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2022

Quarterly News Letter

Diocese of Jabalpur

Church Of North India

Jabalpur

For Private Circulation Only

Journey With Christ



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**

News Letter

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Each day that God gives us is holy and a precious gift from him. We should enjoy it fully. Joy is powerful.

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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

Greetings to all our esteemed readers!

First of all, we are happy to inform you that we will be able to publish our Diocesan News Letter now on a regular quarterly basis because the restrictions of the pandemic are almost over.

The period of the pandemic was traumatic for all of us. Many of us lost dear ones in the attack of COVID-19. Yet the pandemic has taught us several valuable lessons. We learned to live using our limited resources. Luxury is not a virtue of life. Discipline and cleanliness became our new habits. We have found out that virtual techniques are effective in such times of crises. We experienced the reality that we can survive only with the help of the community. Health workers became models of sacrificial life. We have to look for heroes among them and not among film stars and cricket players. We became aware of the value of life and its fragility at the same time.

The theme for this issue is Journeying with Jesus Christ. This is a very appropriate theme in this Lenten period. Now we will be journeying with Jesus to his days of passion, crucifixion, death and glorious resurrection. We will not be simple observers; we will share his pain as well as his victory. We know that for individuals and community Lent is a special spiritual season. All major religions have their own Lenten season. In the spiritual cycle it is a period of replenishing and renewal. For the faithful Christians, while journeying with Jesus, Lent is a period of fasting, self examination, repentance and reformation. Reformation is through reconciliation; that is repairing and restoring relationship among members in families and communities. Journeying with Jesus Christ gives us the assurance that he is with us as our companion in all situations of our life, carrying us in his arms in the most difficult times of our life, as the



Rev Dr. Ipe Joseph
Editor

famous story of "Footprints in the Sand" depicts.

In his message our Bishop has asked us to take special care of our students and parents to enable them to cope up with the shift from on line learning to real class room learning. He has exhorted us to observe Lent with fasting, meditating on the Word of God and prayer.

As usual, this issue of the News Letter has many write ups, reports, articles and several pages of pictures of events and celebrations. Reports of the Founder's Day from Rev. Shubh, the Pastors' retreat from our diocesan secretary Rev. Bruce Thagadurai, Medical camp organized by VAK and WCRC and reported by Dr. Nivedita Abraham, 24 hour chain prayer by Mrs. Savita Joseph, World day of Prayer by Mrs. D. Sharma, a meditation on the Lord's Prayer prepared by Col. V. Daniel, another reflection on "Salt Irritates" written by Dr. Nivedita Abraham are included in this issue. The cricket match on 26th January, Fete and Christmas Carol organized by Vikas Asha Kendra, and all other events are covered by on the spot colourful pictures

The Russia -Ukraine war has crossed 20 days while we are writing the editorial. Russia has its own reason for the invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine is valiantly resisting with all its might. The world countries are all puzzled as to what stand they have to take. In any case, war is a crime. Killing cannot be justified by any reason. Let us hope that the war will soon end.

Hope all our readers will have a blessed time during this Lenten season. We share the good news that Nihkil family is gifted with a baby girl. Easter greetings from the Editorial Team Bruce, Malcolm, Nikhil and Ipe.



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

Bishop's Message



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

Dearly Beloved in Jesus Christ,

We praise God ! We are in an almost COVID-free country now. I am happy to reach all the readers through this issue of the Diocesan News Letter. I am encouraging the editorial team to bring out the News Letter regularly every quarter.

During the COVID period, in spite of all restrictions, our Diocese kept itself alive and active through programmes of youth, women, children and pastors. We took special care of the physical and mental health of our parishioners. Now that our schools are fully open, the special task before the teachers and parents is to enable students to cope up with the change due to the shift from on line classes to regular class room situation. Much attitude modulation and mental motivations are needed in this respect.

It may be good to a revisit some of the main events which happened during the past quarter. From 18th to 25th January we observed Unity Octave. This year the theme was, "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). In many localities there were interdenominational unity services. On 26th January, our nation celebrated Republic Day. As part of a special initiative to commemorate India's 75 years of Independence, our country organized 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' with the participation of young people from several countries. The farmers of India were very happy on the Republic Day because their year-long struggle achieved all their demands and goals. We encountered a great loss as the Chief of the combined forces General Bivin Rawath along with his wife and high profile members of the forces lost their lives in a helicopter accident. In the month of February we focused on social justice and observes 20th as International day for social justice. "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause," (Isaiah 1:17) We have to train ourselves to develop an attitude of Justice because we live in a world overwhelmed with materialism and selfishness. We entered into the Lenten period on 2nd of March with Ash Wednesday. We received ashes in the shape of the cross on our forehead. This

reminded us of every person's destiny, "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

March 21st was International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In 1960 March 21 in Sharpeville, South Africa, a peaceful procession was taking place demonstrating against the Apartheid laws passed by the colonial government. The Police fired against the mob and killed 69 people and injured 180. The UN later decided that all nations would observe March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. However, racism still rules world communities in many ways. In our country caste system is a blatant form of racism.

I was happy about our medical camp held in January in Ghamapur. Diocesan pastoral meetings could be held in a regular way. World Day of Prayer was observed on 4th March by our women's fellowship. This month we offered special prayers for our partners in Wales, England and Ireland. The 24 hour prayer vigil organized by WFCS was a occasion of great blessing and inspiration.

We are coming to the most important part of the Lenten season. The rest of the Lenten period we will be accompanying Jesus in his journey to the cross, his passion, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

I request all of you to spend much time in fasting, reading the Word of God, prayer and meditation.

With Easter Greetings,

Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh



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Col (Retd.) Vineet Daniel

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Jews prayed three times a day, while the disciples of our Lord often found him in prayer, and asked "Lord teach us how to pray ..." (Luke 11:1). Thus they received the 'Lord's Prayer'. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave the same prayer (Mat 6:9-13). In a few lines which even children remember, the Lord showed us what an infinite God expects to hear from us. Let us take a closer look.

"Our Father which art in heaven"

'Our' Father, and the continuing plural form, suggests community worship. Moreover calling God our Father, makes us brothers and sisters in fellowship.

To whom do we address our prayers? We pray to God the Father alone and not to saints, angels or supernatural beings. John in his vision fell down to worship the angel (Rev 22:9) who rebuked him: "...See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, ... worship God."

He is our Father, and we see him through the eyes of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18) - "I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." The son is sure of being forgiven and accepted, and so are we.

"Hallowed be Thy name"

He has many names. When Moses asked (Exo 3:14-15), he was given the name 'Yahweh' (Lord) and 'I Am', implying His eternal state 'I Was, I Am, and I Will Be'. Rev 4:8 "...and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." It is very befitting that the eternal praise of His name by the heavenly host is echoed on earth by us. When is His name honoured on earth? When we honour His Word. 'He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.' (John 5:23).

"Thy kingdom come"

This doctrine was preached by Jesus, earlier by John the Baptist and later by the Apostles, that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev 22:12). His kingdom consists of people redeemed from all the nations.

"Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"

Jesus affirmed even from the cross that God's will be done (Luke 22:42) ...never the less not my will, but thine, be done. The will of Satan prevails greatly, his will disguises as ours and we think it is our will. There is only one true will and that is God's will. We ask God to give us strength to overcome our own will, to enable us to make God's will as our will, so that it may be 'done on earth' by us.

"Give us this day our daily bread"

The Israelites gathered manna daily, because God caused it to spoil if they stored it for the next day. God showed them that if they depended on Him, they did not need to frantically store things. Many spend all their time and energy stocking up for the future. Listen to the 'wisest man': "To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand



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it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind" (Ecc 2:26). God knows our future and our needs better than we do, and He alone is the Giver.

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"

God views sin as an offence against Himself, and this puts us in constant debt with God. While He forgives, the caveat is that we have to first forgive our own debtors (Mat 6:14-15). However we do not reach a bargaining position with God, but still plead for mercy. As we are forgiven again and again, God also expects us to forgive 'seventy times seven', (Mat 18:21-22).

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone (James 1:13). But He does bring people to the test, as per their calling. Greater the calling, greater the temptation and the test.

Abraham's great test to sacrifice his son, was as per his unique call - to father a nation, and a line worthy of receiving the Messiah. God boasted of the righteousness of his servant Job, and Satan took permission to test Job, starting with Job losing children, wealth and possessions, then suffering painful sores, till finally Satan failed.

The case of Saul was different. The Spirit of God was upon Saul, anointed as king of Israel - but he disobeyed and did not live up to his calling. "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." (1 Sam 16:14). Evil spirit from God? In Hebrew thought everything is from God, and thus this spirit was 'sent' from God. When Saul disobeyed and God withdrew His Spirit, Saul was left open to evil attack, and God allowed the attack.

Do we want to avoid being tested? We ask God accordingly to lead us not into temptation, but to deliver us from evil, when tested. We fear the test, but 1 Cor 13 says that God will not allow our temptation to be greater than what we can bear, and will also provide a way for us to endure it. God tests, and God saves when we ask.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

This doxology is thought by some to be a later addition by the early church.

We may perceive some aspects about this wonderful prayer.

Firstly, our Lord was the 'sinless one' whom Satan failed to tempt - so Jesus did not pray for forgiveness of sins. This prayer was for the disciples and hence us, and thus it is more the "Disciples' Prayer".

Secondly, before Jesus taught us what to pray, he told us how to pray (Mat 6:5-8). The use of mindless chants, flowery speech and many words do not impress God.

Thirdly, each line is a gem of great weight and value, but when we recite at speed, we do not think consciously. We sin at leisure, but ask forgiveness with fast recitation!

Fourthly, while this is a most beautiful prayer in itself, our Lord said "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father..." (Mat 6:9), which suggests that he gave a pattern for prayer rather than the precise text, and this 'manner' is to praise God first, promise to do His will, ask forgiveness, and then petition Him for our needs. "...Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 16:23).



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Rev Subha Venkataram

THE DIOCESE OF JABALPUR FOUNDER'S DAY THANKSGIVING SERVICE 13TH DECEMBER, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It's a great honor and privilege for me to write about our Diocese Founder's Day which was held on 13th December, 2021.

The Diocese of Jabalpur laid its Foundation on 13th December 1970.

The Diocese of Jabalpur received so many blessings throughout these years. Now we are celebrating 51st years of its existence.

Remembering God's grace, His Blessings, His providence and all His Faithfulness. The Thanksgiving Service was held at Christ Church Cathedral at 8:30 am.

The Service was blessed by the presence of The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh Moderator of the Church of North India, Synod. Mrs. Nora Singh Director Vikas Asha Kendra. Rev. Shailesh Dennis Lall the General Secretary CNI, Synod. There were other dignitaries and Bishops from the various Dioceses and Churches.

The thanksgiving service was witnessed by all the Presbyters of our Diocese of Jabalpur and all the Local Church Pastorate and all the Head of the Institutions and the teachers of Christ Church Schools.

Indeed it's a great time for all of us to be part and parcel of the thanksgiving Service. Rev. S. Dennis Lall the General Secretary CNI, Synod was the guest of honour and the speaker for the occasion. In his sermon he encouraged all of us that we should not forget the roots and values which our elders have left us. We were all blessed by his thought provoking sermon.

The Thanksgiving service ended with blessing from the Bishop and Moderator the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh.



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Prof. Nivedita Abraham,
OD Consultant

Salt Irritates!

"You are the salt of the Earth." Matthew 5:13

This has been one of the most talked about verse (to me) while I was growing up. As a young believer it was hard for me to understand what it means. Everybody wants to be rich, famous and do great in whatever they plan to do. It doesn't make sense to be salt (of all the things in the world!) No one wants to be salt!

And...I always wondered, what salt in the Bible actually means? They say that it is mentioned over 40 times, and Jesus even said in Matthew 5:13: "You are the salt of the Earth." What does the salt of the earth mean? How am I salt of the Earth? What do salt and light mean and how does it define my identity?

Evidently, I was intrigued with "Salt". It was very important for me to know what it is. I read and read about it. I have heard sermons on the ancient culture of how covenants were made with salt. Some talked about the medicinal property of salt, some say it preserves the food...stops the food from rotting, this made sense to me. However, nothing convinced me that I am salt!

One day, as I sat with the Lord, I asked Him. Why do you say I am Salt? Salt is such an irrelevant thing in the world. Nobody values it. What do you mean Lord by salt? Then a soft whisper registered to me, saying, Salt is Irreplaceable!

My journey on salt didn't halt there! God spoke to me in my choices, in the kitchen, in my thoughts and even in my profession about what salt means. It slowly became an unending journey...

Salt surely is irreplaceable in the kitchen...I learnt, I also learnt that salt is useless without the other ingredients. The beauty of salt is in its lowliness – it invisible once you use it in the main dish. It is used to enhance the taste of the main dish. Salt is never the hero in its own.

Mulling about myself, I asked my Mentor, "Why don't I fit in?" What is the problem with me? I answer I got was, "I will be very worried if you fit in, we are not made to fit in". Just like the game of Tetris, if I fit in I will disappear. I learnt that I am not made to fit in. I am made to make a difference, add on to the value of others, my power is in my being. I should not trade my flavor to be acceptable. I am called to be the voice. While I do this, it will irritate the cuts and wounds. Salt will irritate.

49For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good, but if the salt loses its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another..."

Mark 9:49-50, Berean Study Bible •



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Presbyter's Retreat



Psalm 139

Presbyter's Retreat was conducted under the leadership of our Chairman The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh on the 19th of January at Disciples Church of Christ.

He told the Devotion based on Psalm 139. He said that the effect of Corona has lessened and now things are becoming normal. But at the same time Psalm 139 is a Psalm which tells us that God is always there with us. He has been with us in each and every movement of our lives. Psalm 139 verse 2 says:- The Lord knowest when we sit down and when we rise up.

Verse 7 says where shall I go from your presence Lord.

The Moderator said God's word is full of hope, promise, assurance and blessings even when lives seems difficult, when problems and sickness is there in our lives. God's immense strength assures us that he is there to take care of us.

Some of the highlights of his wonderful New Year Presbyter's Retreat message was:-

1. God has complete knowledge about our lives where we go, what we do and what are our thoughts.
2. God has given us full protection he cares for us no matter what the circumstances are and in what problem and difficulties we are in. he always loves us and cares for us.
3. Verse 13 says for Thou didst form my inward parts. Thou didst knit me to together in my Mother's womb. God has created all of us and has created us with a reason. Nothing is hidden from Him and we cannot run away from Him.
4. Verse 17:- How precious are your thought God! How vast is the sum of them: if I count them, they are more than the sand.

The blessing which God has given us is far beyond our expectation. We cannot imagine what all He has done; it is like the sand of the sea.

Problems, difficulties, sickness, distress, depression are part and parcel of lives but our God is more powerful to help us and give us the strength to overcome all our weakness.

In the end the Moderator sir said the year 2022 we should remember three important things.

Firstly, We all should imbibe integrity faithful and loyal to our institution/workplace.
Secondly, truthfulness and honest in whatever we do.

Thirdly, always practice generosity.

If we are to be successful in our lives, if we want to receive the blessing of our God Almighty then we all need to practice the three important values in our lives, i.e. Integrity, truthfulness and generosity.



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**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL JABALPUR
SECRETARY REPORT (WFCS)
World Day of Prayer
Friday 4th March 2022**

Greetings in the precious name of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. World Day of Prayer was prepared by the WDP Committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Based on the verse from Jeremiah 29:11 "I Know the Plans I Have for You", to symbolize hope we have used light in the form of candles and seed, representing the situation of the exiled people of Israel, who were longing to return to their homeland. Presenting their stories and God's plan for them having worked out in expected ways, plans that have brought freedom, justice and God's peace to people.

We wanted the service to move from darkness to light from negative to positive praying for the women of UK who suffered but were still strong in faith knowing that God will work for them. Our youth fellowship choir sang beautiful songs to create a prayerful ambience in the presence of the lord.

Many delegates, presbyters, office bearers and the congregation were welcomed with gifts and bouquets. Beautiful arrangements were made by the women representing the culture and tradition of the UK. The women also enacted on different stories reflecting the life of the exiled women and God's plan that has changed their lives. Women of different churches also presented skits based on stories from the Bible. A brief presentation on the history of World Day of Prayer was read out by our convener Mrs Mayuri Cark. A power point presentation was also shown representing the story of exile by Mrs Niharika Shinde. The programme was organized by the Christ Church Women's Fellowship Members. Women members of the Disciples Church Of Christ, St Pauls Church Ghamapur, St Pauls Church Gogalpur and Christ Church Cathedral presented beautiful skits on the theme " I Know The Plans Have For You".

The Chief Guest for the programme was Mrs. Nora Singh Director Vikas Asha Kendra. She motivated the Women's fellowship members by encouraging them to be role models in the society. She delivered a beautiful sermon based on Jeremiah 29:11. Inspiring many women on keeping their faith in God as he always has a plan for us. All the local presbyters was also part of the programme. The anchor for the programme were Mrs Niharika Shinde and Mrs Priyanka Thangadurai. The programme came to an end by the closing prayer followed by the Lords Prayer and benediction given by Rev. James Masih.

Humbly submitted
Mrs. Desrine Sharma
Secretary
Christ Church Women's Fellowship



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“प्रार्थना” अ-पराजित विजय का रहस्य
श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रार्थना दिवस
“निरन्तर प्रार्थना में लगे रहो। हर बात में धन्यवाद करो।”
१ थिस्सलुनीकियों ५:१७

अत्यन्त हर्ष की बात है कि प्रतिवर्षानुसार जबलपुर डायोसिस मसीह सेवा महिला संगति द्वारा २ मार्च २०२२ को भस्म बुधवार (Ash Wednesday) के दिन श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रार्थना (Chain Prayer) का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें कलीसिया की आत्मिक जागृति, विश्व शांति, उपवास के लिए, बच्चों की परीक्षा, नशा मुक्ति, जवानों के लिए, बेरोजगारों के लिए, डायोसिस के लिए एवं मॉडरेटर सर एवं उनके परिवार के लिए विषयों पर विभिन्न कलीसियाओं द्वारा उनके लिये निर्धारित किये गये समय पर प्रार्थना की गई।

जबलपुर में सेन्ट पॉल्स चर्च गोकलपुर में दोपहर ३ बजे से शाम ५ बजे तक डिसाईपल्स चर्च ऑफ क्राइस्ट, क्राइस्ट चर्च कैथेड्रल एवं सेन्ट पॉल्स चर्च घमापुर की बहनों ने उपरोक्त वर्णित विषयों पर एकाग्र चित होकर प्रार्थना की और परमेश्वर पिता की आशीषों को प्राप्त किया।

जबलपुर डायोसिस का यह सौभाग्य है कि माननीय द मोस्ट रेव्ह. डॉ.पी.सी. सिंह व आदरणीय मैडम नोरा सिंह जी जैसे अगुवे हमें मिले जो निरन्तर अपनी कलीसिया की आत्मिक उन्नति के लिये प्रयासरत् रहते हैं।

श्रीमती सविता जोसफ

सचिव

डायोसिसन मसीही सेवा महिला संगति

जबलपुर डायोसिस सी.एन.आई.





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Health Camp Held at St. Paul's Church, Ghamapur

Health Camp was organized at St. Paul's Church Ghamapur on February 6, 2022. It was organized under the aegis of World Communion of Reformed Churches, Germany.

It was experienced that health facilities have been out of reach for the common people during pandemic times as the people suffered and most of the doctors were skeptical of examining the patients. People within the congregation and outside the congregation benefitted from the Health camp. As expected the camp had a good footfall of the people.

A total of 200 names could be documented as beneficiary of the health camp. But there were many who were not on the list and could not register themselves. Both registered and non-registered people got the health care benefits.

The first lady of the Diocese, Mrs. Nora Singh inaugurated the Health camp. The health camp started with prayers and the worship and by introducing and welcoming the dignitaries present. The Doctors on the panel, Dr. (Mrs.) Rekha James, Senior Gynecologist, Dr. (Mrs.) Mayura Godwin and Dr. Samir Agrawal, Child Specialists were present. Rev. Niles (Priest In Charge) and Mrs. Savita Joseph coordinated the Camp. Prof. Nivedita Abraham, Consultant WCRC was also present.

Some sample medicines were also arranged for the needy. Masks and sanitizers were also distributed free of cost. The youth group and women groups were very active in managing the camp.

The camp started at 10:30am (after church service) and continued till 4 pm.

Prof. Nivedita Abraham
Consultant



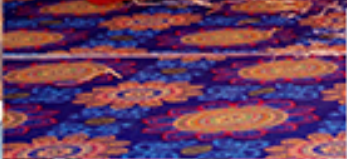
Founders Day ISC 2021



Vikas Asha Fete 2021



Vikas Asha Christmas Programme 2021



Inter School Cricket Match

