

**Oct - Dec
2019**



Quarterly News Letter

God Gives Us



Encouragement

&

Hope

Diocese Of Jabalpur

Church Of North India

Jabalpur





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**

News Letter

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**Diocese Of Jabalpur
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Ipe Joseph
(Editor)

Editor's Message

The members of the Communication team are delighted to wish all the readers a wonderful New year full of God's blessings everyday of the year. People describe today's world as violent, corrupt, and full of evil. All of us know that it is a true assessment of the situation. Against these descriptions we have chosen a theme, "God gives us encouragement and hope". We need encouragement when life faces difficulties. God gives us encouragement to wade through these difficult currents. God gives us hope which provides us with inner energy to struggle hard without losing our aim. What more do we need as a new year assurance?

This issue of the News Letter is colourful and rich with reports, news and stories of big celebrations and events like the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of CNI , that of our own Diocese , XXIII Diocesan Council ,annual fete of the Vikas Asha Kendra and Diocesan Mahila Sabha. The Golden Jubilee inaugural functions of CNI started in the All Saints Cathedral grounds on 27th evening itself with variety of cultural events. The inaugural session on 28th morning and the workshops for Presbyters, women, lay people, youth and children were well planned. On 29th, the Thanksgiving and communion services as well as the ordination of Rev. Khimla as Bishop brought together a well represented CNI community in huge numbers. From Ursula School to All Saints Cathedral every inch was decorated with colours , beautifully dressed school children showering flowers and dancers from all CNI territories. The organizing team under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Rachna Singh needs to be given full appreciation.

Here at home, the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee of our diocese was also solemn and colourful. The Thanksgiving service and the Holy Communion service held at Christ Church Boy's Senior Secondary School was a touching moment. Dr. Vijay Benedict's musical evangelism sessions on 12th and 13th were challenging the diocese for renewal.

With pictures, articles, messages and reports this issue is covering also all other major events of the diocese during the quarter. The full texts of the Moderator's messages at the Golden Jubilee inauguration of CNI at Nagpur, and at the inauguration of the XXIII Diocesan Council are included. Readers will enjoy the full pictorial reports of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Diocesan Council meetings, Mahila Sabha, Inter Denominational Sing Song Competitions organized by DWFCS, Annual Fete and Christmas Tree of Vikas Asha Kendra and Dr. Vijay Benedict's musical evangelism

We congratulate Mr. Piyush Paul Singh for being elected as the President of CNI Synodical Youth Fellowship and Rev. Daniel Nath for being appointed as the Secretary of the Jabalpur Auxiliary of the Bible Society of India.

Rev. Suhendra Nilesh Singh has given a write-up on spiritual needs. Rev Sanjeet Parve has given a small introduction of his church, and a few words on God Gives us Hope And Encouragement has been penned by Tania Thomas.



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



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

Bishop's Message

New Year greetings to all readers of the News Letter! The last quarter of 2019 was packed with programmes and celebrations. Most important celebration was Christmas. All churches, institutions and organizations of the diocese observed this festival with jubilation. I preached on the challenge of incarnation. As followers of Jesus Christ our celebrations need to take a back seat and our life and witness should reflect and imitate the presence of our Lord wherever we live and work. This is the challenge of incarnation. On the new year day we reflected on the naming of Jesus. God intended that his son had to be named Jesus which means saviour. Name implies to not only a person's identity but also the mission of that person. The name of Jesus is unique because in the name of Jesus miracles happen.

The quarter started with the XXIII Diocesan Council which was held October 1-3 in Mary George Hall, Jabalpur. We deliberated on the theme, "50 Years of Faith Journey". Our life together is a pilgrimage, a journey of faith. CNI was formed on 29th November 1970 and our Diocese was born on December 13 in the same year. So we have the golden jubilee celebrations of both CNI and our diocese. The analogy of journey is the best way to describe the life of the Church. This journey is motivated and powered by God; it is accompanied and guided by God; It is full of struggles and finally, it is a journey of faith and hope. Next year we will complete 50 years of the journey. The Diocesan Council was followed by three-day Women's Convention at Mary George hall where women from all parts of the diocese took part for Bible study and deliberations of various concerns. I congratulate the DWFCS for organizing Inter denominational group sing-song and other competitions on November 12th in Mary George Hall. This year also the annual fete and Christmas Tree programme of Vikas Asha Kendra was a blessing for all. On 13th December we inaugurated the golden jubilee in a thanksgiving service accompanied by Holy Communion Service. On 12th and 13th the famous singer evangelist Dr. Vijay Benedict was our guest.

Mr. Piyush Paul Singh was elected as the President of the CNI Synodical Youth Fellowship. Rev. Daniel Nath who was serving as a Presbyter of our Diocese has been appointed as the Secretary of Jabalpur Auxiliary of the Bible Society of India. We congratulate both of them and pray that they will be able to faithfully fulfill the tasks given to them.

I am glad that this issue of the News Letter has extensively covered the Diocesan Council meetings, Women's Fellowship Programme, the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee of CNI and our own diocese, celebrations of Vikas Asha Kendra and other events that happened in our diocese. I express my appreciation of the good work of the communication department.

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



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



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

THE XXIII DIOCESAN COUNCIL 1-3 October 2019 BISHOP'S INAUGURAL MESSAGE

*I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

Psalm 34. 1.2.

Greetings

Distinguished Chief Guest, Vice President of the Diocese, Secretary, Treasurer, Pastors, Delegates of the XXIII Diocesan Council, nominated members, heads of institutions, diocesan workers, and guests, I heartily welcome all of you to the XXIII rd Diocesan Council which is taking place from 1-3 October, 2019 in Jabalpur.

Our Agenda

It is our practice that we put three things in the spiritual agenda of the Diocesan Council. 1. Refresh our memory and bring into our mind all the blessings we have received as a diocese in the past three years. 2. Take time to examine our life to see where we have fallen short of the grace of God. Without pretending we come into the presence of God in repentance and seek God's forgiveness. As forgiven sinners we resolve to start a new life. 3. We share our visions and ideas for the future of the diocese. We plan to develop our resources, strengthen our existing projects and open up new avenues of our mission. We make plans for the coming three years for enriching the activities of our churches, pastors, children, youth, women and the elderly. This is the year of Golden Jubilee of our diocese and also of CNI as a whole. So the special agenda is the celebration of 50 years of faith journey.

Homage

It will be only appropriate to start our day by paying homage to the memory of our beloved departed ones. Bishop Cak and his wife, Bishop Bagh, Rev. P.D. Thangadurai and several lay leaders were called to eternal rest during the period. They all have rendered valuable service to the diocese. We thank God for their life and witness as well as pay homage to their memory.

Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Last month we got the privilege to hosting His Grace the Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, his wife Caroline Welby and their team. We received the Archbishop at the Jabalpur airport with warm welcome. The Archbishop's pastoral visit, which he called "a pilgrimage to India," covered Church of South India in Kottayam, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Medak and Church of North India in Jabalpur, Kolkata and Amritsar from August 31 to September 10. He found time to visit the Mar Thoma Church as well as United Theological College. He came with the agenda of praying with local Christians, listening to the stories of local people, hearing the joys and challenges they face in their daily life; and, finally, visiting key places of worship and significance. He was able to fulfill all of them. Putting to rest all dissident tendencies and misinformation the Archbishop categorically stated that, in India, CSI and CNI are the only legal successors of the Anglican Church and no one else has the right to claim it.



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The Archbishop was with us in Jabalpur from October 6th evening to 7th evening. On 6th evening we gave a reception and dinner at our Bishop's house. On 7th His Grace inaugurated our Saliwada School, gave a message in the Christ Church Cathedral on the occasion of the inauguration of the 150 years celebration of our Christ Church schools. Later, spoke in the public meeting in Mary George hall. The visit was a blessing for all. It was the first visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Jabalpur diocese.

Our Diocese and Our Churches

The XXIIInd diocesan council was held here from 13 to 15 October 2016. We deliberated on the theme of "Servant Leadership" which we called Christ model of leadership. We must consciously practice servant leadership in spite of the commercial world calling us towards leadership powered by money and muscle. I am happy to inform you that the executive committees and other standing committees met at regular intervals to transact the business of the diocese. We have 19 Presbyters- in -charge, 5 honorary Presbyters, 1 Deacon and 1 diocesan worker and more than 500 people serving in the diocesan institutions. Our diocese has become self-supporting and members are contributing according to their ability and beyond.

Our Churches are actively involved in the four-fold ministry of worship, proclamation, nurture and diakonia. Christ Church Cathedral is celebrating 175 years of its historic ministry. We are planning on building a worship place in Manpur. The outreach programmes of our churches are very encouraging. We are trying to build a place of worship in the Bhandhavgarh area.

Jesus Calls Ministry

One main event in the life of our diocese was the mega spiritual revival meetings held on 27,28 and 29 of October 2018 in Jabalpur under the aegis of Jesus Calls ministry led by Dr, Dhinakaran and team. Since then, we have established a prayer tower in our diocesan building. This is the 100th prayer tower of Jesus Calls ministry. The prayer tower is used by many people for fellowship, fasting and prayer and revival sessions on a daily basis.

Communication Department

Our Communication Department which was inaugurated on 12th July, 2016 has completed three years and it is housed in the Diocesan office. It has been systematically publishing our diocesan quarterly namely "Diocesan News Letter" and colourful calendar. Along with Rev. Dr. Ipe Joseph, its Director, Mr. Malcolm Tully and Mr. Nikhil Singh serve in the communication team. All are requested to send news items and other literary contributions to be published in the News Letter. The Calendar for 2020 will available in December 2019.

Now let us have a look at our ministries. I will make only a short mention of the activities because all departments and institutions will be presenting their own detailed reports later.

Pastors meetings

Every month the pastors meet in different places for a day of prayer under the leadership of the diocesan bishop. In addition to these, there is an annual three-day retreat. During the triennium retreats were held in Darjeeling, Palampur and Kerala hosted by the Mar Thoma Church. The Pastors visited the flood-hit areas of Kerala. These prayer sessions and retreats keep the pastors as a family and empower them



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Ministry to Children

In every council meeting we emphasize the need for taking the ministry to the children seriously. We have to ensure the participation of our children in all activities of the Church. Sunday schools are being conducted regularly in all churches. I wish to repeat what I have said in the last council. That is, Christian nurture of children from womb to 3 years has to be done with utmost care. This period is now identified by medical science as the most formative years. The nurture can happen only at home. So, our homes need to become the first nurturing school. VBS has been an effective instrument in Christian nurture. We were able to hold a one-day training programme for all Sunday School teachers in the diocese in partnership with All India Sunday School Association.

Ministry to the Youth

Every year we observe September as the Youth Month. The interdenominational cricket match has been a very effective ecumenical event for several years now. Youths from the dioceses of Nagpur, Chhattisgarh, Bhopal, Gujarat and Jabalpur participate in the tournaments. In addition to the games, youths use this occasion for interaction, prayer and fellowship. There were several youth gatherings where they searched their identity, demonstrated their talents and formulated their visions. Mr. Piyush Singh is serving as the President and Mr. Shitij Jacob as the director of the youth programmes.

Ministry to Women

Under the leadership of Mrs. Nora Singh the Women's fellowship conducted programmes of retreats, cottage prayer meetings, Lenten prayers, Christian home week, Mother's day, regular Bible studies and annual conference. In addition to these DWF organizes interdenominational singing competitions. Mrs. Sulbha Solomon serves as the secretary.

Our Institutions

Our Schools are being run with the purpose of excellence in learning and value education. Christ Church Boys Sr. Secondary School and Christ Church Girls Sr Secondary Schools are celebrating 150 years. Christ Church Co-ed School has started functioning in Saliwada and it was blessed by Archbishop of Canterbury Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby on October 7th. We have opened unit II of Barsley School in Lakapateri, Jalasur, Katni.

Vikas Asha Kendra and Shishu Sangopan Grih

VAK continue to minister to the needs of the physically and mentally challenged and disabled children under the leadership and guidance of the Director Mrs. Nora Singh. Every year in December VAK holds its annual fete and sale. Heads of the institutions, teachers and students of our schools, pastors, church members, leaders and members of the local community render their support in this great annual event. The annual fete, Independence day celebrations, Christmas celebrations and other regular social service activities are jointly done by these mission projects.

Interreligious Seminar

Another unique event was held in partnership of Communion of Churches in India, National Council for Communal harmony and our diocese. It was an interreligious seminar on "Justice Peace and harmony: A common agenda for religions". Adv. Prakash P Thomas, treasurer of CCI, convened the meeting. I presided over it. Leaders of Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities shared their insights. It was one step forward in communal harmony.



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Golden Jubilee Celebrations

I will be speaking about 50 years of Faith Journey in my main message later. However, I wish to remind ourselves that Jubilee is a time to praise and thank God, celebrate our freedom, forgive others and redeem all our brothers and sisters from all kinds of bondage. It is the time to return to God all that he has given to us. It is a time to rejoice in the Lord.

As all of you know, I was elected as the Moderator of CNI in the 16th Ordinary Synod held in New Delhi. It is an honour given to our diocese by the Church. It was just before the last council that I was elected as the President of NCCI. I continue that service even now. This year I was unanimously elected as the President of Bible Society of India. In addition to these, I serve as President of ECLOF, CISRS and AISSA and several other organizations. In the international level I serve in the executive committee of Christian Conference of Asia and in its Assembly Planning Committee. Even though I am involved in many national, international and ecumenical activities, you know that my diocese is my first priority. I thank God for the strength and guidance the Lord is giving me, day by day. My family has been a source of support for me. I thank God for them. I request your prayers for me and my family.

I Inaugurate the XXIII rd Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Jabalpur CNI in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh
Bishop
Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI



Diocesan Council

Diocese of Jabalpur, Church of North

Date: 1st, 2nd & 3rd October 2019 | Theme: "Journey of Faith"

at Church Girls' Senior Secondary School, Mary George Hall, J





XXIII DIOCESAN COUNCIL, DIOCESE OF JABALPUR ,CNI

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The XXIII Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Jabalpur, Church of North India, Jabalpur was held at Christ Church Girls' Senior Secondary School, (Mary George Hall) Jabalpur from the morning of 1st October to the 3rd of October 2019 with the Theme : 'Journey of Faith of 50 years'

The XXIII Diocesan Council, Diocese of Jabalpur, Church of North India commenced at 4:00 p.m. with the Holy Communion Service held at the Christ Church Cathedral, Church of North India, Jabalpur. The celebrant being the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Bishop of the Diocese of Jabalpur, Church of North India assisted by Rev. Bruce Thangadurai, Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Ajay James and Rev. Lalit Solomon. The Sermon was delivered by Upa C. Thangnghilhlova - Senior Auxiliary Secretary, Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary.

The first session began by singing choruses led by the Besy Choir and an opening prayer by The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese followed by the Special Message / Bible Study delivered by Upa C. Thangnghilhlova who was the main speaker of the XXIII Diocesan Council.

The Inaugural Address and message was presented by the Bishop the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh and received with applauses and appreciation. Reports of various committees were read out by its President /Secretary/ Director and was accepted with appreciation.

The newly elected members of the Diocesan Executive Committee were duly installed as per the order of service laid down in the Book of Worship, CNI. The swearing of oath and lighting of candles, was administered by the Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, President of the XXIII Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Jabalpur.

The XXIII Diocesan Council was conducted smoothly as per the agenda & was appreciated by one and all.

Finally the Council was declared closed by offering the Lord's Prayer and the benediction pronounced by The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Chairman of the XXIII Diocesan Council 2019.

**Rev. Bruce Thangadurai,
Diocesan Secretary**





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



REV. DANIEL NATH
NEW AUXILIARY SECRETARY

BRIEF REPORT OF THE INSTALLATION SERVICE OF REV. DANIEL NATH, NEW AUXILIARY SECRETARY ON 6TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT DISCIPLES CHURCH OF CHRIST, CNI, JABALPUR M.P.

It is a joy for us to present a brief report of the Installation Service of the New Auxiliary Secretary- Rev. Daniel Nath. The program was held on Sunday the 6th of October 2019 at 8:30am at Disciples Church Of Christ, CNI. There were 300 Congregation that included Heads of Institutions, BSI prayer partners, donors, volunteers and well wishers as well as representatives from various Christian organizations as well as Jabalpur Auxiliary Staff were present.

The Installation Service commenced with praise & worship led by Disciples Church Choir, they also presented a special song. The Induction Service was led by The Bible Society of India, President, Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh and the Guest Speaker was Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General Secretary, BSI. Mr. Surech C. Jacob, the Former Auxiliary Secretary In-charge welcomed the dignitaries on the Dias and the congregation present. The General Secretary of BSI - Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko delivered very inspiring and challenging message based on John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit."

BSI Staff welcomed the dignitaries on the Dias with bouquets. Mr. Lawrence Deodas welcomed The Moderator, The Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Ms. Teresa Rodrigues welcomed the BSI General Secretary Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, Mr. Afam B. Moses welcomed Rev. Ipe Joseph, Ex.- Gen. Sec. NCCI and Mr. Sunil Masih welcomed Mrs. Nora Singh with a bouquet, the Director of Vikas Asha Kendra, CNI and also an active committee member of Jabalpur Auxiliary.

Mr. Surech C. Jacob, the Former Auxiliary Secretary In-charge presented Rev. Daniel Nath to be installed into the office of Auxiliary Secretary of BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary. In the service, Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh and Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, put forth their blessed hand upon Rev. Daniel Nath in front of God's Presence and the Congregation. Rev. Daniel Nath pronounced the word of encouragement to the Church congregation. Thereafter Holy Communion Service was conducted by the Pastor In-charge Rev. Lalit Solomon along with New Auxiliary Secretary Rev. Daniel Nath. The service was concluded by the benediction pronounced by Most Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh. Rev. Daniel Nath was congratulated by the Congregation, BSI Mary Jones Fellowship and Youth Wing for his new Ministry in BSI. This was followed with the Tea Fellowship.

Any induction service was held at BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary on October 2019 which was conducted by The Most Rev. Dr. P C Singh, Rev. Ajay Umesh James and Rev. Bruce Thangadurai who welcomed Rev. Daniel Nath and then asked him to take the office of the Auxiliary Secretary. After that BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary staff welcomed the New Auxiliary Secretary Rev. Daniel Nath with a bouquet. This was followed by a photo session with BSI Staff, New Auxiliary Secretary and the Dignitaries. We thank God for the successful completion of the Induction Service.

BSI Auxiliary Secretary



WFCS Council





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



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

MODERATOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS At the Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Nagpur

Respected Bishops, guests from abroad, Presbyters, Deacons, Deaconesses, members of Synod, Diocesan Councils, Pastorates and all churches, representatives of various sister churches and organizers, brothers, sisters, children, youth and other friends, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for God's bountiful blessings upon the Church of North India which was inaugurated on 29th November 1970 in the same holy grounds of All Saints Cathedral, Nagpur.

The six churches who came together in union were :

- 1. The Council of Baptist Churches in Northern India*
- 2. The Church of Brethren in India*
- 3. The Disciples of Christ*
- 4. The Church of India (formerly known as the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma & Ceylon)*
- 5. The Methodist Church(British and Australasian Conferences) and the*
- 6. The United Church of Northern India.*

As a United and Uniting together Church we have completed 49 years being faithful to our mission motto of Unity Witness and Service. Today we are entering into the golden Jubilee year. God has been faithfully guiding us in all these years.

Introduction

Refreshing memory is the first act of jubilee celebrations.

First, let us thank God for all the pioneering missions and missionaries who brought the light of the Gospel to our country.

St. Thomas .one of the disciples of Jesus Christ brought the gospel to India as early as 52 A.D. The St. Thomas Church has many branches now. The Mar Thoma Church with which CSI and CNI belong as Communion of Churches in India is one of the branches of this Syrian tradition.

The Church of India has its parentage in the Anglican Church and that relationship began more than 400 years ago. Then under the patronage of King Frederick IV of Denmark, Ziegenbalg, along with his fellow student, Heinrich Plütschau, became the first Protestant missionaries to India. They arrived at the Danish colony of Tranquebar on 9 July 1706. Then the Serampore trio William Carey, Joshua Marshman and William ward arrived later at the end of the 18th Century. Others in the union came from the rich heritage of Methodist, Brethren, Congregationalist and Presbyterian missionaries. Let us bring all of them to our memory and praise God for their sacrificial service.

Now we come to the story of the birth of CNI. The concern for unity of the Church grew out of the zeal for the mission of the Church, because a divided Church could not bear witness to the one Gospel and the one Lord in a country like India with diverse religions, languages, races and cultures. So a series of consultations, with a view to Church Union in North India, began in 1929. This was followed up by several conferences and round tables.



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A negotiating committee was constituted in 1951 by the United Church of Northern India, the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, the Methodist Church in Southern Asia and the Council of the Baptist Churches in Northern India. In 1957, the Church of the Brethren and the Disciples of Christ also joined in the negotiations. The union plan was almost finalized in 1965 and, accordingly, the Church Union in North India was inaugurated. At the last moment, the Methodist Church in Southern Asia decided not to join the union. However, the British and the Australasian Methodist churches joined the Union. 1970 November 29th was the first Sunday in Advent. Representatives of the six uniting churches went in procession to this sanctuary with their own flags. In the sanctuary the transformation of unity took place. The prayer of Jesus "they all may be one" was fulfilled. When they came out they all lined up under one flag which is the Flag of unity, witness and service - the flag of the Church of North India! Let us thank God for all the leaders of these six churches for their craving for unity and willingness to merge their identities in an organic union.

The second act of jubilee celebration is revisiting the mission of the Church. We have a well articulated mission statement.

"The Church of North India as United and Uniting together is committed to announce the Good News of the reign of God inaugurated through death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in proclamation and to demonstrate in actions to restore the integrity of Gods creation through continuous struggle against the demonic powers by breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of the nature."

While revisiting the mission statement we need to evaluate 50 years of our ministry using a check list. i)As a united and uniting church ,have we engaged in any further efforts of unity after 1970? ii) How effectively have we been proclaiming the good news of the reign of God? iii) Do we still have the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of the nature within our church and communities? Consciously, let us answer these questions and change our lives and mend our ways.

The third act of jubilee celebration is the celebration. We have a model in the scripture which will provide guidelines for our celebrations. That is the Yobel (Yovel) year celebration of the people of God.

Leviticus 25. 8-12

"Count off seven Sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven Sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan.

The trumpet has to be sounded all over the land. The whole land should listen and participate. It is the festival of all people. The land of CNI covers all of India except the five states in the south. It is an occasion of thanksgiving for every member of CNI. We must use all channels of modern media to sound the trumpet.



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We have to proclaim freedom for all; slaves, debtors, and the bonded. Even the land has to be free from mortgage and ownership because the land belongs to God. We have to examine whether we are keeping people in bondage in this year of liberation. We are duty-bound to redeem all those who are unable to redeem themselves from bondage.

It is a time of reunion. Each one should return to his/her own family and property. Thus it is a family celebration. In this context we affirm the value and dignity of family and its role to provide identity to all its members. During the Jubilee year we need to plan programmes to enrich all our families. Can we reach out to every family of CNI during the Jubilee year?

We will have to plan definite activities and new ventures during the Jubilee year. For this purpose the Synod, the dioceses and all the institutions of CNI have to make orchestrated efforts. May God enable us to do miracles for God.

With these words I take this opportunity to inaugurate this programme of Jubilee year celebrations in the name of the father, son and holy spirit.

Amen.

With Blessing,

*The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh
Moderator, Church of North India, Synod*





Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India



Report of the inauguration of CNI Golden Jubilee, Nagpur

*Nagpur - The Chosen and the Holy Land for the Unison of Six Churches to form
The Church of North India*

November 29th 1970 marked the day when the congregation at Nagpur witnessed the Unison of the Six Churches namely, The Council of Baptist Churches in Northern India, The Church of The Brethren in India, The Disciples of Christ, The Church Of India (Formerly known as the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon), The Methodist Church (British and Australasian conferences) and The United Church of Northern India, to form The Church of North India.

After a great blessed journey of 49 years of UNITY, WITNESS & SERVICE which is the moto of CNI today after 49 years CNI enters into the 50th Year The Golden Jubilee of CNI. Once again Nagpur was given an opportunity to host the inaugural celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

The Most. Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh the Moderator gave the theme of John 17:21 "That they all may be one." After this under the leader ship of Mr. Alwan Masih General Secretary CNI, Synod, Bishop of Nagpur Diocese The Rt. Rev. Sharad Gaikwad, Mrs. Rachna Singh was made Convenor of the Inaugural Golden Jubilee Celebration Programme. The Programme was decided to be kicked off on the 27th November ending with Joint worship on 29th November marking the formation of The CNI.

The ball began to roll and under the convenorship of Mrs. Rachna Singh and various committees were formed which went into action immediately. The planning began in the month of May 2019. As per the General Secretary, notice to all Diocese were sent requesting 24 delegates each to participate and witness this inaugural celebration on 27, 28 & 29th November 2019. The delegates were picked up 5 each from various segments namely Women, Laymen, Youth, Clergy and Sunday School.

Personal invitations were sent to all the delegates representing the 27 dioceses. Invitations were also sent to different Christian institutions and their Heads. Efforts were made to cover each and every Institution/Organization coming under CNI. Approximately 850 people were invited and expected from across 27 Dioceses.

The Publicity committee made sure of creating a great buzz in the city of Nagpur by putting up hoardings, posters and large banners. A large Balloon was put-up in the air with Golden Jubilee of CNI written on it. The whole town of Nagpur was abuzz with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of The CNI. There was great excitement in the local Diocese and every one was looking forward to the grand and the auspicious occasion. A website with complete information on a day to day basis was put up. www.cnigoldenjubilee.org



Diocese Of Jabalpur Church Of North India

On the 26th November 2019 the delegates started coming into Nagpur and were greeted and received by Nagpur Diocese with great enthusiasm. The reception committee under the leadership of Mrs. Manjusha Stephenson did a great job by receiving the guests at Railway station and the Airport. The accommodation committee did an excellent job under the leadership of Mr. Vilas Shende along with his team mates Dr. Kalpana Jadhav & Mrs. Aradhana Upadhaya by making arrangement in 13 hotels across the city for the delegates.

The Lunch and Dinner for the delegates as well the local volunteers was organized at Bishop Cotton School Sadar Nagpur. Nearly 1000 people were expected to enjoy the delicious cuisine for all the three days in Nagpur. This was done under the leadership of Mr. Vijay Sutar and his team Mr. Irfan Razak.

A large dome with a capacity of 3000 people was constructed to hold this celebration. LED screens were put-up in the dome to make sure every one witness the grand celebrations. A great monument of 25 feet in height was constructed to mark the 50 years of inaugural Celebration at Nagpur. This was to be unveiled on 29th November 2019 by The Most. Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh.

On 27th Morning, the day began with a consultation with our Mission Partners which was conducted by Mr. Alwan Masih, General Secretary, CNI, Synod. The 27th evening also witnessed the inauguration of an exhibition at the Bishops house showcasing the journey of 50 years of various Diocese and CNI. During this exhibition the past moderators and all office bearers of CNI, Synod were put-up on large canvas to remember them on this occasion. On 27th evening the Inaugural celebration was declared open by Mr. Alwan Masih, General Secretary, CNI, Synod. On this occasion Mr. Dony Marcus who was specially invited from the Diocese of Jabalpur blew the Shofar to mark the inauguration of the Inaugural Golden Jubilee Celebration. On 27th the children of Diocese of Nagpur enthralled the gathering by their very meaningful and passionate performance themed 'Childrens Satsung'. The 27th ended with a beautiful gathering and 1000 individuals having dinner together from various Diocese.

On 28th morning at 8:30 am the dome echoed with praises as the entire gathering of more than 1000 people joined the choir in praise and worship. This was followed by a very meaningful Bible study By Rev. Dr. Mani Chako, General Secretary of the Bible Society of India. Once again one could feel the excitement and enthusiasm amongst the delegates as they came together for Lunch and getting to know each other.

After Lunch the entire gathering was distributed in various segments for their respective workshop at different locations.

Workshop for Women - Chatterton Hall, Workshop for Laymen - "ZION" Bishop Cotton School Hall, Workshop for Youth - "AMARIS" St. Ursula School Auditorium, Workshop for Clergy - "All Saints' Cathedral" and Workshop for Sunday School Children - "SHALOM" Hislop College Auditorium. The Bishops of various Dioceses joined in different workshops thus adding more value to the workshop. Each workshop had expert panelists and a moderator of the session. All these workshops were documented.



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After these very meaningful discussion in various workshop a cultural evening was organized to lighten up the mood of the delegates. Various schools/Institutes/Churches coming under CNI presented beautiful songs and dances. This surely made the atmosphere very vibrant and one could sense the presence of God. Once again more than 1000 people enjoyed the delicious Indian cuisine and shared their experiences with each other. The mood was surely a very blessed one and we could feel the spirit of John 17-21 in the air.

On 29th Morning which was the day of unison of the Six Churches which made each delegate get up in the morning in a very enthusiastic mood and gather at the St. Ursula Ground for the procession. The procession was lead by Cross bearer Mr. Sukumar Adhikari who also had the privilege of carrying the cross 50 years back on November 29th 1970. Elders/Seniors of Nagpur Diocese who had witnessed the unison of Six Churches in the year 1970 were flagged off in E-Rikshaws to relive the moment. The procession was led by The Most. Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh and the office bearers of CNI Synod. The rest of the procession was comprised of Bishops of various dioceses, Mission partners, Executive committee members of Synod, local political leaders, Chief functionary of CNI Synod, Ecumenical Partners, all delegates from 27 Dioceses of CNI with Nagpur Diocese walking last as the host for the event.

As the procession was moving towards All Saints Cathedral the local school children lined up on either side of the procession performed the Local Maharashtraian dance thus giving the entire procession a traditional look and a joyous mood. The Children showered flower petals on the procession making the event very colourful.

As the procession entered All Saints Compound all the dignitaries were taken for unveiling of the monument and the rest of the procession was guided into the Dome. Each member of the procession was handed over a water bottle and a chocolate to energize themselves.

The unveiling of the monument was a unique experience as the 25 feet tall monument was covered by a colorful cloth which was pulled up by a large balloon released by The Most. Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh, Moderator along with the office bearers. As the balloon was released it went up in the air uncovering the monument. This whole event was witnessed by each and every one as this entire event was relayed live by the help of a drone.

After this very spectacular unveiling of the monument all the dignitaries entered the dome in a procession for the joint worship. An act of unity took place where each Diocese brought soil and water and mixed it together in a pot. The moderator mixed the soil and planted an Almond sapling and poured the water of unity onto the sapling. This symbolizing the unity amongst diversity in our Church. The message on this occasion of Golden Jubilee Inaugural celebration was brought by The Most. Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh. He brought the message in a very meaningful way where he spoke about the coming together and getting ready for the last days. His message was in parts, part A comprised of the Unity and coming of all Christian people, part B was for the newly consecrated Bishop Rev. Sameer I Khimla in which he emphasized on watching over the sheep.



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During this joint worship the consecration of Bishop of Durgapur took place. Rev. Sameer I Khimla was chosen to be the Bishop of Diocese of Durgapur. Hence the part B of Moderators message was meant to be for this occasion.

The Mission partners, during the joint worship service brought in greetings from their respective Churches from abroad.

During the joint worship service a souvenir was brought out to mark the inaugural celebration of CNI and was released by The Most. Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh, along with this a book "CNI MY CHURCH" by Mr. Alwan Masih, General Secretary, CNI, Synod was released by The Most. Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh Moderator, CNI, Synod. The souvenir and the book were distributed subsequently among the delegates.

After the joint worship a community Lunch was organized which comprised all the delegates coming from various dioceses and the local Diocese of Nagpur. In all the community Lunch had nearly 4000 people sharing the meal together on this very auspicious occasion of the inaugural celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

To summarize all three days, one could feel the presence of God as thousands of people rubbed shoulder to shoulder singing praises and meeting and greeting each other, sharing meals, sharing experiences. The whole atmosphere was joyous and the Moderators selection of the theme could be very tangibly felt. We assure each delegate who attended this three day programme would be blessed and remember the UNITY, WITNESS & SERVICE.

All kudos to the local Nagpur Dioceses who were the hosts of this very grand and historic event, who under the convenorship Mrs. Rachna Singh worked day in day out and made sure each Diocese was received taken care of and also sent off very caringly. We are sure that each Diocese and their respective delegates who attended this historical event would keep the Diocese of Nagpur in their daily Prayers.

Courtesy: Mrs. Rachna Singh and People's Reporter

Inter Church Sing Song Competition





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Golden Jubilee Celebration of CNI Diocese of Jabalpur.

The inauguration of the Golden Jubilee as well as the Founder's Day of the Diocese was held at 6p.m. on 13th December 2019 at Christ Church Boys Senior Secondary School ground. This unique function was an integration of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion Services. We refreshed our memory of the birth of the CNI Diocese of Jabalpur and sang, "O God, our help in ages past; Our Hope for years to come".

Prior to the inauguration of the Church of North India, a Diocesan Consultative Committee was appointed by the inaugural committee of CNI. The task of the committee was to carve out a new diocese in Mahakoshal and Chhattisgarh area. The committee worked out plans as to how to unite the four churches existing in the proposed area to become the Diocese of Jabalpur. The four churches COCC of UCNI, CIPBC, C of C, The Disciples and the Church of Scotland. Bishop S. K. Patro was duly elected and consecrated at Nagpur on 29th November 1970 to be the first Bishop of the Diocese. With the hard work of the consultative committee the boundaries of the Jabalpur Diocese were identified and the new Diocese of Jabalpur was duly constituted on 13th December 1970. The Rt. Rev. S. K. Patro was installed as the First Bishop of the Diocese in an impressive unification service at Christ Church which was duly declared as the Cathedral of the Diocese. On the same day during the unification service the 40 Ordained Ministers representing the four different traditions mentioned above were unified by mutual laying on of hands for the holy spirit to bestow each minister with the gift to serve in the unified church into one ministry of one united and uniting church, The Church of North India.

We further remembered with gratitude the services of our Bishops who followed, Bishop Franklin Jonathan, Bishop Sunil Cak, and our present Bishop Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh and all the presbyters and lay leaders who had been serving our diocese.

As part of the celebrations, on 12th and 13th December we had a gospel convention led by the famous Singer Evangelist Dr. Vijay Benedict. The diocese is planning renewal programmes in all the areas of the diocese during the year.



50 Years Of Faith Journey





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



God Gives Us Hope And Encouragement

I had a difficult decision to make, desperately I prayed to God "What do you want me to do?" the response I got was "Encourage One Another".

Have you even known someone who frequently spoke words of praise hope and encouragement? As stated in the Bible, Psalm 10:17 'You hear O'Lord the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and listen to their cry.

Life is full of problems and we need to deal with them, I ask God to help you develop a positive thought in life. Over time you will discover that you can control the way you think, choosing to focus on good thoughts and refusing others.

Saint Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' He wrote these words while facing some of the worst trials of his life. Despite the threat of pain and death, he realized that God gives us hope and encouragement in ways which go beyond our good times. The strength of Christ reaches right down into our worries and pain. What he is stressing on is that if we belong to Christ, God will enable us to bear the burden whatever our situation in life may be.

As God said " My Grace is sufficient for you for my encouragement is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9) How many times we read in the Bible through God everything is possible only God can make impossible become possible (Mathew 19:26) He is the strength behind our success.

God wants us to trust him above all. He does not want us to loose hope. "I can do all things through Christ who encourages me" as God provides on time; in his time and every time.

Tania Elizabeth Thomas
Class IX
Christ Church Girls' Senior Secondary School

Dear God,
i tried my best, but if today
i lose my hope
please tell me that your plans
are better than my dreams.
Amen.



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Mrs Nora Singh
Director VAK

Vikas Asha Kendra And Shishu Sangopan Grih

The VAK and Shishu Sangopan Grih annual fete programme was held on 14th December in The Christ Church Boys Hostel ground under the leadership of The Most Rev. Dr. P.C. Singh and the Director of VAK Mrs. Nora Singh. Mrs. Mala Singh inaugurated the function. Bunches of colourful balloons and Pigeons were released to the skies to mark victory and blessings from heaven. Presbyters and members from all churches in the dioceses and sister churches, heads of institutions, staff and students from all schools, friends and well wishers from the city actively participated in this event. Various Stalls were run by all diocesan institutions.

For the staff and students of VAK and Shishu Sangopan, this year also, Christmas Tree was an exciting time. Every year it is becoming more and more colourful. Many attractive items were presented. You will enjoy looking at the pictures. It is certain that the mentally and physically challenged students can enjoy Christmas and other occasions as much as others enjoy. However, the expressions of the mentally and physically challenged children are more profound than those of the so called normal ones!



VAK Fete



VAK Christmas Programme





**Diocese Of Jabalpur
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रेव. सुहिन्र निलेश सिंह

आत्मिक जरूरत

तू अपनी समझ का सहारा न लेना, वरन सम्पूर्ण मन से यहोवा पर भरोसा रखना। (नीतिवचन 3:5)

हम में से अधिकांश लोग ऐसे समयों से गुजरे हैं जब हमने बहुत ही दरिद्र महसूस किया—आर्थिक रूप से दरिद्र नहीं बल्कि असहाय। हम उदास रहे हों, और गंभीर रूप से निराश भी। जिन्हें हम प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियां कह सकते हैं पर इन परिस्थितियों में हमारा एकमात्र सहायक जो हमें आनंद, उत्साह एवं आशा प्रदान करता है वह हमारा परमेश्वर है निरंतर सहायक बना रहा।

ऐसे समय में हम परमेश्वर की आशीष एवं उन वायदों के लिए जो पहले से परमेश्वर ने हमारे लिए ठहराया है ताकि हम मसीह के संतान के रूप में विजयी जीवन को प्राप्त कर सकें। दो प्रमुख बातें जो हमें परमेश्वर के प्रति भरोसे एवं उसकी सामर्थ को प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं ताकि उसके द्वारा मनोबल प्राप्त करके हम निश्चित जीवन व्यतीत कर सकें।

1-परमेश्वर का भय मानें – इस बात को गांठ बांधकर रख लें, “यहोवा का भय मानना बुद्धि का आरम्भ है” (नीतिवचन 9:10)। यदि आप चाहते हैं कि आपको ईश्वर की अनमोल आशीष-बुद्धि मिले तो आप अपने जीवन में प्रथम स्थान उसे दें, निरन्तर उसकी अगुवाई में, उसके भय में जीवन बिताने का दृढ़ निश्चय कर आगे बढ़ें क्योंकि “बुद्धि तो यहोवा ही देता है” (नीतिवचन 2:6)। ऐसी बुद्धि जो ईश्वर के भय के साथ होगी वह निश्चित ही खरी बुद्धि होगी, वह सांसारिक, मिलावट भरी न होगी। इसका प्रतिफल भी बड़ा होगा, उसके साथ सारी आशीषें आपकी मिलेंगी। राजा सुलैमान ने परमेश्वर से बुद्धि और ज्ञान का वरदान ही मांगा था, पर उस मांग से प्रसन्न होकर परमेश्वर ने उसे अपूर्व बुद्धि के साथ-साथ अपार धन-सम्पत्ति और ऐश्वर्य भी दिया (2इतिहास 1:12) इसके अलावा परमेश्वर की इच्छा भी है कि उसके लोग उसका भय माने ताकि उसकी आशीषों में बने रहे (व्यवस्थाविवरण 10:12)।

2-पवित्र वचन को आदर दें – पवित्र धर्मशास्त्र का नियमित अध्ययन करना विश्वासीयों के लिए लाभदायक है एवं उसके प्रकाश में चलना भी। हमारा यह उत्तरदायित्व है कि ईश्वर द्वारा खरी बुद्धि और विवेक की रक्षा करें (नीतिवचन 3:21)। उसे नष्ट न होने दें। पवित्र वचन एवं उसके माध्यम से ठीक रास्ता खोजें, विवेक को शुद्ध रखें, यह केवल यहोवा के भय में चलते रहने से संभव है (नीतिवचन 8:13)। जब कोई परीक्षा आ घेरे, बुराई अचर्छी प्रतीत हो तो ऐसे समय में परमेश्वर का वचन हमारी अगुवाई करता है परमेश्वर से प्रार्थना करें-शक्ति और अगुवाई अवश्य मिलेगी। हमारा उद्देश्य होना चाहिए कि हम परमेश्वर को स्मरण करके ही सब काम प्रारम्भ करें तब वह हमारे लिए सीधा मार्ग निकालेगा (नीतिवचन 3:36)। तब अपने उद्देश्य की ओर सीधे बढ़ते जावें, “आंखें सामने की ओर लगी रहें” (नीतिवचन 4:25)। पवित्र वचन के प्रकाश में चलने वाले लोग ही वास्तव में बुद्धिमान हैं। ऐसे बुद्धिमान लोगों के लिए क्या प्रतिफल है? “बुद्धिमान के लिए जीवन का मार्ग ऊपर की ओर जाता है” (नीतिवचन 15:24)। स्वर्ग में प्रवेश की प्रतिज्ञा है।

परमेश्वर आप सबको अपनी आशीष से परिपूर्ण करें। धन्यवाद



**Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India**



रेव० संजीत पार्वे
प्रीसबिटर इंचार्ज

सेंट मेरी सी० एन० आई० चर्च सतना ।

सन् 2016 से 2019 तक सेवा कार्य इस प्रकार से है परमेश्वर की कृपा से कलीसिया का उन्नति हुई है 2017 में चर्च भवन का रेपेरिंग कार्य किया गया एवं सदस्यों को भी प्रभु ने बढ़ाया 2016 से 2017 में 26 परिवार थे और 2017 में बढ़कर 30 परिवार परमेश्वर की दया से कलीसिया में जुड़े 2018 में 03 परिवार सेंट मेरी सी० एन० आई० चर्च में सदस्यता ग्रहण किये आज परमेश्वर की दया से कुल 32 परिवार सेंट मेरी सी० एन० आई० चर्च में पाये जाते हैं । और चर्च भवन में भी नया कार्य किये गए हैं जैसा की दो कमरे का गेस्ट रूम जिसका लागत लगभग 4 लाख और दूसरा सामने भाग में टिन सीट लगाया गया जोकि विधायक जी के ओर से प्राप्त हुआ , जिसका लागत लगभग 1 लाख है । 2019 में बपतिस्मा टैंक बनाया गया साथ ही प्रति वर्ष चर्च भवन का रिपेरिंग कार्य किया जाता है जैसा की बौंद्री वाल का रेपेरिंग चर्च गार्डन का साफ सफाई एवं नए फूल लगवाना बगीचा का देख भाल करना जिसमें सभी सदस्य गण सहयोग करते हैं । 2019 में 9 जवान बच्चों का बपतिस्मा किया गया । 2017 से 2018 में 2 जवान बच्चों का बपतिस्मा किया गया इस प्रकार से परमेश्वर ने सेंट मेरी सी० एन० आई० चर्च को आशीषित किया इस वर्ष 2020 में एक नया कलीसिया बनाना चाहते हैं कि परमेश्वर के आत्मिक काम सतना नगर में बढ़ सके एक गाँव गाँधीग्राम में सेवा आरंभ किया है जो कि सतना से 7 कि० मी० दूरी पर है जंहा पर 50 घर के लोग हैं जिनमें से 10 घर के लोग प्रार्थना सभा में सम्मिलित होते हैं । आने वाले दिनों में पूरे लोग प्रभु को ग्रहण करेंगे और परमेश्वर की दया से एक नया कलीसिया बनने पायेगा । आप से निवेदन है कि आप हमें अपनी प्रार्थनाओं में स्मरण करें । क्योंकि बहुत वर्षों के बाद इस कलीसिया का सेवा कार्य होने पाया है , इस कलीसिया का निर्माण 10.07.1888 में हुआ है तब से परमेश्वर ने चर्च भवन को संभाल कर रखा है और आशीषित भी किया है कि आज कलीसिया का पहचान पूरे शहर में है । और शहर के बहुत से लोग अपने आस्था के साथ चर्च आकर प्रार्थना करते हैं और गवाही भी देते हैं । इस प्रकार से परमेश्वर का सेवा कार्य बहुत अच्छा से चल रहा है । परमेश्वर का धन्यवाद हो ।



प्रभु के सेवक

रेव० संजीत पार्वे
प्रीसबिटर इंचार्ज
सेंट मेरी सी० एन० आई० चर्च सतना
रेल्वे कॉलोनी सतना (म० प्र०)-485001
मो० न० 7440996378



Diocese Of Jabalpur
Church Of North India

When The Saviour Was Born

**One dark night
in a small town,
a baby was born,
Who wore the crown.
His face gladdened,
and smile bright
looked up to a star
with beaming light.
Faraway, with sheep
some shepherds saw the star
which told them about the baby
Who was slept a far.
A glorious night,
with the new guests
saw everybody
as the small baby rests.
The night ended
but the joy had not
as three wise men
had the star's myth sought.
They travelled a long way
to meet the small king
and surrounded the baby,
with their gifts and blessing.
The day we still remember,
when the bright star shone
as a joyous day – Christmas
when the savior was born.**

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



MERRY
CHRISTMAS