

April - June
2019



Quarterly News Letter

The love of a FAMILY is
LIFE'S GREATEST
Blessing ♥



Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India
Jabalpur



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



MOTHER'S LOVE

*A love that is hidden,
A love that is true,
A love never matched,
Cause it's the one, which mothers do.*

*A love that is trustworthy,
Which can't be expressed out,
Cause it's of a mother,
Which never ends, without doubt.*

*A love for a baby,
Hard to understand,
To when he crawls,
And to when he stands.*

*The never ending love,
The love of a mother,
The love kept forever,
With no alternatives further.*

*Yashwin Thomas
Class VIII A, Christ Church School For Boys & Girls, ISC*



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



News Letter

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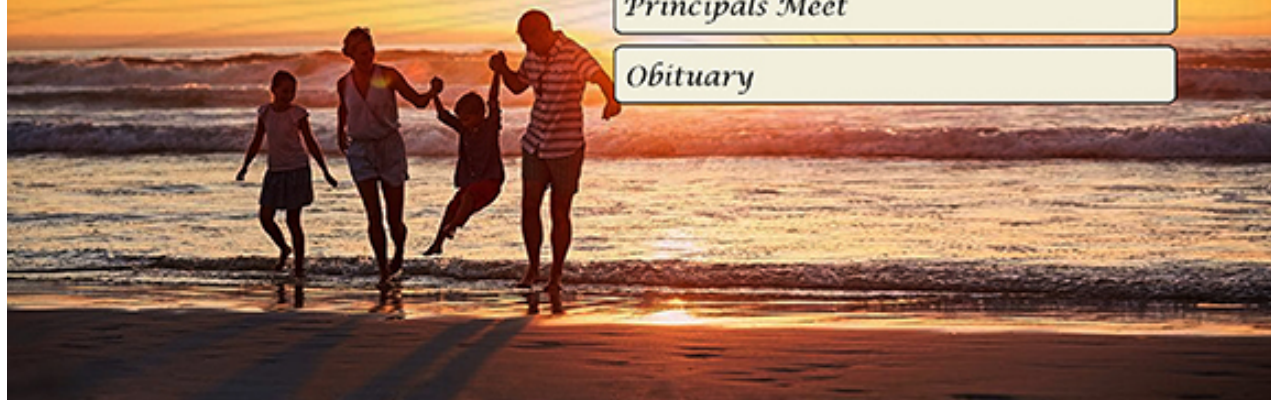
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*You don't choose your family.
They are God's gift to you, as you
are to them." -Desmond Tutu*

*"There is no doubt that it is
around the family and the home
that all the greatest virtues... are
created, strengthened and
maintained." - Winston Churchill*

*A happy family is but an earlier
heaven." -George Bernard Shaw*





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



Ipe Joseph
(Editor)

Editor's Message

We welcome all the readers of our News Letter to the examination of this summer issue of April, May and June. We all had a very hot summer and we thank God we have survived it. This issue has a significant theme, family. We live in a world where family system is withering away. In some of the European countries people are living as single individuals in houses. They do not have families. Norway and Sweden are examples. In our country, in the villages we still have joint families, but in towns and cities unit families are the trend. In many cases both parents work. In the rat race of making money we neglect our children, their nurture and development. As a result, children grow up without positive family values of love, sharing, cooperation, family responsibilities and concern for community service. Thus, a generation without family values produce self-centred individuals, violent gangs and unsafe communities. We are already witnessing it.

It is painful to see that families which are to be safe havens for its members are now turning to be unsafe and violent dungeons. These days, media is full of reports about mothers killing their children, children killing the parents and siblings murdering siblings. This trend is increasing. We are wondering as to what is happening to human nature. Are we turning to become cannibals again? Our Bishop in his message has sent a note of warning. "History has shown that whenever communities started discarding family life and family values the civilization itself perished."

We are indulging in much jeremiads (lamentation of Jeremiah) about our families. What can we do as Church and communities to save our families? There is no simple solution. The key is education and training. The great blessing about human life is that it can be moulded in the way you want it to be. Human societies have to take a clue from this and focus on education and training of individuals starting at the early years of life in homes and schools. Let us hope that homes, governments, educational institutions and community organizations will take this concern seriously.

This issue is covering all summer programmes of the Diocese: the Inter Diocesan League, The All We can Workshop at Bandhavgarh, Stewardship committee meeting at Christ Church Girls School, Educational Retreat at Vizag and the VBS sessions. In addition, an article on family from Nilesh Singh, a reflection on Trinity by Rev. Daniel Nath, an article on Pentecost from Rev. Subha Venkataram, and an abridged version of the devotional talk given by Rev. Bruce Thangadurai, also are included. Our budding writers have contributed two poems on Mother's Day: "Dedicated to all Mothers" by Vivin Thomas of Std. XIIA and "Mother's Love" by Yashwin Thomas of Std. VIIIA both from Christ Church ISC.

Our Communication Department will be completing three years on July 12. We - Malcolm, Nikhil and I - are happy to continue in the preparation, production and dispatch of our News Letter. We are grateful to the guidance of our Bishop, to all writers who are contributing articles and reports and to the support of all the readers.

ipejoseph@rediffmail.com



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



The Most Rev Dr P C Singh
Bishop Diocese Of Jabalpur CNI

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved in Jesus Christ,

We went through a severe summer. Climate change is affecting us in a critical way. It is all the making of humanity. Global warming can be controlled only by global decision and local action.

Even though summer was so hard on us, these three months of April, May and June were full of activities in the Diocese. In the month of April from 14 to 21 we observed the Holy Week. That spiritual experience gave us an opportunity to follow Jesus in the painful path of Calvary and emerge with him in glorious resurrection. This experience gives us fuel to live victorious life throughout the year. In the month of May we had VBS programmes. As usual, we had the ecumenical VBS in English Methodist Church and Hindi VBS in Disciples Church. It is encouraging to note that in the VBS children participate with great interest.

The Inter Diocesan League was held from 20 to 24 May this year also. The dioceses of Bhopal, Gujarat, Nagpur and our own diocese took part. This gave our youth an opportunity to play together, pray together and enjoy fellowship thus enhancing their unity and strength. The joint workshop organized under the auspices of All We Can and convened by Prof. Nivedita Abraham from 12 to 14th June was a unique event. This pilot project had three sessions on strategic planning and related aspects. The Stewardship Committee held in Christ Church Girl's School on June 8 was attended by more than 150 people, President and Secretaries of Women's Fellowships, Presbyters, Secretaries and Treasurers of all the parishes and others. The resolution was to implement the Stewardship programmes starting from the Sunday schools, youth and the parish. For planning of the new academic year the Managers, Principals and Superintendents of the Schools met from 16 to 18 June in Vizag. Leadership development was the theme. The diocesan Pastors meetings were held every month as usual for spiritual replenishing and intercessory prayers. I appreciate the commitment of all those who took leadership in the above mentioned programmes.

The theme of this quarter is family. As faithful Christians we know that a family that prays together stays together. We are also reminded of Joshua's reaffirmation, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord". History has shown that whenever communities started discarding family life and family values the civilization itself perished. When we dive deep into the causes of today's increasing violence, immorality and lawlessness we will arrive at families which did not care for the children, did not train them in true human values and have not taught them the lessons on love. My plea to all the families in the diocese is to make a conscious effort to assess the health of each family and to take remedial measures to restore it. Pastors and evangelists have a significant role to play. They are to make systematic house visits examining the condition of each family. Special focus needs to be on the children, their where-about and their behaviour. Family has to become a safe space for all its members.

With Blessings

Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh,
Moderator CNI Synod
and Bishop Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI.



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
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पारिवारिक प्रार्थना की बेदी



यह तो निश्चित है कि परमेश्वर ने हमें एवं हमारे परिवार को बहुतायत से आशीष प्रदान की पर शायद हम उन पर ध्यान नहीं दे पाते हैं इसलिए जब हम प्रार्थना करते हैं और परमेश्वर को उसके कामों के लिए धन्यवाद देते हैं तब हमें उसकी सामर्थ्य और उपकारों का एहसास होता है। यह केवल हमारे व्यक्तिगत जीवन के लिए नहीं वरन हमारे परिवार के लिए भी है इसीलिए अवश्य है कि हम पारिवारिक रूप से परमेश्वर का धन्यवाद करें एवं प्रार्थना करें।

“हम जितना ज्यादा यहोवा का धन्यवाद करते हैं, उतना ही ज्यादा हमें एहसास होता है कि उसने हमारे लिए कितना कुछ किया है। जब हम यहोवा को शुक्रिया कहते हैं तो हम अपनी परेशानियों के बजाय यहोवा से मिली आशीषों पर ध्यान दे पाते हैं।”

पारिवारिक रूप से प्रार्थना करने के बहुत से फायदे हैं एवं जहां पारिवारिक प्रार्थना की बेदी होती है वहां चढ़ाई गई हर एक प्रकार की धन्यवादी भंटे परमेश्वर को सुखदाई सुगंध सी भाती है आइए पारिवारिक प्रार्थना हेतु कुछ बातों पर विचार करें।

1- जिन परिवारों में लोग एक साथ मिलकर प्रार्थना करते हैं उन परिवारों में प्रेम, मेल मिलाप, एक दूसरे के प्रति आदर एवं एकता की भावनाएं पाई जाती हैं ऐसे परिवार में यदि आपस में किसी प्रकार का मतभेद हो तो वह भी शीघ्र ही समाप्त हो जाता है वे क्षमा करना सीखते हैं

2- जिन परिवारों में प्रार्थना का समय होता है वहां लोग परमेश्वर की उपस्थिति संगति आराधना एवं परमेश्वर के वचन से आशीषीत होते हैं

3- जिस घर में प्रार्थना की बेदी होती है वहां बच्चे एवं जवान परमेश्वर के भय में जीवन व्यतीत करना सीखते हैं एवं शैतान की परीक्षाओं में ऐसे बच्चे विजयी भी होते हैं

4- जिस परिवार में लोग एक साथ मिलकर प्रार्थना करते हैं वे अच्छा आदर्श प्रस्तुत करते हैं एवं दूसरों के लिए आशीष के कारण होते हैं

5- ऐसा परिवार जहां प्रार्थनाएं होती हैं वहां लोग परमेश्वर पर भरोसा रखना सीखते हैं एवं परमेश्वर के द्वारा उचित मार्गदर्शन प्राप्त करते हैं (उसी को स्मरण करके सब काम करना, तब वह तेरे लिये सीधा मार्ग निकालेगा। नीतिवचन 3:6)

“परिवार के लिए प्रार्थना एक रस्सी की तरह है, जिसका एक सिरा यहोवा के हाथ में है और दूसरा हमारे हाथ में। जब हम अपने मन की बात उसे बताते हैं तो हमारी प्रार्थनाएँ और बेहतर हो जाती हैं, ऐसा लगता है जैसे रस्सी पर हमारी पकड़ मजबूत होती जा रही है। और जब यहोवा हमारी प्रार्थनाओं का जवाब देता है तो हमारा रिश्ता और गहरा हो जाता है।”

परमेश्वर के साथ मजबूत रिश्ता स्थापित करने के लिए हमारे परिवार में प्रार्थना की बेदी का होना अत्यंत आवश्यक है हम अपने परिवार के साथ आत्मिक संगति स्थापित करें ताकि हम और हमारा घराना उद्धार पाए

धन्यवाद



रेव. सुहनिदर नीलेश सहि





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
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Jacob Raphael Thangadurai

Values In A Christian family

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. I am really thankful to our Moderator The Most Rev. Dr .P.C.Singh as well as the members of the Jabalpur Diocese and the Editorial team for providing me this platform where I can share the Gospel of God. Friends the topic that I have chosen is " Values In A Christian family".

Families are the divine part of God's plan. They are the fundamental building blocks of a strong society . In addition to being the bedrock of society, the family is central to God's plan for eternal happiness of his children. Raising a family is immensely rewarding , but in todays world with so much distractions and satanic powers it is the most hardest and differcult part to do.

Every building needs a strong foundation for it's good existence . If the building has a good foundation it can withstand the calamities which try to wither it away. In case of our families the prime importance is to have Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ as a strong foundation which helps us to overcome all the evil powers that tries to dismantle our families. Now the question that arises in our minds is that How can we have Jesus Christ to be the foundation to our Christian families? Here are four ways in which we can lay down a strong and imperishable foundation.

1. Teach Good values

Proverbs 22:6 says " Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." It is the duty of the parent's to teach their children good values and principles , to teach them about our God , to let them know about God's Love, to teach them to seek God's help and guidance during difficult times and not to rely on any other instead . In today's scenario where there are so many evil powers it is the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ that can help you overcome it.

2. Pray Together

As the old saying goes "A Family that prays together , Stays together." God blesses the family that prays together with increased love , peace, understanding and harmony. In the book of Genesis we find that during the collapse of the world when the evil powers were at it's peak , it was only Noah's family that was connected to God through prayers and so , when God decided to demolish the world, he decided to take only Noah's family under His wings and He sustained humanity through them.

3. Read God's Word

As you read the scripture as a family , you will invite God's spirit to be in your home. The stories in the Bible will inculcate moral values like faith, love, affection, forgiveness etc. within your family and help you to fight the cosmic powers, it will help you Build the walls of your home that will be indestructible to any bad values and practices.

4. Go to Church Together as a Family

Going to church Together as a family will broadens your faith , help you come more close to God as a Christian family and to imbibe within you good social values like compassion, helpfulness, honesty etc. It will help you grow together as a great community and to set examples for others.

I would like to end through the quotes of Sir Harold B. Lee

"The most important of the Lord's work that you will ever do , will be the work you do within the walls of your own home."

PRAISE THE LORD!!



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DEDICATED TO ALL MOTHERS

Mother's love is a feeling, something which requires unlimited words to explain because it is as deep as an ocean. After coming into the world we find ourselves secure in the lap of our mother. It is well said that by Rudyard Kipling "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy". Without even speaking she understands what we want. Her love always encourages us in any falls which comes in our life and she is the only one who demands nothing except our betterment.

Narayan Desai (24 December 1924 - 15 March 2015) was an Indian Gandhian and author. He was the son of Mahatma Gandhi's personal secretary and biographer Mahadev Desai. Once Narayan Desai narrated this incident. He was travelling in a train to Wardha along with Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi. It so happened that on their way to Wardha the train halted at a station. Suddenly, they heard an unusual voice. They looked around but didn't find any. Later, the voice grew louder and louder. So they peeped from the window, and they were shocked to see Harilal Gandhi (elder son of Mahatma Gandhi) sloganeering mother Kasturba's name by saying ; "MATA KASTURBA KI JAI." As Harilal emerged from the crowd, they noticed him wearing filthy and dirty clothes with inebriate eyes He was also carrying a sweet lime "mosambi" in his hand. He then walked towards them. When Harilal reached near, he softly held his mother's hands, joined them together and with love he offered the fruit to his mother Kasturba. On seeing the love of his son towards his mother Gandhiji questioned him in a paternal way , "Haven't you bought anything for me ?" "All this is for my mother; let her have it" With tears in his eyes Harilal added, "You are titled as 'Mahatma' because of my mother's piety, so never forget her sacrifice"; saying this Harilal sobbed for a while. Even though Harilal was drunk , still he made himself very clear by stating, "To be a Mahatma like Gandhi there was a great sacrifice hidden, of Mother Kasturba".

Though a day has been set for celebrating Mother's day , we need to celebrate it any time, any day as her efforts are priceless which help us to be successful. There are many mothers in our society who are running in this fast paced world to fulfill the needs of their family as a result, they themselves are gradually losing their identity and beauty. So, in this World on Mother's Day everyone should make an effort to bring our mothers into lime light by remembering their sacrifices and giving respect to all the mothers across the world because 'Mother's love is like blessing of your worship'.

Vivin Thomas
XII A, Christ Church ISC , Jabalpur





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4TH INTER DIOCESAN LEAGUE Nagpur - Bhopal - Gujarat - Jabalpur

The 4th IDL (Inter Diocesan League) was an opportunity to gather the young people of the 4 Dioceses of the Church of North India to play, to meet each other, to worship God and to have fellowship. The Diocesan Youth Fellowship Committee of the Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI; invited the Diocese of Bhopal, the Diocese of Gujarat and the Diocese of Nagpur inviting 8 Girls and 12 Boys along with 1 Female and 1 Male Manager from each Diocese to participate in the 4th IDL from the 20th to 24th May 2019 at Jabalpur (M.P.). The participating Dioceses reached Jabalpur on 19th May 2019. The Teams were welcomed by all the players of the Jabalpur Diocesan Team; their accommodation and food were arranged at the Christ Church Boys' Senior Secondary School, Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI.

On 20th May 2019 an Inaugural Programme was organized, the players were blessed with the presence of The Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan, Bishop, Diocese of Bhopal, CNI; Mrs. Nora Singh, Director, VAK, Mr. Suresh C. Jacob, Manager, Christ Church Boys' School & Mrs. L. M. Sathe, Principal, Christ Church Boys' School. The Guests and players were welcomed by the Jabalpur Diocesan Youth followed. The Inaugural Programme was led by Mr. Piyush Paul Singh, President DYFC, Diocese of Jabalpur. The programme commenced with Praise and Worship and Gospel reading by the Youth of Jabalpur. It was, indeed, God's Guidance and with the blessings of the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Moderator of CNI, the young people of the Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI, could organize the Inter Diocesan League between the 4 Dioceses. Bishop Singh supported, encouraged and guided the Diocesan Youth so as to make this League a success.

Bishop Charan in his Inaugural Address, motivated and encouraged the youth to play the matches in a Christ-like Spirit and in sportsmanship; he added that through this League the relationship between the four Dioceses will grow stronger and the Diocese will witness the blessings of the Lord through these friendly matches. He also added this it is a great time of fellowship between the Dioceses and this legacy should continue.

It may be noted that the Jabalpur Diocesan Youth always focuses on equal opportunities for girls, their involvement in Church in which women and girls are valued for who they are. We believe that the Church would be enhanced and enlivened by recognizing the vocations of women as equal to those of men.

The interesting part of this league was Women's Throw Ball.

The Women's Final Match was played between Jabalpur Vs. Gujarat at the Christ Church ISC Ground and was won by the Gujarat Women's Team. Ms. Salvina Christian of Gujarat Diocese was awarded as the "Player of the Tournament".

The Men's Final Match was played between the between Jabalpur Vs. Nagpur at the Christ Church Boys' Hostel Ground and was won by the Jabalpur Men's Cricket Team by 70 runs. Mr. Piyush Paul Singh of Jabalpur Diocese was awarded as the "Player of the Tournament".



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At the end of the Final Match, the Prize Distribution Ceremony was organized. The Chief Guest of the Ceremony was the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh and Mrs. Nora Singh, Mrs. L. M. Sathe, Mr. Suresh C. Jacob & The Rev. Ajay James blessed the Prize Distribution Ceremony with their gracious presence.

The Commentators were Mr. Tarun Verma and Mr. Falgun Yadav, the Photographer of the Tournament was Mr. Christopher Parmer and the Umpires were Mr. Krishna Mishra, & Mr. Khushal Vishwakarma.

The matches played between the 4 Dioceses was for fellowship and for the Glory of God.

Glory to God,

*Shitij Cyril Jacob
Youth Director*

*Piyush Paul Singh
President, DYFC*





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Rev. Subha Venkataram

PENTECOST: CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek word 'Pentecoste' which means "50th day." and another name for Pentecost was "The Feast of Weeks." It was so called because it fell on the fiftieth day, a week of weeks, after the Passover. The Passover fell in the middle of April; therefore Pentecost fell at the beginning of June.

In the time of the Old Testament it was the Jewish feast of weeks. It is also called the feast of Harvest or the day of first fruits, which fell on the 50th day after the Feast of the Passover. Later this festival was commemorated to the Mosaic Law as the Law was given on the 50th day after the Exodus. This Jewish festival in Acts 2 was transformed to Christian festival of first fruits of Christian dispensation.

Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, and the first followers of Jesus who were gathered together in the Upper Room. A "strong driving", wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came, allowing them to speak in different languages so that they could understand each other. The Holy Spirit also gave the Apostles gifts and fruits necessary to fulfill the great commission.



Pentecost serves as an annual reminder that our creator still works miracles, granting his spirit to those called to be the first fruits of his spiritual harvest, empowering them to carry out his work in this world.

It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the Church and without it our lives would seem senseless and empty and fulfill no purpose, least of all please God. God knows how much we need a helper and the Holy Spirit is God's gift to the Church.

The gift of God to the Church is The Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit is like the wakening of life from the dead. When the Holy Spirit came upon the Church it recreated her for the task. To receive the Holy Spirit the Church needs proper preparation, devotion and surrender to the Word of God.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a person; in the Bible we see the Holy Spirit as having intellect, emotions and will. He performed all the functions of a person. He speaks, He intercedes, He testifies, He commands, He guides, He appoints,

What are the works of the Holy Spirit?

The works of the Holy Spirit are regeneration and sanctification.

Regeneration: Jesus said, when the Holy Spirit comes, He will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment. We as human beings are born in sin and live



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live in sin. St. Paul said, "All have fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)." It is the work of the Holy Spirit to disturb and convict us of our sins. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring us to the knowledge and the acknowledgment of God.

The Holy Spirit not only enlightens us about our sins, but also convinces us that Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. He shows us that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. We need to believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior in order to escape from the coming judgment.



Sanctification: St. Paul spoke of the believers as sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:16). We are called to be saints (1 Cor 1:2), and thus should be abide daily in Christ and obey His words. The Holy Spirit supplies us with His gifts in order to abide in Christ, and thus be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We have the mighty power of the Holy Spirit available to us to transform the world and ourselves.

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our lives need to be dominated and ruled by the Holy Spirit. The early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles were all filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles (17:6) it was said of the Christians of one city, "These men who had turned the world upside down, have come here also." We can turn the world upside down if we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies and empowers us



How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. The first step in being filled by the Holy Spirit is Understanding,

- God has already given us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit dwells within us. When we are baptized we receive the Holy Spirit. St. Paul said, "for by one spirit we were all baptized into one body (1 Cor 12:13)." Now, being Christians the Holy Spirit already dwells within us. We may not feel His presence that does not mean that He is absent. It is a fact that He is present within us because we belong to Christ.

- It is God's will that we should be filled with the Holy Spirit. If we refuse to be filled with the Holy Spirit it means that we are acting contrary to the will of God. God does not give us the Holy Spirit grudgingly or unwillingly. He wants us all to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He wants our lives to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. God truly wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.





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2. The second step in being filled by the Holy Spirit is Submission

- *Submission means to renounce our will and our way and submit ourselves to Jesus, and allow Jesus to rule every facet of our lives. It is renouncing of our will and our way and embracing the will and the way of Christ. We are called to confess our sins - i.e. become aware of our sins and confess them to God and renounce them. God has promised to forgive us of our sins. In St. John we read "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)." After having confessed and renounced our sins, we need to yield our lives to God. We need to place our lives in the hands of God. We need to submit ourselves to Christ so that Christ may control our lives.*

3. The third step in being filled by the Holy Spirit is Walking in Faith

- *By the first two steps - understanding and yielding to Christ, we are already filled with the Holy Spirit. Now we are to act or walk in that truth with the full assurance that God has already filled us with the Holy Spirit. We have to act in our lives as people filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote, "Count yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ (6:11)." We have to count ourselves alive to God in Jesus Christ. We are to lead lives with the realization of the truth that the Holy Spirit dwells within us and he empowers us. We are not pretending that the Holy Spirit is there within us. We are acting on God's promise that the Holy Spirit is already present in us.*

- *The Holy Spirit is the source of all guidance.*
- *The Spirit is the source of day-to-day courage and power.*

May we pray that the Lord may fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we may be regenerated sanctified and empowered.

May God bless us all. Amen.





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Promoting Stewardship in Jabalpur Diocese - A Workshop on 8th June, 2019

Bibles says that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7). We all are stewards of God and Church is the household of God. God invites us to be His disciples or Stewards of His house. Stewards - are the one who manages other's work (employee) and stewardship - office of the stewards. We all become God's steward or disciples of God's house hold, means committing every thing, our heart, mind and life, it also means being generous with your talent time and treasures for God. God has given us all things which we have - life, health, property, earth, and the Gospel as a gift. And all these special gifts are for God's special purpose to discover, develop and to use these gifts as a life long responsibility. Jesus is the perfect example of stewardship. He used every gift given from God including His life, to glorify and to serve God - His father.

The importance of Stewardship in church growth is greatly recognized by our moderator sir Dr. P. C. Singh. For over all dissimilation of Biblical understanding of stewardship, its principles and practice, the Diocese of Jabalpur has been divided in four zones - Mandla zone comprising of churches at Mandla, Patpara, Marfa, Parsa-tola, Ratanpur & Nainpur area. Seoni zone comprising of Churches at Seoni, Pachmari and Chindwara. Kanti zone comprises of Churches of Katni, Amerpatan, Kymore, & Satna. Jabalpur zone comprises of St Paul's Church Ghamapur, Disciples Church, Christ Church Cathedral, Gokhalpur Church & Ghana Church. It was envisaged by our Moderator sir to have at least one workshop in each zone.

The diocesan stewardship committee comprising of Rev Daniel Nath as ex officio Director, Mrs Kiran James as President, Mrs Nomita J Bagh as Secretary, Mr Clemence James as Treasurer and Mrs Anjana Masih, Mrs Shalu Shah, Mrs Savita Joseph, Mrs Janet Mashi, Rev Ashish Harry as members are continuously working for Stewardship campaign in the whole diocese of Jabalpur.

On 8th June 2019, the Diocesan Stewardship Committee organized a diocesan level Stewardship workshop at Mary George Hall of Christ Church Girl's School Jabalpur. Pastors, Secretaries, Treasurers, office bearers of WFCS, Sunday School superintendents of 23 churches participated in this workshop. Overall there were more than 175 participants from all Churches of Jabalpur Diocese. Four resource persons - Moderator sir Dr P. C. Singh, Mr. Suresh C. Jacob, Stewardship director of CNI synod, Rev Ajay Umesh James & Rev Neelash Singh shared their views and experiences. Moderator sir gave light on the Biblical understanding towards Stewardship. He focused on Genesis 2:15-17 that it is our responsibility to take care of our resources and to multiply it, and to look after it and to eat its fruits and to protect ourselves. He addressed to pastors that according to Genesis 29:27 they should find resources, have vision, mission and accountability. The second resource person Mr Suresh C Jacob threw light on the stewardship program of CNI synod, and how it started and its vision and plans. The third resource person was Rev Ajay Umesh James. His topic was how to implement Stewardship within the local church. He said that people should come forward with their talents and skills, time and new ideas for the church to grow. He also said that our treasures are also one of the needs of the church. He further said that every church should have a stewardship committee to carry the work of stewardship in the congregation..



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The fourth resource person was Rev Neelash Singh. His topic was – How to implement stewardship in Sunday School. According to him, from early child hood, one needs to teach our children to work for the church growth by giving their time for church activities and to come forward with their talents and to make them responsible members of the church when they grow up.

This workshop was the fifth workshop in the series of workshops previously held at St Luke's Church, Mandla, Petrol Pump Church, Seoni, St Phillips Church, Katni & St Paul's Church, Jabalpur. The spokespersons in Mandla workshop were Rev Daniel Nath & Mrs Nomita Bagh, Rev Ajay U. James and Rev James at Seoni workshop, Rev Neelesh Singh and Mrs Shalu Shah at Katni workshop, Rev Bruce Thangadurai and Rev Ajay U. James at Jabalpur workshop.

Stewardship is concerned with educating church members in the total scope of commitment of life in Christ, not only ones offerings but ones' natural abilities and time. Hence it is a continuous process which should be persuaded with commitment & dedication.

*By Mrs. Nomita J. Bagh
Secretary, Stewardship Committee
Diocese of Jabalpur*





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THE BLESSED TRINITY



Rev. Daniel Nath

Everything about the Lord God is beyond our human capabilities to grasp fully or exhaustively, because the Lord God majestically is outside the boundaries of human limitations. For example, we do not understand how God is without beginning and without end. We are incapable of understanding how it is that the Lord God is present everywhere. Yet these are truths that the Lord God has revealed to us about Himself, and we accept them by faith in His truthfulness and His inerrancy. Likewise, the revealed Trinitarian Existence of God is the most complex, the most profound, and therefore the most difficult doctrine to understand. Our understanding of it is limited by what the Lord God has revealed to us about the Blessed Trinity.

The historical doctrine of the Trinity simply states that there is one God existing in three internal Self-Distinctions (not divisible parts) called Persons. These we recognize as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal and co-eternal, with every Member being indwelt by the other two Members in perfect harmony (co-indwelling). The word Trinity comes from the Latin noun trinitas meaning three are one.

Accordingly, the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Therefore, it is accurate to speak of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, without implying a separation or a division in the Godhead. The Father is not the same Person as the Son or the Holy Spirit; the Son is not the same Person as the Father or the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is not the same Person as the Father or the Son. They are not three gods, they are not three manifestations of God, and they are not three beings. They are three distinct Persons; yet, they are the One God, the One indivisible eternal Being, the Highest Complexity in existence that has created all existing complexities.

In addition, we believe that the Holy Bible repeatedly asserts the existence of one Living and True God (Deut. 4:35, 39; 6:4; Jas. 2:19). We also believe that in the Bible we find three distinct persons (Gen. 19:24; Hos. 1:7; Isa. 48:16; Psa. 2:7) clearly recognized as the eternal God — the Father (John 6:27; Rom. 1:7; Gal. 1:1), the Son (John 1:1; 20:28; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 1:8), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4; II Cor. 3:17-18). These are represented as relating to One Another in perfect harmony (Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14), the Perfect Society. We, thus conclude that the one God exists eternally in three distinct Persons constituting the Supreme Godhead, the one Triune God.

Therefore, we believe that in the absolutely singular God (Exod. 3:13-15; 20:2-3; Deut. 6:4; I Cor. 8:4, 6; I Tim. 2:5; Jas. 2:19) there are Three Personal Self-Distinctions (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; John 14:16; 2 Cor. 13:14) with personal relationships to One Another (Gen. 19:24; Isa. 48:16; Hos. 1:7; John 3:35; 2 Tim. 1:18), in that there is an I, a You, and a He eternally in the Godhead. These we recognize as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Isa. 48:16; Rom. 15:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 13:14; Gal. 4:6; I Pet. 1:1-2; Jude 20-21), eternally exercising Divine Love among Themselves (Matt. 3:17; John 3:35; 5:20; 14:31; 15:26). They are co-eternal, co-indwelling and co-equal, having the same Divine Essence and Attributes, with a voluntary subordination of the Son to the Father (Phil. 2:5-7) and of the Holy Spirit to the Father and to the Son (John 14-16).



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Accordingly, we believe that the logical order of the relationships within the Godhead recognizes that the Father, the First Person, is neither begotten by nor proceeds from Another in the Godhead (John 6:27; Rom. 1:7; Gal. 1:1). It recognizes that the Son, the Second Person, is eternally begotten of the Father (Psa. 2:7; John 3:16, 18; 14:24; 16:28; Heb. 1:6) and proceeds from the Father (John 6:57); and that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person, eternally proceeds from both the Father and the Son (John 14:26; 15:26; Acts 2:33; Heb. 9:14). We also reject the peculiar notion that the Lord Jesus was begotten of the Father in time rather than in eternity, which notion necessarily ascribes a change to the immutable essence of God.

Likewise, we believe that in the Godhead exists an order relating to the administration of God's eternal purposes: All things are out of the Father, through the Son (1 Cor. 8:6), and in the sphere of the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2). We believe that while all the works of God are the works of The Three Persons jointly (1 Cor. 12:4-6; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:2; 3:18), some works are related more particularly to One Person than to Another: Creation and Providence are related primarily to the Father (Gen. 1-2; Neh. 9:6), Redemption and Mediation are related primarily to the Son (John 1:29; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Tit. 2:11; Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:14, 15; 1 John 2:2), and Regeneration and Sanctification are related primarily to the Holy Spirit (John 3:5; Acts 16:14; Rom. 6:19, 21; 9:16; Phil. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:15).

Accordingly, we believe that the Old Testament contains a clear anticipation of the more complete revelation of the Holy Trinity in the New Testament. We also believe that a proper understanding of the New Testament requires an orthodox belief in the Holy Trinity as stated here. We further believe that the Holy Trinity, like all other doctrines related to the mystery of the Godhead, is never fully within our grasp.

Concurrently, we reject and condemn the historical view known as Sabellianism stating that the Trinity is merely three manifestations of God, some sort of an economic Triad. We likewise reject and condemn the historical views of the Trinity adopted by certain modern cults and are known as Dynamic Monarchianism and Modalistic Monarchianism.

Similarly, we reject and condemn the view known as Tritheism denying the unity of the essence of God and claiming the existence of three distinct Gods. We believe that the Lord God is a unity of essence as well as of purpose and endeavor. We therefore believe that there is only one God existing eternally in three Persons within the one Supreme Being.

Furthermore, we assert our belief that the Triune God described above is a concrete, eternal and incomprehensible reality, and that His essence is simple and indivisible. We also believe that this view of the Lord God must have been Divinely revealed to us; because, being outside the realm of the human experience, it is not possible for it to be humanly constructed.



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Moreover, we believe that this doctrine of the mysterious Trinity is a crucial and a foundational ingredient of our Christian Faith, encompassing an indispensable practical value to the Christian Faith: Because it is virtually impossible to conceive of a personality existing eternally without a society, the Holy Trinity constitutes an eternal and perfectly harmonious society. Also, the Triune God, having exercised eternal love within Himself, extends His love toward His Creation. Likewise, because only God can reveal God, the incarnation of the Son revealed God to His Creation. Furthermore, only God can atone for sin, and only God can mediate between God and man. We thus believe that if there were no Trinity, there would have been no love of God, no incarnation, no atonement for sin, no Mediator between God and human beings, and no salvation for sinners. In such an unbiblical scenario, Christianity would be reduced down to the level of other world religions. We therefore believe that Trinitarianism is the highest form and the only true form of Monotheism.





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Prof . Nivedita Abraham

Strategic Planning Workshop held by All We Can at Bandhavgarh

A Three Day Workshop on Strategic Planning was held at Nature Heritage Resort, Bandhavgarh National Park, Bandhavgarh on 12, 13 and 14th June, 2019. This workshop was held under Pilot Project on Capacity Development Support Initiative, Phase I which is in Partnership with All We Can and World Church Relationships, UK.

The main objective of the workshop was to analyze the progress of the Capacity Development Support Initiative of All We Can till now and see what needs to be done to take it further to the next phase.

About 59 participants from the Diocese attended the workshop. They consisted of the Pastors, Institution Heads, Managers, Women Leaders, Youth and Vikas Asha Kendra. The Chief Functionary Bishop and the Moderator Dr. P C Singh also attended the workshop along with Mrs. Nora Singh. There was representation from almost all the stakeholder categories in the workshop. The Resource Person of the Workshop was Prof. Nivedita Abraham (XIDAS), AWC Consultant to the Diocese.

The first day of the workshop focused on Partnership Principle of AWC; how it is to work with All We Can. How a Project could be strengthened was also discussed at length. The second day of the workshop highlighted the role of steering committee, and also discussed at length the nuances of Strategic Plan. Group work was initiated on how to analyze the past, present and future of the various functions of the Diocese and what can be learnt from it. The next day's group work was to draft vision, mission, strategy of the group and mainly their respective stakeholder category.

The Workshop ended with a fresh perspective and the active participation of all leading to drafting of the strategic plan of the Diocese for the years to come. The Workshop ended with the word of blessings by the Moderator and Bishop Dr. P C Singh.





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*Children are a gift
from God*



**Beela Mary Ipe
Christian Educator**

Psalms 127:3 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing". If children are gifts from the Lord, you are not the owners. These precious gifts are to be nurtured, developed and presented before the Lord. We are only stewards.

It is the duty of Christian parents and guardians to provide Christian nurture to children. Practically it means that parents need to speak to children always about God that God will be set in their thinking, vocabulary and mental transactions. It will be good if the child can learn the Lord's prayer by three years of age followed by 10 commandments, 23rd Psalm and similar portions.

The focus should be on the holistic development of children. Holistic means physical, mental, emotional, relational, social and spiritual.

Christian nurture begins at the time of conception itself. So we should never ignore the the child in the womb. Always consider the child as a new member of the family always present with you.

The main agencies involved are Home and Sunday School , School and community. From womb to six years are crucial in formation of values and habits

Complete at nine months and is ready to be born.

In 40 weeks, what was one cell has changed into a human being. The Miracle of birth!



Christian Nurture through the Process
Learning Starts before birth

The natural stimuli- the sound of the mother , the rhythm of her body are most complementary for development.

Pregnant woman's thoughts and emotions affect the development of the baby's mind just like the food that mother eats affects the physical development of the baby

What about the Spiritual Development?

Mother's closeness to God . Mother's dependency on God for everything

Mother's prayer life

Mother's Emotions . Anger, jealousy and frustrations will negatively affect child in the womb.

Spiritual life of the family and God atmosphere. The child in the womb can hear and understand all that is happening at home. So, we need to take be cautious in whatever we are doing and talking at home!

MY CHILDREN
are my greatest blessings

*I am a gift
from God*

*A Mother's greatest
MASTERPIECE
is her Children*





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PRINCIPAL /MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE 16TH JUNE TO 18TH 2019 VISAKHAPATNAM,

Once in a year a Conference is organized to access the working and the different issues relating to the institutions under the Board of Education, Church of North India , Jabalpur Diocese. This year we had the privilege to visit Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from the 16th of June to the 18th of June.

As we reached on the 16th of June we started the Conference with a holy communion service which was led by Rev Bruce Thangadurai and the sermon was delivered by Rev Ajay James.

On the 17th of June ,we started the day with the Bible study which was conducted by Rev Bruce Thangadurai. He started the bible study with an activity in which he asked everyone to complete a leadership survey in which all the participant were told as to which type of leadership traits they had . Some of the leadership traits which were mentioned in the survey were Visionary Leader , Mentor/Partner Leader, Inspirational Leader , Facilitator/Influencer, Performance Manager, Relationship Manager, Crisis Manager.

After this the Bible study was conducted on the followings heads :
What Is Biblical Leadership?
What Makes a Good Leader?
What the different Principles of leadership and
What are the different biblical models of leadership.



The Bible study concluded with the following words

Remember, "To become an efficient leader, you must be self-motivated". You must know your identity, your needs and you must have a strong urge to do anything to achieve your goals. Once you are self-motivated, only then you can motivate others to achieve their goals and to harmonize their personal goals with the common goals of the organization.

STAY GOD-CONTROLLED AND GOD-DIRECTED

As a leader learn to be God-controlled and God-directed. You are His channel of blessing to your organization and to people you lead and those you serve. Stay yielded and surrendered to Him, daily. You are here to realize the purposes of God on the earth. Stay open to Him. Let His purposes be released through you to bless the world around you.

After this Bible study the session was taken by our Moderator and Chairman of BECNIJD The Most Revd Dr P. C. Singh. He started his session from few verses from the Book of Nehemiah Chapter 2 verses 17 and 18 and his emphasis was on verse 17 "You see the Distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem that we may no longer be a reproach."



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Moderator Sir, in his address, spoke about how our diocese was in Distress and now how everything has changed.

He said that even Christ is with us when we were in distress he said that sometimes we do not know under what situation we are moving. When we are in trouble God is with us. God has called us to be together. When we are together we can do wonder; we can build community; we can receive peace.

He emphasized that we can do many things if we are together. Together we can worship , Together we can walk , Together we can have leadership , Together we can have a Mission , Together we can serve , Together we can Witness, Together we can suffer, Together we can serve, Together we can encourage each other.

Good leaders are good listeners; they understand the problem; they are ready to correct themselves and they are able to understand the perspective of people,

if we think together then we can build our society, we can build our community , we can build our Family , we can build our Church , we can build our institutions.

Moderator Sir said in the name of Jesus when we walk together then Jesus is together with us. When we walk together then Hope will become a blessing. When we walk together then we will have success.

With these words he concluded the Session

*Coming together is beginning
Staying together is progress
Starting working together is success.*

On the 18th of June we went for sight seeing as we went to the Araku Hills and visited the following places : the Borra Caves, the tribal Museum the Chompi village and the Tyda Jungle resort.

By and large it was a wonderful outing for all of us and we enjoyed and were rejuvenated ourselves.





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
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OBITUARY



*Rt. Rev. Nedi Max Bagh
August 24, 1931 to May 21, 2019*

Bishop Bagh began his ministry as a lay person involved in promotional work in literature and stewardship and continued for 19 years. He was ordained as a Minister in 1974 and served in St. Augustine Church, Bilaspur and St. Paul's Church Gamapur altogether for 10 years. He was consecrated in 1984 in Kolkata and served as the Bishop of Patna till his retirement in 1996. After retirement he took up teaching ministry in Leonard Theological College for 9 years, until 2007. We thank God for his life and witness.



*Rt. Rev. Sunil Cak
1939 - 2019
Mrs. Shama Elizabeth Cak*

Rt. Rev. Sunil Cak began his ministry life in the year 1976. He was ordained as a Deacon then as Presbyter. He served as Presbyter in charge at Tilda Chhattisgarh then Bilaspur, Raipur. He was posted in 1984 Jabalpur St. Paul's Church in 1984 and in Disciples Church in 1988. On 23rd July 1995 he was consecrated as Bishop at St. James Church CNI Delhi by the Moderator Anand Chandulal. On 30th July 1995 he was installed as the 3rd Bishop of CNI Diocese Jabalpur. He served as Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese till 1st of May 2004. His ministry life was very struggling challenging and focused. He practiced what he preached in his daily life. Being a Bishop he was down to earth. He was kind, helpful and simple man. Above all being a Husband, father and son he fulfilled all his responsibilities towards his family during his Ministry.

Mrs. Shama Elizabeth Cak

Mrs. Shama Elizabeth Cak was born in Jabalpur. She was married to Mr. Sunil Cak on 9th May 1969 at City Methodist Church Jabalpur. They had three children Naveen, Komal and Ashish. She was God fearing woman she walked with her husband shoulder to shoulder, fighting with all difficulties she always encouraged husband and children. She did her D. ed course from Navyug college and started teaching in Smith School Chamapur Jabalpur. She also served in Tilda Mission Hospital Chhattisgarh. Being the Bishop's wife the First Lady of Jabalpur Diocese she was the Director of Vikas Asha Kendra and also the manager of Katni School. Mrs. S. E. Cak being the president of WFCs had nice coordination with all the women in the Diocese.

