clergies, in particular, found the training incredibly beneficial as they are often sought for counsel. Equipped with these newfound tools, they are now better prepared to positively impact the lives of those they minister to. All participants were given certificates upon completing the course as a token of recognition for their hard work and commitment to enhancing their ability to assist others.

St. Andrew's Theological College



Oh! Glory be to God
He Reached Out His Hands,
He has lifted me up
That I know,
That's Why I love him more and more,
I will praise him more and more,
I will Work more and more for His Kingdom.

My Wife Sanchita Talukder Hira accompanied me to the Doctor of Ministry Degree Graduation Ceremony which was held on 18 May 2024 at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, USA.

My family and I are ever grateful and indebted to the dynamic Leadership of Church of Bangladesh especially Honorable Moderator the Most Rev'd Samuel S Mankhin who opened the door for Doctorate Degree at First for me and for the Church of Bangladesh. Our prayerful support will always be with him. May God continue to use him mightily for His Glorious Mission and Ministry.



I am deeply grateful to Archbishop Foley Beach who helped me to get linked with Asbury Theological Seminary and recommended along with Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock and Rev'd Dr Windfield that I could get Admission in the Cohort of Missional Leadership 2020.

It was not possible to achieve this milestone without the Asbury Theological Seminary and Anglican Church of USA who generously helped me to get Scholarships. Grateful to all faculty and staff of ATS who were so generous to acquire knowledge and wisdom that transformed myself and to be the Channel of transform to the world.

I'm also owed to Kerk in Actie, USPG for their support towards completion of my Study successfully.

Last but not the least, grateful to all our Clergies, Leaders, Workers and Congratulations of COB for their unceasing prayers and support that made it possible.

Thanks God that we could join in the Doctor of Ministry Graduation Ceremony successfully and come back safely to Bangladesh.

Please continue to pray for us to praise God and use this knowledge for His Glory.

Praise The Lord!

Rev'd Dr. John Probhudan Hira

Principal, St. Andrew's Theological College.



Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh



Shalom Project Aids Cyclone Remal Victims in Mongla

Mongla, Bangladesh—In response to the devastating impact of Cyclone Remal, Shalom's Climate Resilience Sustainable Livelihood Project has made significant contributions to support the affected communities. As the cyclone intensified and made landfall on May 26, Shalom mobilized its team to provide immediate relief and ensure community preparedness.

In the face of rising water levels and severe storm conditions, Shalom staff visited the most vulnerable areas, including Chila and Chandpai unions. They distributed essential supplies such as dry food, water, candles, and matches to those taking refuge in cyclone centers. A special effort was made to support pregnant women, the elderly, and children.

Shalom coordinated closely with local authorities and other NGOs, holding emergency meetings and planning rescue and recovery operations. The project also prepared a shelter at their office campus for up to 80 people.

This swift response highlights Shalom's commitment to aiding the Mongla community in times of crisis.

RDC Meeting and Project Visit of SHALOM's Acting Director and Chief Accountant



RDC Meeting: On May 18, 2024, the RDC meeting of the Jobarpar-SHALOM project was held at Bishop House, Oxford Mission, Barisal. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Committee, Hon'ble Bishop Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia of the Barisal Diocese, Mr. Senoy Sarkar, Acting Director of Shalom, Mr. Promoshon Nokrek, Chief Accountant of Shalom, and other committee members. During the meeting, everyone congratulated Mr. Sarkar and Mr. Nokrek. The meeting comprehensively discussed the overall issues of the Leprosy project, Microfinance, and the PRCR project.



On May 19, 2024, Mr. Sarkar and Mr. Nokrek visited two women's development groups and financial support initiatives at the field level of the PRCR project. They participated in group discussions and held a short meeting with the project staff. During this meeting, the Acting Director and Chief Accountant were welcomed with floral greetings. The Acting Director provided suggestions for the overall development of the project.



CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth

Success at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Exam.



This year Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examination started from February 15 and its result was published on May 12, 2024. This year CMCY supported projects altogether 241 students took part Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examination. Among them 180 scored satisfactory pass marks and other 63 couldn't manage to pass. The successful students have taken admissions to different colleges. The average pass rate in SSC examination was 83.04% and CMCY had 74.69% only.

Inaugurations of 2 CDSPs



Poor children are less valued and less loved and suffer from due rights and opportunities to grow up holistically. To overcome these situations and also to support vulnerable children at the village of Telekhali, Haluaghat under the district of Mymensingh and Baruajani, Nalitabari of greater Sherpur district of Bangladesh, CMCY receiving kind finance from the Compassion International Bangladesh has established 2 Child Development Sponsorship Programs (CDSPs), which have been inaugurated on May 11, 2024 by the kind presence and chairmanship of the most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin, Moderator- COB and Chairperson- CMCY. Among others, local govt. officials, deans, priests, beneficiaries, Mr. Shyamal Sarker, Director of CMCY and senior staff were present at those grand opening ceremonies and delivered encouraging speeches for the beneficiaries and thanked donors.

CMCY 's BoT and Executive Committee Meetings accomplished



The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Meetings of CMCY were accomplished on May 24, 2024 at the COB-Prayer Garden, Anandapur, Savar, Dhaka. The most Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Chairperson-CMCY and Moderator-Church of Bangladesh chaired over those meetings. The members discussed in detail about the ongoing project activities, conveyed sincere thanks and gratitude to kind donors and unanimously took the decision for celebrating reunion of ex-project children at the suitable time on ensuing November and at the Mymensingh areas.

CMCY, a child friendly organization of Church of Bangladesh meets the needs of the vulnerable children and their family members and support them to have a bright and prosperous future.

CoB Bollobhpur Hospital



May and June brought the academic year to an end for three of our six groups of students in the Nurse Training School, as we have two intakes a year, the first in January and the second in July.

And the class room busy as always with their ward duties for the patients and babies there are revision classes for all and the lights burning into the night as they prepare, all eager to move up a year in their training and then the excitement of moving up a room in the hostel and getting a new strip for their caps.

It is good to be able to report that the year end examination in June and hopefully we will soon be hearing that all have managed

to pass well.

June 29th saw the senior group singing for their hard earned certificates, packing their belongings and saying good bye to everyone, their three year training completed. Please keep them in your prayers. We will soon be hearing that about the new employment they have started.

And the middle of July we will see the new group arriving to take their place. But I must leave that till next time.

G M Rose
Director
Bollobhpur Hospital.

Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi and Nursing Institute



The CMHR team called on the Director of CMC Vellore Dr. Vikram Mathew on 20 March 2024.



Board Meetings and Developments at Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi

The Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi recently held its Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting and the Annual General Meeting on May 31, 2024, and June 1, 2024. Significant developments were discussed and approved during these meetings.

Key Approvals and Projects

The construction of 12 new cabins, the Operating Theatre (OT), and dedicated Post-Operative and Child Corner facilities have been approved.

Besides, the Nursing Institute will see the addition of 5 new laboratories, 2 classrooms, and an advanced library room, with work already underway.



The Moderator Rt Reverend Samuel S Mankhin blessed the work and started to build new cabins.

Academic Building
New Class rooms and Labs
Construction works



The hospital continues its renovation and development efforts using its own funds, ensuring sustained improvement in facilities and services for capacity enhancement.



Ramp Shed newly built to carry patients in new cabins even in rain and hot sunny day.

Clergy Summer Camp 2024 at Rajshahi of Church of Bangladesh



The hospital assisted in organizing the summer camp for all priests of the Church of Bangladesh, fostering community engagement and support.

These initiatives reflect the hospital's commitment to providing top-notch medical services and enhancing its educational and community support programs.