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2020

Half Yearly News Letter

Diocese Of Jabalpur

Church Of North India

Jabalpur



Pursuing Unity





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**

For Private Circulation Only

News Letter



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If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. -

African proverb

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Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India
2722 Napier Town, Jabalpur, M.P. 482001



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

Dear readers of the News Letter,

Greetings from the Editorial Team Rev B Thangadurai, Malcolm, Nikhil and me! This is the first issue of 2020. 2020 sounds like we are in a cricket match! Allegorically it is true. Let us bowl and bat with our utmost ability. Win or lose is not the issue. Faithful game is what matters in life. As you will notice, this issue of the News Letter is a double volume covering six months. Due to lockdown we could not print and post the January to March issue and hence this double volume.

At 5.15 p.m. on 15th July 2020, according to WHO, there were 13,150,645 COVID-19 affected people in the world which include 574464 deaths. In our own country, as we watch the media updates, we see that the pandemic in great speed is grasping us like the vicious octopus. What is intriguing is that Corona virus is believed to be humanly created as a biological weapon. God forbid! Let this not be true!

We are happy to note that our diocese now has a 10-year Strategic Plan to revitalize all areas of diocesan life. The Strategic Pillars are Strengthened Governance, Effective Training as well as Development, Increased Witness, and Expanded Service. It is expected that, through the implementation of this SP, our diocese will become more organized and systematic as well as empowered for effective witness in the community. We rejoice with St. Stephen Church in Amarpatan for the dedication of the new Church. It stands as a monument of the dedication and hard work of members of the congregation and well wishers from outside.

A major event during this period was the Thanksgiving service of the Golden Jubilee Celebration which was held on 22nd February in Christ Church, Pachmari. The programme was sponsored by our diocese. In the well organized and beautiful worship service during the celebration our beloved Bishop delivered a challenging message based on the parable of Talents. We will get blessings when we use our talents diligently and give our resources to others also. Pachmari is a "holy place" in the history of the formation of our diocese and CNI as a whole.



Rev Dr. Ipe Joseph
Editor

In addition to our Bishop's message we have covered all the major events of the of these six months such as St. Stephen Church dedication, "All We Can" meeting on 26th February, Thanksgiving Service on 22nd February in Pachmari, Chain Prayer held on 26th February. Two lent and reflections, a short history of Pachmahari, a poem from Ms A Wilson a Report from CWM meeting in Calcutta. A write up of the founders day at Christ Church Girls' Sr. sec. School Viay Nagar and an article from Ipe on "COVID-19 and Virtual Church" are also included.

Out theme for this issue is "Pursuing Unity". Church of North India is a United and Uniting Church and our emblem indicates Unity in Witness and Service. Our pursuit for unity has not ended. We will continue to be an open Church until we fulfill our Lord's prayer for unity. We need to practice unity in local level so that we will become one sheep and one shepherd. Attitude of unity should be in every heart before it is applied in organizations and communities. So, what is urgently required is training of hearts from childhood.

Because of lockdown since March we decided to close down all public worship services and activities. Our churches were stream lining worship serving using modern media techniques and we were participating in them from our "home chapels". Our Bishop made it a point to stream on line messages of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter and we were all blessed by them. Now that the government has relaxed rules we are able to open our churches and worship with limited participants.

Without losing hope let us struggle forward till this storm is over, never forgetting that the Lord who can calm the storm is with us in the boat.

May God bless you all.



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

Dear readers of the News Letter,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! The first half of the year is over . We are thankful to God for taking care of us and keeping us under the umbrella of grace.

During this period there were many significant events in our life together. We observed the Unity Octave from 18-25 January and NCCI Sunday on 19th. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (Acts 28:2). The churches in Malta prepared the theme. On 26th January our nation celebrated another Republic Day. Let us continue to affirm our love for our country and the sanctity of our constitution which provides for all citizens equality, liberty and justice. February 4th was World Cancer Day. Our country is heavily affected by this disease . It is encouraging to note that the medical services of all churches in our country have joined hands with the government and NGOs in coping with care of cancer patients. 22nd March was World Water Day. Potable water is in scarcity all over the world. It is our Christian duty to preserve water and avoid overuse, misuse and pollution of water. From April 5th to 12th we observed Holy Week. On May Day we remembered all the workers in the world who make our life possible as well as comfortable. May 10th was Mother's day. We refreshed our fond memories of our mothers who tendered our childhood and youth. June 5th was Environment Day when we reminded ourselves of our creator's command, "You dress it (the environment) and keep it". June 7th was Trinity Sunday when we affirmed our faith in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I am glad to inform you that Rev. Dennis Lall has been appointed as the New General Secretary of CNI Synod from 3rd July 2020. He has been serving as the Presbyter of St.Martin's Church ,Diocese of Delhi. Earlier he served as Officiating Director of CNI Programmes. He had his theological education in UBS, Pune. We welcome him and family to this new assignment and offer our support and prayer.

On the 2nd of January 2020, I had the privilege of dedicating St Stephen Church, in Amarpatan. We thank God and congratulate the congregation in Amarpatan. We are grateful to Rev. Ajay James who made a large contribution for building this church. The thanksgiving service of the golden Jubilee celebration of CNI which was hosted by Christ Church, Pachmari on 22nd February was a historic event . Whole diocesan family was present. All of us know the role played by Pachmari Church in the unity discussions and the formation of CNI as well as our diocese.



Most Rev. Dr. P C Singh
Moderator CNI and Bishop Diocese Of Jabalpur

The meeting held on 26th February at the VAK Conference Hall under the auspices of All We Can(AWC) was very fruitful. The first phase of the project has been completed. We have made a 10-year Strategic Plan for making our diocesan ministry more effective in all areas. We are grateful to AWC partners and to Mrs. Nivedita Abraham for coordinating all the efforts.

"Pursuing Unity" is the theme for this issue. When we speak of unity, we always go back to the High Priestly prayer of our Lord, "That they all may be one". Now we live in a much divided world. I remember Nelson Mandela's words, "I dream of the realization of unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent". This is the need of our country also now. We entered into a period of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 26th February. We reflected on the key words that define Lent namely, repentance, reconciliation and replenishing of our spiritual life. Then in March came the severe attack of COVID-19 and national lockdown. All services of the Holy Week had to be done only through stream lining. I gave messages of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter on line. In support of government order our churches were closed for three months. We converted our home as chapel and worshipped God. The number of CORONA patients in our country is about to cross 10 lakhs on July 15th and the deaths about 24,000. It is expected that the infection will go to heavy community spread and whole world may go to a severe crisis . Let us continue to pray for God's mercy toward this pandemic. Once again, let us thank the front liners in health services for their sacrificial service.

Let us not lose hope. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil , for you are with me". Let us cry aloud and with tears, "Lord have mercy on us and heal us".

The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh
Moderator CNI Synod & Bishop Diocese Of Jabalpur



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COVID -19 AND THE VIRTUAL CHURCH



Rev. Dr. Ipe Joseph

COVID-19 has affected the total life of world community. The virus wiped off all national barriers, damaged the economy of all countries and restricted movements of people. As a result, almost all countries have declared lockdown for all human activities to stop spread of the virus. Yet, the virus is continuing its carnage. While this article is written in the middle of July 2020 the number of people globally affected is nearing 1.4 crores and the deaths 6 lakhs.

Spiritual life of people is a major area affected by COVID-19. During the lockdown period we have been participating in worship and Holy Communion services streamlined from our churches. Our Bishop and Moderator of CNI Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh delivered all his Holy Week sermons with the help of stream lining media. Now it is time to think about the efficacy and advantages of these virtual experiences. Also, it will be good to examine whether or not the virtual Church is a viable way to gratify our spiritual needs when we are in a situation like the present one, unable to meet as a community.

The virtual Church requires revision of our understanding about spirituality. As we do not meet the participants physically, we need to recognize the value of images in equal dignity with the physical form. In virtuality we are applying our senses of sight and hearing but we are bereft of the sense of touch. So we are required to perceive reality without the sense of touch. Our mind has to provide this extra hormone to our experience to make it complete.

How can we use virtual technology in our parish ministry? Several creative and practical proposals can be made here. Everyday, in the morning or in the evening at stipulated time the Presbyter can give a 10 minute message focusing on the Word of God and relating to life situations. This message can be received in a link by parishioners, may be while they are already engaged in their life activities. In many cities regular house visit is not possible at all because of COVID-19. If the Presbyter can make regular video calls from his/her mobile the parishioners will be kept alive in the fellowship. It may not be a substitute for house visit; it will be an effective alternative.

Virtual techniques have undergone fast development in recent years. The simplest form of virtual techniques is our telephone call. We are tempted to think that the voice of our friend we receive in our telephone is the original voice which emanates from his/her mouth. It is not so. The voice is converted to electrical pulses and transmitted through communication towers and reconverted to sound energy in the receiver's telephone. Then, came television and tele-evangelism along with it. Now the internet has come in its multiform enabling us to have video phone, webcasting, streamlining and zooming. As we know, many forms of social media like e-mail, face book, you tube, twitter emerged with the help of internet.

Our generation is addict to watching news, movies and serials. We have no roles to play in watching these shows other than engaging our eyes, ears and mind into them. In the case of virtual Church, instead of watching we fully participate in them. There is an ocean of difference between simply watching and fully participating. We are not watching them but we are participating them.

One major limitation of a stream lined worship service is that those who participate virtually is unable to receive holy communion. There are other limitations also like participation in the Birthday and Wedding Anniversary thanksgiving services as well as receiving peace. Our Church has been always innovative in resolving limitations. Making use of the virtual techniques itself is one example.

Think of this option. Let us have a family altar in our home. It needs to be only a small table or even tea poi in front of which we can sit for worship in chairs or mats. Now we are used to fully participate in the virtual service by singing along, giving prompt responses loudly, making sign of cross sitting and standing as in our regular service. At the time of birthday and thanksgiving service we can kneel down in front of our family altar when the celebrant is offering prayers for us. We can put our offertory in a plate on our family altar. We can do in a similar way in giving regular offertory. While passing the peace we can do it among our family members.

Now, about receiving Holy Communion. We can set up a small bread made in our home and a



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small cup of grape juice (Wine) on our family table. At the time of epiclesis (words of consecration) let us pay extra concentration. The celebrant at the stream lining end will consecrate the bread and the wine (Epiclesis). Our faith is strong enough to believe that, at the same time, the elements on our family table will be consecrated as the elements on the celebrant's altar. Does this sound like heresy? Our immediate reaction will be about the possibility of our Church imitating the non-Episcopal churches who break bread at homes. No need to be confused. Our celebrant is still an ordained person at the stream lining end. Can our theology accommodate the ritual of members of the family sharing bread and wine among themselves at home?

Out of necessity the lockdown period has rather forced churches to use virtual techniques to keep the community together in fellowship. Message groups, Whats App, live streaming, Face book, e-mails, conference calls, video conferences and webinars have become handy for all communities. Even after we come out of the COVID crisis and lockdown these gifts of technology will continue to be our handmaids in the ministry of the Church. Of the recently available techniques the most useful ones will be message groups, video conferences and webinars. In the latter two the participants are visible and audible to each other and so the business as well as transactions will be easy. The greatest advantage is that video conference and webinars will reduce the huge expenses of travel of bringing participants from far and wide, accommodating them and providing hospitality.

The virtual world demands changes in our attitudes towards the various aspects of the life of our Church. Like good habits we have to cultivate them, internalize them and constantly practice them. We need to accept the authenticity of virtual experiences. This requires a revised definition of the Church. The Church is always understood as a community of "called out" people. Koinonia (Fellowship) has a visible form: a community physically coming together, worshipping together, sharing Holy Communion together and enjoying the fellowship. The emergence of the world wide web known as the internet, brought about the formation of virtual

communities. The revised definition of Church will require inclusion of not only physical communities but also virtual communities in the definition of Koinonia.

The virtual is the extension of the real. Only those who have already experienced the richness of worship service in physical Koinonia can make sense out of virtual Koinonia. The real will be always the foundation of the virtual. As mentioned earlier our task is to learn to fully participate in the virtual experiences rather than watching them as non-participant observers. The greatest challenge is to find ways and means to "reform" our Church in this virtually saturated world without losing the kernel of our faith.



The church does not close,
only the building. Because we
are the church, the living
body of our Lord Jesus
and we are everywhere.





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Keeping up the spiritual fervor

Romans 12:9-21
Revelation 3:14-22



Rev. Subha Venkataram

We are called to a life of FERVOUR. The word St. Paul uses to describe "spiritual fervor," literally means "to bring to a boil." The example of a young David fighting a champion for the sake of His God and His people, the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the three young Jews on the edge of a fiery furnace, and the passion and commitment of St. Paul are but a few examples of FERVOUR we have in the Bible.

Spiritual fervour is a must for living for Christ and His service. God is pleased only with those whose life is filled and driven by the Spirit. That's why St. Paul said: "Never be lacking in zeal" (Romans 12:11)

Keeping our spiritual fervour is about confidence in the gospel, it is about the fire, passion and excitement that comes from understanding that the gospel works for me and for the world. It is also about conviction. We cannot convince others of what we believe unless we ourselves are strong in our convictions. The Bible says, we should maintain a spiritual passion no matter how long we have been in the service of the Lord. John Wesley the famous preacher and theologian was once asked how he attracted huge crowds. He replied: "I set myself on fire, and people come to see me burn."

When St. Paul raises the issue of spiritual zeal in serving the Lord he exhorts us not to be lazy or inactive. Instead, we have to keep up our spiritual passion. He uses the word 'service' which relates to a bond or an issue of bondage...like that of a servant... someone who could not pay a debt and therefore served the person to whom he owed the debt, until it was repaid. This usage has a lot of similarity to our Christian faith and service. We were sinners and become 'slaves' to righteousness, servants of the Lord. We know that the debt we owed God was far more than what we could ever pay.

We serve the Lord because we know we were made by God for His glory. We are connected to, intertwined with and cast upon God, as His ambassadors and bonded servants. This bond generates our spiritual fervour and zeal.

The question is, how do we keep this spiritual fervour burning?

First of all, it is through the Holy Spirit that we receive fervour (heat, passion) to serve the Lord. This fervor and zeal do not come from our circumstances or understanding. It comes from the Master we are serving. It is the Holy Spirit working through us that causes us to overflow, to boil with passion to serve the Lord.

Secondly, our focus needs to be on the Lord and how to serve Him. If we focus on other things we lose our

zeal and passion to serve God. Sometimes we get lost in the muddle of serving people and nurturing our values rather than serving Christ and Him only.

Serving Christ might cost us our reputation and comfort. It can also cost us somethings we greatly value. Sometimes when serving the Lord we don't know or can't articulate where we are, what we're doing or why we're doing it; but we enjoy peace in the knowledge that we are in the right place, that God is sovereign and in control and knows what He is doing with us. Serving God sometimes requires us not to understand but to stand where God has put us.

The life of continual transformation, as St. Paul described in Romans 12, is a life where we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice (12:1), where we are transformed by the renewal of our mind (12:2), where we use our spiritual gifts (12:3-8), where we love without hypocrisy (12:9), and where we are fervent in spirit (12:11). In the last appeal, we are not told to do something, or to not do something. We are told to "feel" passionate and ardent about our faith. In other words, to keep ourselves passionate in the service of the Lord, we need to keep our hearts alive by turning to God.

We need to guard our hearts. Let us ask ourselves what our focus is on. Let's turn our focus on living for and serving the Lord. Look around today and see where you can serve Him right now. Ask the Holy Spirit now for what you cannot do by yourself.

God does not work with a shallow spirituality. The Bible teaches that when it comes to our zeal in loving and serving God, we should turn up the heat. We find Jesus speaking against the lukewarm state of the Church at Laodicea, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other" (Revelation 3:15). What better opportunity than the lockdown period for us to bring ourselves before God and ask Him to kindle that fire, that passion, that zeal and that fervour in us.

1. Do I still have the same love for my Lord or have I missed it somewhere?
2. Do I have the same zeal in serving the Lord?
3. What decisions and steps am I to take in achieving a growing fervour in the service of the Messiah?

Let us guard our heart from all that brings complacency and coldness to our spiritual life and service to the Lord.

Prayer

Loving heavenly Father, we are grateful to You for inspiring us to be excited about Your life and service. Increase in us the desire and passion to serve You and keep us from drifting away into complacency. We will follow and serve You with fervour. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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HEALING OF BODY AND SOUL



Nikhil Singh

I have taken Luke 4.38-39 as the text. " He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them."

Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law from a fever. It gave the disciples an opportunity to ask the Lord for healing her. Luke says "they appealed to him on her behalf." That is what we call intercession. Jesus heard their prayer and healed her. Luke says Jesus stood over the woman and rebuked the fever. Matthew adds that he touched her hand and she was immediately made well. She was so well that she got up right away and began to serve the group. Sounds like she felt so much good that she started to cook a big supper! The Christian church should be appealing to God for all those who suffer. It was the disciples who spoke to Jesus about the sickness of Peter's mother-in-law. It will be a blessing for all of us if we can spend time in intercession, that is bringing the needs of others before the Lord.

Sickness is something we all experience whether it be the common cold or the latest Corona virus. Some of us might have faced sickness that disable us for a while and some others might be victims of terminal diseases like cancer. Some people say that sickness is good, something that causes life to refine itself. In any case sickness is a crisis in our life.

Jesus always had compassion on sick people. Hundreds of people who were sick, blind, deaf, unable to speak, and unable to walk were brought to Jesus. He healed them all. This shows us that he cares about people who are sick. Jesus had not only compassion but also empathy for those who were sick and suffering. That is, he felt in himself the pain of those who suffered. Thus, we see Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus. We have to ask ourselves whether we have a compassionate heart.

When someone is sick, it does not mean that it is because of the sins committed by that person. In many cases we see that sickness is for the glorification of God. In many other cases sickness is brought about by human beings. Our rebellion against God has changed the world. Sin, that is, disobedience to God, has broken the world. Not only does sin destroy our relationship to God and other people, but also causes wars and bloodshed. Now, all over the world there is bloodshed due to religious fanaticism and terrorism. We have polluted and misused our beautiful earth. Some evil minds are able to create viruses which can destroy life. People say that Corona is such a virus.

Jesus might have healed hundreds people. But we don't read anywhere in Scripture that these people didn't succumb to some other ailment or injury and eventually die.

So the miracles of healing were temporary. That is the way it is for us. Sometimes, we pray for someone and God makes them well. Christian physicians can attest to the fact that there are some healings today that they can't explain. But all of them die at the end. Other times, we pray for some people, but their illness is not healed, and they eventually die. We need to understand it as God's will for persons. Jesus healed people for one reason, so they would know he had the power and authority to forgive sins. Only God can forgive sins and open the door to eternal life. Jesus not only healed people's bodies, but he cast out demons. That shows the connection between the healing of the body and the soul. Now if you are sick it does not mean that a demon is inhabiting your body. There may be convincing psychiatric explanation for such sickness. Yet it is a fact that there is evil in the world. It can affect our body and soul at any time.

The forgiveness of sins that Jesus brought through his suffering, death, and resurrection brings a permanent healing to our body and soul. We may become ill, and that illness may cause our death. When we believe that Jesus died for our sins, the Holy Spirit will grant the forgiveness Jesus made on the cross to us personally. Our soul is cleansed, and at death our soul will be with the Lord. When he comes again to earth sometime in the future, he will raise up our body from its grave and perfect it, removing all sickness, disease, and deformity. He will heal our body permanently, just as the heavenly Father raised up Jesus in a glorified body. Therefore, we can say that Jesus brings us all healing of body and soul.

As faithful followers of Jesus Christ we are continuing his healing ministry. Before the Christian era, there were no places for sick people to go and receive treatment. Christians invented hospitals. There was no care for those who were dying. You just went off somewhere and died. Christians invented hospice care. There was no hope for children with no parents. Christians invented orphanages and foster care. They took orphans into their homes and raised them as their own children. What kind of disaster relief do you think there was in the first century for earthquakes? None. Christians have so influenced society that we now have international aid for disaster management. We forget how much the love of Jesus has affected the world.

I hope that during this dreadful period of time the Lord will heal our bodies and souls. This world is a violent place now. Hurting and killing are everywhere. This world needs a lot of healing. We are challenged to be agents of this healing process. When we feed the poor, encourage the cheerless, help the family with a sick person by bringing a meal to them we are becoming agents of this change. These are ways that we celebrate the healing of our bodies and souls. We look forward to the resurrection of our bodies. Until then, we will be agents of healing of our earthly bodies and our souls in earthen vessels.



Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India

**Second Doctorate Degree
Awarded To
Our Moderator
The Most Rev Dr. P C Singh**



The Henry Martyn Institute which is an international centre for research, interfaith relations and reconciliations confirmed upon The Most Rev Dr P C Singh The Degree of Doctor Of Divinity for his contribution to the ecumenical field on the 18th of March 2020 at Hyderabad.



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



**Priest (Presbyter) in Charge at
St.Martin's Church, Diocese of Delhi, ...**

**Former Officiating Director
Programmes at Church Of North India**

Former Priest at Church of North India

Studied at Union Biblical Seminary

Rev Shailesh Dennis Lall is appointed as the New General Secretary of Church Of North India Synod w.e.f 2nd July 2020.

Rev Shailesh Dennis Lall is Married to Rev Mrs Shirley Dennis Lall and they have a son Nathan . S.Lall and a daughter SharonP. Lall.

Rev Shailesh Dennis Lall has done his BSc and B.D & M.Th . He is the member of the Diocese of Delhi. He is the Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese Of Delhi and a Presbyter in Charge of St. Martin's Church Delhi Cantonment. He is also the Chaplain of St. Martins Diocesan School Delhi Cantt.



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Founder's Day Commemoration Thanksgiving Service and Inauguration of Christ Church Girls' Sr.Sec. School Vijay Nagar Jabalpur



The Christ Church Schools owe their name to the Christ Church Cathedral, where they made their humble beginning in the vestry of the Church on 1st June 1870.

The Christ Church School was one at that time and was founded by the Chaplain, the Rev. W.B. Drawbridge and the associate founder Mr. G.P. Thomas. In the late 1800's however, a separate school for girls came into existence, which functioned under the same management. It is from here that the Christ Church Girls' School began its journey to cater to the educational needs of girls in and around the city of Jabalpur. Over the years the school has grown in strength and in fame and is today ranked as the top most school for girls in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Owing to the overgrowing pressure of admission in the Girls School, our visionary Bishop The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh took a historical decision to open a branch of Christ Church Girls' School in the city of Jabalpur. On 3rd April 2019, the ground breaking and laying of the foundation stone of the new branch at Vijay Nagar was done by its Founder and Chairman The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh to commemorate with the 175 years celebration of the Christ Church Cathedral and the 150 years of existence of the Christ Church Schools in the Jabalpur M.P. This is the 6th School to be founded by our foresighted Bishop and Chairman within the Diocese of Jabalpur from the time he took office in 2004. The School was to commence as a separate Unit from the 3rd of April 2020 under the Board of Education, Church Of North India, Jabalpur Diocese with The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh as its Founder Chairman, Mrs. Nora Singh as its Founder Manager and Mrs. Preeti Thangadurai as its Founder Principal. The date commemorates the foundation day of Christ Church Cathedral and will be celebrated as the founders day of the school henceforth.

The School would be affiliated to the CBSE in the years to come. In other words, the school aims at the wholesome development of the child's personality based on Christian Principles and Values, besides building an excellent foundation in academics and extramural attainments.

The School believes in simplicity and spiritualism which are embedded deeply in the Indian Culture and at the same time it also caters to the competitive spirit of modern society. The School is of the opinion that morality is the foundation of a purposeful life and so strives to instill moral values in children that will help them grow up to be sensitive to the needs of others, respect for the environment, develop aesthetic sense, confidence in themselves and a balanced personality. Engaging all students in partnership with family and community to become informed, compassionate, global citizens.

On the 10th of July 2020 this school was Inaugurated by the Moderator CNI, Synod, Bishop and Chairman The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh in a very small gathering with the head of the Institutions and Presbyters of the Diocese of Jabalpur. Mrs. Jasmine Gee was appointed as the Officiating Principal of this new branch of Christ Church Girls' School Vijay Nagar.





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Rev Dayal Singh Parihar.

St. Stephen Church, CNI, Amarpatan

Amarpatan is a town and a nagar panchayat in Satna District in the State of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated approx 23kms from Satna. This is one of the first church in the Diocese of Jabalpur which is built by the contribution of the presbyters and people of the Diocese. It is also one of the church in the Diocese of Jabalpur which is having congregation who are all new believers. So it is one of the unique church in the Diocese.

On the 2nd of January 2020, we had the privilege of inaugurating St Stephen Church, CNI Amarpatan by our Moderator Most Rev Dr P. C Singh along with all the Presbyters and all the Heads of the Institutions of the Diocese of Jabalpur. A beautiful worship service was arranged and we gave thanks to God for helping us in completing this church. A big contribution for building this church came from Rev Ajay James who contributed approx 3 Lakhs from his personal side and he was also instrumental in collecting lots of donation in cash and kind from the congregation of St. Pauls Church, Ghamapur. Rev Thomas Kujur Presbyter in charge of Ss. Philip and James Church Katni along with the parishioners donated chairs and fans for the church. Pastor Rajneesh Daniel along with his family donated a hand made altar for the church. Rev Dayal Singh Parihar in his vote of thanks specially thanked the Moderator The Most Rev Dr P. C. Singh for the financial, spiritual help and Mrs Nora Singh who donated some musical instruments and carpet for the church. He also thanked all the Head of the institutions specially the former Principal Rev Nelson and the present Principal Mr A Abraham of Bardsley English Medium school Katni for all their contributions made during the completion of the church. The candle stand of the church was donated by Mr Vivek Masih. The Altar Cross was donated by Mr Rubin James. Curtains by Rev Ajay James and family. Chairs was donated by Mr Austin Rubin. The Podium was donated by Ms Usha Bahadur from Amarpatan Church.

The Church is under the care of the Presbyter in Charge Rev Dayal Singh Parihar.





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

GOLDEN JUBILEE THANKSGIVING SERVICE: CHRIST CHURCH PACHMARI

Pachmari is one of the places which played a prominent role in the formation of the Church of North India because many important union negotiations took place here. On 22nd February 2020 a special thanksgiving service was held in Christ Church to mark the Golden Jubilee of CNI. When CNI was formed a memorial plaque was erected at All Saints Church, Nagpur. On this occasion of the celebration of Golden Jubilee, a similar plaque was erected and dedicated in Christ Church by Most Rev. Dr.P.C. Singh, Moderator of CNI. on 22nd February.

In the thanksgiving service, along with the Moderator and Mrs. Nora Singh all heads of Institutions, all presbyters of the diocese and about 50 representatives from various churches of the diocese participated. Rev. Rakesh Parvey, the Presbyter in charge of Christ Church, Pachmari welcomed all the guests. Rev.R.P.Titus, Presbyter in charge of St. Mark Church, Chinndwara was instrumental in arranging Breakfast and lunch for all participants.

The lessons were read by Mr. Piyush Paul Singh, President of Synodical Youth Fellowship and Mr. Alick Dayadan, Secretary of Christ Church Pachmari. The Moderator gave a challenging message based on the story of the talents. We need to creatively use our talents and when we give more we will get more. He declared that every year on 19th March thanksgiving service will be held in this significant place which played a pivotal role in the formation of CNI.

I was given the responsibility of taking the participants through the memory lanes of the formation of CNI and role Pachmari has played. I fulfilled this task with the help of a power point presentation. A brief hand-out of the history of Christ Church, Pachmari also was given to all participants. Felicitations were offered by Mrs. Nora Singh, first lady of the diocese and Rev. Ajay James Vice President of the diocese. Rev. Bruce Thangadurai, the diocesan Secretary offered a vote of thanks. The meeting came to an end by prayer offered by Rev. Lalit Solomon and benediction by the Moderator. It was a wonderful learning experience and an opportunity to know more about the history of Christ Church, Pachmari





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A SHORT STORY OF CHRIST CHURCH PACHMARHI



Mr. Suresh C Jacob

In 1862 Captain J. Forsyth the author of "The Highlands of Central India" was sent by Sir Richard Temple the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to explore the forests of the Satpura range. He may be called the discoverer of Pachmarhi, because though it was known before to one or two Englishmen, he was the first to see its possibilities as a European Station. In 1869 it was decided to develop the place with a view to its use as Sanitarium. Curiously enough much of this work was done by convicts under the orders of Dr. P. Cullen, Civil Surgeon, who was afterwards ordained and was honorary Chaplain of Pachmarhi from February 1905 to March 1906.

The plateau was first used as a Sanitarium for British troops and as a Civil Station in 1871. It was visited by the Chaplains of Jubbulpore and Saugor, and Services were held in a barrack building. In 1878 Bishop Johnson, of Calcutta visited the place and strongly urged that steps should be taken to build a Church. The first meeting with this object was held on 16th June 1879. Mr. H. Irwin, the Executive Engineer, prepared plans for a Church to hold 150 people. The estimate amounting to Rs.12,000/- was approved and an appeal for subscription issued.

On the 27th October 1880 Mr. J. H. Morris, Commissioner (afterwards Sir John Morris, Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces) laid the foundation stone. The Church was so far finished as to be ready for use in 1882, and was consecrated on 4th November 1882 by Bishop Edward Johnson, Bishop of Calcutta and 4th Metropolitan of India. It then consisted only of a chancel and nave, and was so built that transepts, vestry and tower could be added later. The Church is of stone, rough outside and faced inside. The Sanctuary is apsidal and vaulted.

The stone is local except for the marble pillars in the sanctuary and chancel, which were substituted for stone in 1893. It is one of the most beautiful of the smaller churches in India. The original cost was Rs.12,631/- towards which Government contributed Rs.7,100/-. The rest was raised by subscriptions and grants from Church Societies. The Calcutta Church Building Fund gave Rs.1,990/-.

The ten windows in the sanctuary which represent Apostles are by Clayton and Bell. Of these, one was given by Mr. Crosthwaite, one by Mr. Fraser (afterwards Sir Andrew Fraser, Lt. Governor of Bengal), one by Mr. Philips, one by Col. Hilton, one by Col. Mayne and two by Mr. Irwin in memory of his father, Archdeacon Irwin.

In 1885 the beautiful font designed by Mr. Irwin was erected and paid for from Church Funds. In the same year Sir John Morris gave the west window, and the window on the north side of the nave was erected by subscription in memory of Richard Jackson M. D., who was stung to death by bees.

The Vestry appears to have added about in 1888, at a cost of Rs.1,500/-. The Angels' heads above the windows in the Sanctuary were carved in 1890.

The History of Christ Church, Pachmarhi may be divided into three periods. During the first period, 1882 to '92, practically everything was done by laymen. The Chaplain's visit were monthly, and all the rest of the time the Services were read, subscriptions collected, and improvements carried out by the lay members of the Church Committee. At this period the Reverend M. Lambert, Chaplain of Jubbulpore, who visited Pachmarhi from 1882 to 1887 writes, "I remember no outstation of mine during all my years of work in India where the interest to which I have referred has been so regularly sustained as at Pachmarhi. Every member of the Church Committee (and there have been many members owing to the migratory condition of Pachmarhi society) has, to my great happiness, worked with me most kindly in regulating and caring for the worship of Almighty God in this place."

The second period dates from 1893, when the Reverend T. E. F. Cole started the Pachmarhi and Nerbudda Valley Chaplaincy Fund. The object of this Fund was to supply a Clergyman whose headquarters were to be at Pachmarhi and who was to visit all European stations in the Hoshangabad District. The scheme fell through eventually, leaving Pachmarhi Vicarage as a permanent result. After that, the energies of the people of the Central Provinces were diverted to the endowment of the Nagpur Bishopric. And so it came to pass that from 1893 to 1904 nothing was done towards the completion of the Church.

The process of the formation of the Diocese of Nagpur was initiated in 1902 and the first Bishop Eyre Chatterton was consecrated in 1903. The new Bishop visited Pachmarhi in July 1903 and urged on the people the duty of completing their beautiful Church. In 1904 the work was again taken in hand. Subscriptions were invited for building the South Transept. This was done in 1909 at a cost of Rs.3,000/- and the Transept was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese on St. John the Baptist's Day 24th June of that year.

To complete the whole Church according to the original design it was necessary to build a Tower, a North Transept and a Porch. The estimate cost of the Tower was Rs.6,000/- of which about half had been already raised. The whole design of the gifted Architect was completed.

The window in the north wall of the chancel was erected by friends to the memory of Miss Elizabeth Branch who, after thirty years of devoted mission work in the Jubbulpore District, retired to Pachmarhi where she died in 1912.



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The window, which is by Hallward, was unveiled by Sir, B. Robertson, Chief Commissioner of these Provinces on May 3rd 1914. On this occasion the Chief Commissioner spoke of the nobility of Miss Branch's work on behalf of the sufferers in the great Famines of 1896-97 and 1899-1900, for which she had received the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal.

* Erected in 1923. A.W.

ADDENDUM (ADDITION)

This account of Christ Church Pachmarhi was compiled by the Venerable C. Price Archdeacon of Nagpur, who left India in 1918. Since the above was written the Tower has been completed at a cost of over Rs.9,000/- It was consecrated by Bishop Chatterton on June 10th 1923. The next section is the North Transept the cost of which is estimated at Rs.4,000/-. Of this sum over Rs.1,000/- is in hand; so that it ought to be possible to build the Transept in two or three year's time.

1.6.1928

A. P. G. WARDELL,
Chaplain

N.B. : Rev. A. P. G. Wardell was also the chaplain of Christ Church Jubbulpore from 1919-1923 and 1924-1927. Later on he became cannon.





Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India

Chain Prayer At Disciples Church





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

All We Can Partnership Programme Phase II PACHMARHI



Mrs. Nivedita Abraham

The Jabalpur Diocese of Church of North India, got into partnership agreement with All We Can, UK and the Methodist Church of Great Britain to get help in the strategic planning of the Diocese for the years to come. The first phase of the Partnership started with the Organizational assessments and strategies to overcome the shortcomings and also to identify the areas that needs priority for the Jabalpur Diocese to become as effective as it can.

The first phase started in 2019 and by the end of February, 2020, the strategic plan of the Diocese was ready. It took a series of workshops and meetings and internal reflections and analysis to come up with the Strategic Plan of the Diocese. It was a participatory and a democratic process where different stakeholders came together to analyze and reflect upon the situations and find out ways to improvised their functioning. Mr. Maurice Adams, CEO of All we Can facilitated the processes along with Prof. Nivedita Abraham from XIDAS who is also the OD Consultant, for All We Can UK.

The process was mainly facilitated by the group of extremely committed members, Rev. Ajay James Vice President Of The Diocese, Rev. Bruce Thangdurai Secretary of the Diocese, Mrs. L M Sathe Principal Christ Church Boys School, Mrs. Preeti Thandurai Principal Christ Church Girls School constituted the Steering Committee. (Please write the designation of the everyone here) This committee, as the name suggests lead the process of strategic planning to details and come up with various short range and long range planning of the Diocese.

At the beginning of the next phase, Mr. Tim Raby from Church CAN, Great Britain visited the Jabalpur Diocese in the month of February 2020 to partake in the Strategic Plan of the Diocese which is made with the help and partnership of All We Can along with the Jabalpur Diocese. The key priority areas of the programme was identified and the action plan to execute it was made. This was done in a workshop attended by the key stakeholders, about 55 people attended this workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to present the findings of the one year internal process and share and agree with the outcomes of the strategic plan so that the plan is ultimately owned by the people themselves.

This second phase of the programme is for five years and the micro planning is being done for coming three years where priority areas has already been identified. Much thrust is being given to training and development of people of different stakeholders. Leadership development is emphasized upon and governance is the main driving force for this phase. Training needs will be identified among all the stakeholder groups and training opportunities will be identified and the developing the capacity of people in various fields will be priority in the initial few years.

This will help the Diocese to be equipped with good human resources to reach out for the better and do better wherever they are. In this priority area, the employability of the youth of the churches will also be focused upon. Women are given special weightage as they need more representation in the Church.

The Second Priority area is the Governance. This will help the various functioning of the Diocese by helping people understand their roles and responsibilities and develop clarity for their roles. this will also help in the succession planning and delegation of authority and responsibility. A clear cut Human resource Policy will help in putting the right people for the right job.

Due to the current pandemic, health issues have also been focused upon. Proper Health Camps will help in becoming affective in the community and will help in reaching out to the people in a better way. The Programme also plans to start its own ministry for the Child Laborers as we see the number of children begging on the street is on steep increase during the time of pandemic.

These are the few priority areas of the Partnership Project of All We Can. The other priority areas will be gradually taken up one by one. We hope to see new and innovative approach of the Bishop of Jabalpur, The Most. Rev. Dr. P C Singh, Moderator, to lead the Diocese and Church of India to new heights in the times to come and become better with our calling.





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

Council for World Mission (CWM) South Asia Region 2020 Pre - Assembly



Rev. Bruce Thangadurai

The Pre assembly of the Council for World Mission (CWM) South Asia Region was held in Kolkata from the 24th to the 28th of February 2020. There are four member churches in South Asia Region they are the Church of North India (CNI), the Church of South India (CSI), the Church of Bangladesh (COB), the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI). Each member church sent 4 representatives to attend the Pre-Assembly.

The Inaugural Morning worship was conducted by the Church of North India.

The Keynote address was delivered by Rev Dr Praveen Perumalla on the theme : **Rising to life with Jesus.**

Some of the issues which were discussed were :

Are we practising what we preach in day to day life? Are we standing with those who are in need? Are we breaking out from the current myths and cultivating brotherhood or neighbourhood?

Things which were told to ponder were:

Change needs to come from the grassroots level because Jesus worked at the grassroots. There are many examples of grassroots movement that challenged the power structure and brought change. The church needs to stand up for the people in need and helping them to raise their voice and making their voices heard.

Social issues need to be discussed in the public forum. Pastors should include social issues like gender equality, HIV/AIDs, Caste Based Discrimination, LGBT, people with Disability and encourage the inclusion of these communities. Religious leaders and pastors need to take a lead to advocate for issues like climate change, migration, HIV/AIDs, etc.

The Bible study were conducted by Rev. Samuel John Shekhar on Witnessing to Life-Flourishing Communities in which he presented the idea of "Flourishing Communities".

He started with an introduction to the Neonate Christian community. Gave a model of how the apostles handled the dilemma of food distribution and postulated questions of happiness, joy and sharing. And he concluded by saying that a flourishing community centers itself around Godly principles.

A session were conducted by Dr. Mebada Wanka on Life-Flourishing Societies Political Oppression in the context of oppression especially in south Asia and the role of the church in the present times.

She emphasized that we should "Affirm the state as God's order of preservation in this godless world. It should recognize and understand the state's creation

of order"

Broadly 8 Sub- sections were discussed:

- a. Church should partake the constitution and pray for rulers.
- b. Create modules to teach constitutional values.
- c. Individual and humanitarian resistance to state injustice.
- d. The church's diaconal service to victims of state injustice.
- e. The church directly political word against an unjust state.
- f. Resistance through the responsible action of the individual.
- g. Advocacies.
- h. Empowering the youth.

Question which need to be pondered were:

What would be the role of churches to mobilize public intellects/community to stand for social injustice/raising voices against discrimination and marginalization of particular group (people with disability, LGBT, Children and women), ethnicity, and caste? The role of the church- Empowerment of the laity, empower the survivors of oppression, influence and create stake holders and create macro volunteering agencies

The Pre- Assembly concluded on 28th of February 2020 and the Council for World Mission (CWM) Assembly will be held from the 12th - 19 June in Johannesburg, South Africa and it will be jointly hosted by the United Congregational Church Of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and the United Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa (UPCSA). For this CWM assembly Church of North India will be represented by Mrs S Agrawal, Rev Bruce Thangadurai and Mr Piyush Paul Singh.



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Lord,

You hung upon a cross.
You shed your blood for us,
You washed away our sins.

You gladly gave your life.
so that we may live,
Life everlasting at your feet one day.

Faith hope and love,
These three remain.
With which we will praise your holy name.

Make our faith in you strong,
Our hope in your never fail,
Your love fill us and be shared.

We thank you Lord today,
For your ultimate sacrifice,
And pray we are worthy every day,
Amen

Ananya Wilson

DIOCESE OF JABALPUR
CELEBRATING



Years Of Faith Journey

