

CNI E NEWS



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

FROM THE DESK OF GENERAL SECRETARY

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Moderator's Message

Dear Members of the CNI Family, Theme: "Freedom as God's Gift and Human Responsibility" Scripture: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1)

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of India, I extend my warm greetings and prayerful wishes to you all. Independence Day is a time of thanksgiving and remembrance. We honour the countless men and women whose sacrifices secured the freedom of our nation, ensuring that future generations might live in liberty and dignity.

As Christians, however, we are also called to reflect on the deeper meaning of freedom, a freedom that transcends political independence.

The Holy Bible teaches us that freedom is both a gift from God and a sacred responsibility before God. While a nation may gain independence from political domination, people can still remain enslaved by sin, injustice, hatred, greed, fear, and selfishness. Therefore, the Christian understanding of freedom is far broader and deeper than political liberty alone.



God: The Liberator of His People

Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as the Liberator of His people. The Exodus stands as the greatest example of God's saving action, where He delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3:7-8). Their freedom was not merely an escape from Pharaoh's oppression; it was a journey into a covenant relationship with God. He liberated His people so that they might worship Him and live according to His will.

As we celebrate our nation's independence, we are reminded that true freedom is not simply freedom from oppression, but freedom for God's purposes. We thank God for our political freedom while committing ourselves to lives marked by justice, righteousness, compassion, and service.

Christ: The Source of True Freedom

In His inaugural message at Nazareth, Jesus proclaimed liberty to the captives and release to the oppressed. He taught that while a person may enjoy political freedom, one may still remain in spiritual bondage through sin. Jesus declares in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Through His death and resurrection, Christ frees us from the guilt and power of sin and from the fear of death. Political freedom transforms our external circumstances, but Christ's freedom transforms the human heart.

Freedom Calls for Responsibility

St. Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:13 not to use our freedom for self indulgence, but to serve one another humbly in love. Freedom is not a licence to do whatever we please. Rather, it calls us to responsibility over recklessness, service over selfishness, and love over hatred. A nation flourishes when its citizens exercise their freedom with wisdom, integrity, and moral responsibility.

The Role of the Church in a Free Nation

In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, believers are urged to pray for the nation and for those in authority. The Church is called not only to pray but also to be a witness to truth, a voice for justice, an agent of reconciliation, and a community of prayer and hope. Christian faith and genuine patriotism come together when believers seek the welfare of the nation by promoting peace, justice, and righteousness.

Independence Day reminds us that freedom is both precious and costly. The sacrifices of our freedom fighters inspire us to gratitude, while the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to a far deeper and eternal freedom. A nation is truly blessed not merely because it is politically independent, but because its people seek God, practise justice, and love one another.

As we celebrate our nation's Independence Day, let us prayerfully ask ourselves:



- Am I praying faithfully for my nation?
- Am I using my freedom responsibly?
- Am I contributing to peace, justice, and reconciliation in my Church and society?

May Almighty God help us to be faithful citizens of our country and faithful disciples of Christ. As we honour the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, may we also dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God and our neighbour.

With blessings and prayers,

Yours in His service,

The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning
Moderator, Church of North India
& Bishop, Diocese of Calcutta

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



From The Desk of General Secretary

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Every year on 15th August, the people of India celebrate Independence Day with gratitude and pride. It is a day to remember the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters who dedicated their lives to securing freedom for our nation. As we hoist the national flag and sing songs of patriotism, we are reminded that freedom is a precious gift that carries with it great responsibility.

For Christians, the concept of freedom extends beyond political independence. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:1 that Christ has set us free. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has liberated us from the bondage of sin, fear, and spiritual slavery. This freedom is not merely a privilege to be enjoyed but a calling to be lived out faithfully and responsibly. The freedom that Christ gives is not a licence for selfish living. Rather, it empowers us to serve God and others with love, humility, and integrity. In the verses that follow, Paul teaches believers to use their freedom to serve one another in love. True freedom is found not in doing whatever we desire but in choosing what is right, just, and pleasing to God.

As citizens of India, we are called to exercise our freedom responsibly. Our nation faces many challenges – poverty, corruption, injustice, violence, environmental degradation, and social divisions. In such a context, Christians are called to be salt and light in society, promoting truth, justice, peace, and reconciliation. Freedom demands responsible citizenship, respect for the rule of law, care for the vulnerable, and active participation in the welfare of our communities. The Bible consistently teaches that faith and public responsibility go hand in hand. The prophet Jeremiah encouraged God's people to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" where they lived (Jer. 29:7). Likewise, Christians in India are called to contribute positively to nation-building through honest work, ethical leadership, compassionate service, and prayer for those in authority.

Independence Day also invites us to reflect on gratitude. Freedom is often taken for granted until it is threatened or lost. We thank God for the democratic freedoms we enjoy and for the opportunity to worship, serve, and witness in our nation. At the same time, gratitude should inspire us to use our freedoms wisely and for the common good. The Church has a significant role in nurturing responsible freedom. Through worship, discipleship, education, and social engagement, the Church equips believers to live as faithful disciples of Christ and responsible citizens of the nation. Our Christian witness becomes most powerful when our lives reflect honesty, compassion, justice, and selfless service.

As we celebrate the Independence Day of India, may we remember that freedom is both a gift and a responsibility. Let us stand firm in the freedom Christ has given us and use that freedom to glorify God, serve our neighbours, and contribute to the well-being of our nation. May our lives bear witness to the truth that true freedom is rooted in righteousness, expressed through service, and sustained by gratitude to God. May God bless India, and may God empower His Church to live faithfully for His glory and for the good of our nation.

Yours in His Mission

The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar
General Secretary, CNI Synod



FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY: LIVING FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Each year, in the month of August, we Indians reflect on the matter of Independence. We remember the Freedom struggle for Independence of our country from British Rule. That Freedom Struggle was to free us Indian citizens from being ruled by those who were exploiting our country from outside. But now, over 75 year safter Independence from British Rule, we the citizens of India, need to engage in a second struggle for independence. This time the struggle is

against a small section of our own countrymen who want to sit in seats of power forever, dominate over the socially and economically weak, grab resources that should be shared with the less fortunate, bully minorities, mould this country according to their own narrow vision which, of course, involves them being in power for perpetuity. This is, of course, against what our Lord Jesus Christ taught, for this is not the establishment of the Kingdom of God, but the rather the establishment of the kingdoms of these persons. Hence, as Christians we have to speak out and struggle against the establishment of what is definitely not the Kingdom of God, but rather in fact the rule of petty tyrants and greedy men.

We are living at a time of crisis in our country and our world. Across the world there are long running wars which are causing widespread death and destruction and have severe negative economic consequences across the world. Rapid Climate Change, caused by Global Warming, is causing an increasing number of 'extreme weather' related disasters. In our country the Education system is in Crisis with high costs, poor quality and Examination Paper Leaks leading to student frustration and even suicides.

There is the capture of the Media and of democratic institutions by the powers that be. Our natural resources, like forests and rivers, are under attack by corporate forces that want to extract profit at the expense of the poor Adivasis who are dependent upon these forests and rivers. Farming is also in crisis because of low returns from the sale of crops, at the same time as Climate Change is affecting yields of the crops grown. A large section of our population.

consisting of Dalits and Women, are in social bondages in our country because of Caste-based discrimination and Patriarchy. The fullness of life that God wants for all humanity is far from being experienced by these sections of our society. So, as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to join with people of other faith traditions, in a new broad-based Freedom movement in which each section of society tries to reform what is wrong in the social and economic institutions they are part of. As Christians we are motivated to do this because we are seeking to bring closer the Rule or Kingdom of God on Earth as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done, ON EARTH, as it is in Heaven" [Matthew 6:10]. God in Christ, therefore calls us to get out of our comfort zones and join the new Freedom movement where it is being pursued for that is our Christian duty in a time like the one we are living in.

The Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb
Principal, Bishop's College, Calcutta
& Member, NICR Editorial Board



FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY

Matthew 22 notes an interesting encounter between Jesus and Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders, with the intention of trapping Jesus questioned if the Jews have to pay taxes to Romans. Jesus very cleverly showing the Roman coin declared that pay what belongs to Caesar and pay what belong to God. This statement of Jesus actually reflects a deep understanding about our relationship and responsibility to God and our beloved country.

There has always been a debate and even misunderstanding about what are our responsibilities and relationship with God and our Country. Presently, the "Believers' Community" in India is facing antagonism from certain groups with religious fundamentalist ideology. They question the identity of Christian in India. Underlying this challenge of identity is the concept that Christians are foreigners, and thus their loyalty to the country is doubtful.

While we celebrate our country's independence day during this month the CNI has chosen a very meaningful theme – "Freedom with Responsibility: Living for God and Country" – to deliberate upon. The theme includes three very important points that touch our daily Christian life.

First is that with freedom comes responsibility. In Galatians 5:1 Paul states that, it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Again in 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul states that I have right to do anything...but not everything is beneficial. True freedom is attached with spirituality, and spirituality is all about being intimately attached with the Triune God. When we are spiritually attached with God our actions, thoughts and attitude reflects God's values in daily life context. Therefore, Paul categorically states that we receive true spiritual freedom in Christ. Sometimes it happens that though we claim to be the followers of Christ we have not been set free from the sinful life, and so we continue to reflect in our lives actions, thoughts and attitude which are akin to evil. Further, Paul argues that I am free to behave as per my own, but everything that I do is not good for me and people around me. We are free to live a free life, but a life that is embedded with Christ values. Let us introspect ourselves this month if we really live by Christ values? The simple test is – does daily dealing with people around me resonates Christ values or I am like any other person who is not set free in Christ?

Second point that the theme brings out is that we have to live for God. God has placed us on this earth with a purpose. All those who are in Christ are not without purpose. We are not people who are just dragging our life without any meaning. Narrating various parables Jesus makes it clear at our lives have to be fruitful. We are responsible to God to give account for our lives. Let's not waste our lives. There is only one purpose of our life and that is to share with the entire world Jesus' name and the true freedom that Jesus' name brings. And this sharing has to be done through our lives, not just hollow words.

Third important point is that we need to live for our country. As Jesus said, give what belongs to God to God, and what belongs to Caesar to Caesar. Jesus taught that we are the salt and lamp to this world. When missionaries began arriving in India to share God's word they realised that they have to challenge many prevalent practices in the country which does not align with the values of Gospel like love, freedom, justice, forgiveness, grace and mercy.

And so they began applying these values in real term. They brought freedom of education for the first time in Indian history to the so called lowest and even women. They challenged evils that were against women like sati, devdasi system, denying upper clothes for lower caste women, female infanticide, inhuman treatment to widows and so on. They fought for justice for the most down-trodden and marginalised. Yes, we have responsibility to our country by raising our voice to make our society just, equal and progressive. Letting ISRO use Church building to assemble rockets for the space programme was an important gesture that while we stand for justice and peace, we continue to contribute in best possible way for the holistic development of our country. The fundamentalist groups may challenge our identity and try to malign us, but our identity driven by true freedom in Christ is all about being salt and lamp for our beloved country. Let us live proudly by our identity in Christ and Indian Christians.

Thus, in end let's remind ourselves that the true freedom is attached with our spirituality, and spirituality is all about being intimately attached with Jesus. Secondly, we are with a purpose in this part of the world. The purpose of being fruitful so that Jesus' name is glorified. Thirdly, we are responsible to our beloved country. While we are to create a just and equal society based on Jesus' values, we have to actively participate in holistic development.

REBUILDING LIFE THROUGH RESILIENCE

43-year-old Siromani Badding, a resident of Bano Block in Simdega district under the Chotanagpur Project Area, lives with her two children. Until two years ago, the family depended entirely on the income earned by her husband,



who sold clothes in local markets and was the sole breadwinner of the household. The sudden demise of her husband brought immense emotional and financial hardship, leaving Siromani to navigate an uncertain future on her own. As a widow and primary caregiver, Siromani faced multiple challenges. Alongside coping with grief, she carried the responsibility of managing the household and ensuring her children's education. Having spent most of her life as a homemaker with no independent source of income, she struggled to meet daily expenses and worried about her family's future. Social expectations and limited economic opportunities for women in her community further added to her difficulties, making it challenging to rebuild her confidence and regain financial stability.

During a field visit, the CNI SBSS team learned about Siromani's situation and encouraged her to explore sustainable livelihood opportunities. Through CNI SBSS livelihood focused intervention, she received financial support and guidance that helped her recognize her own potential and strengths. Inspired to carry forward the cloth-selling business her husband had established, she invested in cloth materials and gradually reconnected with former customers. Entering local markets as a woman entrepreneur was not easy, but through determination, resilience, and growing self-confidence, she successfully rebuilt the business and established her own identity within the community. Today, Siromani earns approximately ₹1,20,000 annually, enabling her to contribute to household expenses and continue her children's education. The business has improved the family's financial security while also strengthening her confidence, decision-making ability, and standing within both her family and the wider community. Her children now view her as a source of strength and

inspiration, while community members increasingly recognize her resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. Looking ahead, she plans to expand her business by offering a wider range of garments and reaching additional local markets, with the goal of creating a more secure future for her children. "After my husband's death, I did not know how I would take care of my children. The resilience-building support, guidance, and encouragement I received from CNI SBSS helped me rebuild my life and start again with confidence. Today, I am earning, my children are continuing their studies, and I have hope for the future," shares Siromani.

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*Communication and
Documentation desk
CNI SBSS*



ROOTS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

On a morning dedicated to both prayer and purpose, the Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, CNI turned school grounds into green sanctuaries. Led by The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Bishop, Diocese of Amritsar, CNI, tree



plantation drives were held at Alexandra School, Amritsar and Baring School, Batala — not merely as an environmental activity, but as an act of faith. Students in uniforms, teachers with lesson plans in hand, ground staff, church members and presbyters stood shoulder to shoulder. With spades in hand and hope in their hearts, they planted assorted saplings across both campuses — each sapling, a quiet promise to the future generations for a cleaner air, a cooler shade, and a healthier earth. Addressing the gathering, Bishop Manoj Charan rooted the initiative in scripture and stewardship. Quoting Psalm 104:14 'He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate — bringing forth food from the earth' he reminded everyone that caring for creation is central to Christian calling. "Planting a tree is an act of faith and hope," he said. "It is our Christian duty to be caretakers of God's creation. When we plant a tree today, we are giving the gift of clean air, shade and life to the children of tomorrow. Let our schools and churches be centres not only of learning and spiritual uplift, but also of God's love for the Earth, and all who dwell on it," he said. His words drew affirmation from students, who will watch these trees grow alongside them, and from elders who see in them a legacy. The drive was more than a one-day event. It was a part of a larger witness — integrating faith with action. In a time when



covenant. Mrs Suman Engles, Director, and Mr Avi Scott, Principal, Alexandra School, Amritsar, along with teachers, students, ground staff, Rev Marcus Masih, the Bishop's Chaplain, and diocesan functionaries including Mr Samuel Bhatti, Treasurer, and Mr. Om Prakash, Finance Officer, pledged to nurture the saplings. They also committed to continuing awareness programmes on climate change, waste management, and conservation within the school community — ensuring that today's planting grows into tomorrow's practice. From Amritsar to Batala, the message was the same: faith can be professed both from the pulpit and through the soil as well. For DOA, CNI, this initiative is environmental concerns weigh heavily on communities, the Church is choosing to respond not with words alone, but with roots in the ground. As the last sapling was watered and the last prayer offered, the campuses carried a new silence. Not just of trees, but of intention. Because sometimes, the most poignant sermon isn't preached. It's planted.



Shakti Mal
Department of Communication,
Diocese Of Amritsar, CNI

FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE: CELEBRATING THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF DR. JAMSON MASIH

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans." - Proverbs 16:3



It is with immense joy and profound pride that the John Wilson Education Society shares the remarkable achievement of Dr. Jamson Masih, InCharge Principal of Wilson College (Autonomous), Mumbai on being recognized among the World's Top 5% Scientists in the 2025 SciRank Global Registry. This prestigious international recognition is a matter of great pride for Wilson College, the John Wilson Education Society, and the Bombay Diocese of the Church of North India. It reflects a steadfast commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and service, while inspiring students, educators, researchers, and the wider academic community to pursue excellence with integrity and dedication. Dr. Masih's academic journey has been characterized by perseverance, intellectual curiosity, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. Following the successful completion of his doctoral studies, he was awarded the prestigious Dr. D. S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Over the years, he has established himself as a distinguished researcher in Environmental Chemistry, Atmospheric Sciences, Air Pollution, and Climate Studies, making significant. Reflecting on this distinguished honour, Dr. Jamson Masih expressed his sincere gratitude to the President of the John Wilson Education Society, The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, for his visionary leadership, inspiring guidance ,

unwavering encouragement. He also conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lal Bahadur Kamble, Secretary of the John Wilson Education Society, for his invaluable support, wise counsel, and constant encouragement. Dr. Masih, who also serves as the Honorary Treasurer of the Bombay Diocesan Council, Church of North India (CNI), further expressed his profound thanks to the distinguished Members of the Governing Body for their trust, encouragement, and steadfast support. The John Wilson Education Society celebrates this remarkable milestone with gratitude to Almighty God and expresses its appreciation for Dr. Masih's outstanding contribution to higher education and scientific research. The Society is confident that his achievements will continue to inspire future generations. May God continue to bless Dr. Jamson Masih with wisdom, strength, good health, and abundant grace as he continues to serve the cause of higher education, scientific research, and national building.

Dr .Lal Bahadur Kamble
Secretary
John Wilson Education Society

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16



DIOCESAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE – COUPLES' SEMINAR

The Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (DWFCS) of the Diocese of Calcutta (CNI), organized a Couples' Seminar on 20th June 2026 at St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata, with the participation of 97 members



representing 21 Churches of the Diocese. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta presided over the programme. The opening prayer was said by Rev. Martin Pakhre followed by the praise and worship led by DWFCS members. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning gave the keynote address. He reflected on the lives of Priscilla and Aquila. They were a prominent first-century Christian missionary couple. Exiled from Rome, they settled in Corinth, where they became invaluable ministry partners to the Apostle Paul. They serve as an early Biblical model of a husband and wife using their shared home, skills, and spiritual gifts to build up the Church. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of Christ-centered marriages and families. Mrs. Carolyn Lionel and Mr. Lionel Challapa, were the resource persons from the Programme. They took sessions on the significance of Christian marriage, prayer, and family life, drawing lessons from the lives of Elkanah and Hannah. Elkanah and Hannah, a deeply devoted Biblical couple from the Old Testament, primarily featured in the opening chapters of 1 Samuel. Faced with Hannah's heartbreaking infertility and the taunting of her husband's second wife, Peninnah, their faith in God led to the



miraculous birth of the prophet Samuel. Their story is a beautiful illustration of love, fervent prayer, and keeping promises to God. Elkanah played a vital, supportive role in this journey. In 1 Samuel 1:8, when he sees her deep grief, he tenderly asks, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" Furthermore, he fully supported her



vow to give Samuel to the Lord, later telling her, "Do what seems best to you; stay here until you have weaned him. Only may the Lord make his word come true." A time of reflection and prayer, along with an interactive activity for couples, made the programme meaningful and memorable. The seminar concluded with the closing prayer by Rev. Daniel Chatterjee followed by the Benediction by Rev. Martin Pakhre. The programme came to a close with fellowship and lunch for all gathered. We thank God for His abundant blessings and pray that Christian families may continue to grow together in Christ.

Teresa Gupta
Hony. Secretary,
DWFCS Diocese of Calcutta



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL – WFCS SEMINAR

On 7th March 2026 the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) of St Paul's Cathedral organized a seminar with the theme: Reconciliation: Repent and Return



and Our Daily Walk With God. Over 100 women from various Churches of the Diocese of Calcutta attended the Seminar. The Revd. Sorojit Biswas, Vice President, Diocese of Calcutta presided over the programme and opened the programme with prayers. Revd. Abir Adhikari, Presbyter in-Charge of St Paul's Cathedral, enriched the gathering with Pastoral encouragement and spiritual insight. In the beginning the speakers and Clergy were felicitated and acknowledged for their guidance and support in nurturing the spiritual life

of the fellowship. This was followed by a vibrant session of praise and worship, in English and Bengali, creating an atmosphere of devotion and thanksgiving. In the first session Mrs. Snigdha Gain, focused on reconciliation, reminding members of God's call to seek forgiveness and restore broken relationships. Rev Soma Bhatkar, in the second session reflected on the daily walk with God, encouraging the gathering to cultivate a life of prayer, humility, and faithfulness in their everyday lives.

The activities formed an important part of the seminar. In the first activity, participants moved to different prayer stations within the Church, where they were invited to reflect on their sins and seek God's forgiveness. Sand trays and ribbons were provided as symbolic expressions of repentance and surrender. The second activity invited participants to write their prayer requests and place them on a cross, offering their burdens and hopes to God in prayer. These activities helped members think more deeply about repentance, forgiveness, and the importance of restoring relationships with God and with one another. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta was thanked for his unwavering guidance and leadership. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks and a closing prayer, followed by fellowship over lunch, where participants continued their conversations and shared reflections from the day. It was a spiritually enriching gathering that strengthened faith and encouraged everyone to continually turn their hearts back to God.

**Teresa Gupta, WFCS Secretary
(St. Paul's Cathedral)**



THE ONE-DAY PASTORS' RETREAT

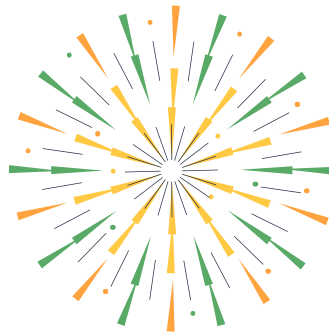
Organized by: Church of North India, Diocese of Chhattisgarh Date: 26 June 2026

The Church of North India, Diocese of Chhattisgarh, prayerfully organized a One-Day Pastors' Retreat commencing at 11:00 a.m. The retreat brought together around thirty pastors from across the Diocese of Chhattisgarh, along with the Diocesan Bishop, diocesan office bearers, including the Secretary and Treasurer, for a day of worship, fellowship, biblical reflection, and renewed commitment to united ministry. The retreat was inaugurated by The Rt. Rev. Bishop Sushma Kumar, who opened the gathering with prayer and



led everyone in singing "Prabhu Ka Dhanyavaad Karunga," creating an atmosphere of gratitude and reverence before God. Following the opening worship, UCPI Coordinator Brother Benjamin addressed the gathering, emphasizing the biblical vision of unity among churches and ministers. He encouraged pastors to work together in mutual love, partnership, and shared mission for the advancement of God's Kingdom. From 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m., the main Bible teaching session was led by the Retired Rt. Rev. Bishop Andrew B. Rathod. Drawing from Scripture, he spoke on the calling and responsibility of a faithful pastor. He reminded the ministers that every aspect of pastoral leadership must begin with prayer, dependence upon God, faithful proclamation of His Word, humble servant leadership, and

loving care for the congregation entrusted to them. After a time of fellowship over lunch from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. the Chosen Team conducted an interactive session. They introduced the participants to *The Chosen* series through selected video presentations and encouraged pastors to make use of the series on Netflix and other platforms as a meaningful resource for personal spiritual growth and ministry. The concluding session was again led by Bishop Andrew B. Rathod, who presented a biblical perspective on the importance of the UCPI joining hands in unity. He urged all ministers to remain united in every circumstance, strengthening one another while faithfully fulfilling Christ's mission. The retreat concluded with the closing prayer by The Rt. Rev. Bishop Sushma Kumar, followed by the benediction pronounced by Bishop Andrew B. Rathod. The retreat proved to be a spiritually enriching and encouraging gathering. It strengthened fellowship among the pastors, renewed their commitment to Christ centered ministry, and inspired them to serve together in unity for the glory of God.



Nithin Lawrence
Diocesan Secretary
Diocese of Chhattisgarh

DIOCESE OF DELHI'S CLERGY FAMILY RETREAT 2026 AT HIMALAYAN TORCH BEARERS, DEHRADUN 9TH – 12TH JUNE 2026

The Diocese of Delhi organized its Clergy Family Retreat from 9 to 12 June 2026 at the Himalayan Torchbearers, Dehradun, under the leadership of the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup. Centered on the theme "Growing in Christ," "Abide in Me, and I in you." – John 15:4. The retreat brought together clergy and their families for a time of worship, spiritual renewal, learning, fellowship, prayer, and recreation. The resource person was The Rt. Clergy Family Retreat from 9 to 12 June 2026 at the Himalayan Torchbearers, Dehradun, under the leadership of the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup. Centered on the theme "Growing in Christ," "Abide in Me, and I in you." – John 15:4. The retreat brought together clergy and their families for a time of worship, spiritual renewal, learning, fellowship, prayer, and recreation. The resource person was The Rt. Revd. Dr. P. K. Samantaroy and Revd. Lily Samantaroy

Day One – Growing in Christ: Abiding and Rooted in the Word

- Session I: Rt. Revd. Dr. P. K. Samantaroy on **"Abiding in Christ."**
- Opening worship and devotion led by Revd. Narendra Kumar on John 15:1–11.
- Session II: Revd. Lily Samantaroy on **"Growing through the Word."**
- Session III: Rt. Revd. Dr. P. K. Samantaroy on **"New Life in Christ."**
- Testimony sharing and intercessory prayers. Day Two – **Growing in Character and Prayer**
- Morning devotion on **"Being a Servant of God"** based on Luke 51–11.
- Session IV: Rt. Revd. Dr. P.K. Samantaroy on **"Growing in Character in Christ."**
- Session V: Revd. Lily Samantaroy on **"Growing through Prayer"** using the A.C.T.S. model.
- Evening programme, fellowship, dinner and Compline Prayer.
- intercessory prayer for Diocese churches, families, ministries and those in need. **Day Three – Growing in Faith, Unity & Mission**

- Morning devotion on "Walking by Faith" based on 2 Corinthians 57, led by Revd. Annapr. Samuel Smith.
- Session VI: Revd. Lily Samantaroy on "Growing in Faith."
- Session VII: Revd. Lily Samantaroy on "Growing in Unity in Christ."
- Session VII: Revd. Lily Samantaroy on "Growing on Mission."
- Special time of intercessory prayer for revival, outreach and mission.
- Evening of praise and worship, fellowship, dinner & compline prayer.

Conclusion: The retreat concluded on a high note with the final devotion on "Being Sent Forth" based on Matthew 28:18-20 led by Rev. Samuel J. Shekhar. Participants expressed gratitude to God for the enriching time together. The retreat ended with thanksgiving and reflection, Holy Communion and closing prayers. Hearts were renewed and strengthened to grow in Christ and serve His Kingdom with greater commitment.



DIOCESE OF DELHI CONDUCTS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Despite the rising heat in June, it is a month the children eagerly look forward to in Delhi and the National Capital Region. It is a time their eyes are set on the VBS, short for the Vacation Bible School. Reports continue to pour in from across the Diocese of Delhi where many churches celebrated VBS ranging from a day to a week.



At the Shanti Niwas Church, Faridabad and Church of the Epiphany, Gurugram it was successfully held this year on the theme – "Growing Fruits of the Spirit" inspired by Galatians 5:25. The Free Church, Sansad Marg Sunday School welcomed the summer break with a big splash through its Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was based on the theme "Rooted to Raise in Jesus" from Ephesians 4:15. The Holy Trinity Church, Turkman Gate, Delhi, successfully conducted its Vacation Bible School (VBS) on the theme "Growing with Christ." The theme verse for the Green Park Free Church-VBS this year was taken from Haggai 2: 23. The Church of Ascension, Karnal, The United Church, Nilokheri, and St. Paul's Church, Gharaunda held their successful VBS on the theme 'A Honourable Vessel' inspired by 2 Timothy 2: 21. The Presbyters of the various churches, Sunday School teachers, many volunteers and in a few instances other organizations all helped to make the VBS an exciting and absorbing experience. In some cases, children from other churches and denominations also joined to enhance the enthusiasm. At St. Paul's Church, Fatehpur Beri more than 80 children attended. Church of the Epiphany, Gurugram had over 70 participants including those from the Sadhu Sundar Singh at Sohna. The Holy Trinity Church, Turkman Gate, Delhi had more than 60 children attending. At The Church of Ascension,

Karnal there were 80 eager children that included those from The United Church, Nilokheri, and St. Paul's Church, Gharaunda's absorbing the word of God. At Noida, the Christ Church had its venue in a school as there were over 170 children from various churches who attended the VBS. The Green Park Free Church, New Delhi recorded 86 participants from various churches. The children came together for a memorable time of learning, worship, fun, and spiritual growth and enrichment. They were divided into various groups based on their ages. All were engaged in Bible lessons, worship, songs, games, crafts, music, and interactive activities, creative and group-based learning. The children not only had fun but also reflected on how the learnings could be practised in their daily lives. The atmosphere throughout the VBS was filled with laughter, learning, encouragement, and a strong sense of community.

The Free Church, Sansad Marg in New Delhi even organized a Talent Hunt Competition their very own version of Show and Tell. This provided an opportunity for learning, creativity, and confidence-building. Being close by, they had a daily visit to the YMCA swimming pool, where the children enjoyed cooling off and spending time together in fellowship and fun. The St. Stephen's Church, Fatehpuri, Delhi also organized an On-the-Spot spontaneous Bible Skits on the topics • David and Goliath • The Prodigal Son • The Good Samaritan • The Parable of the Talents.



Invariably everywhere the VBS concluded with a special closing programme or Grand Finale where children presented songs, memory verses, and performances reflecting what they had learned during the week. Parents, church members, and well-wishers appreciated the efforts of all those involved in making the event a success. We thank and praise God for a meaningful, engaging and vibrant VBS this year. We pray that the seeds of God's Word sown in young hearts will continue to grow and bear fruit for His glory

DIOCESE OF DELHI'S DWFCS ORGANISES AN ENCOURAGING FELICITATION PROGRAMME



The primary objective of this felicitation programme was to support and encourage widows and single parents. As part of the event, meritorious students and Sunday School children were also recognised for their achievements. This year, three new initiatives were introduced under the Deborah Programme.. The first initiative is a Scholarship Support Programme, through which DWFCS will sponsor the education of one deserving and needy student by paying his or her school fees.

The second initiative is the distribution of Ration Kits to needy families to provide them with essential support and assistance.

The third initiative is the distribution of Bibles to the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) members of Khekhra Church and Barot Church, with the aim of strengthening their spiritual growth and encouraging regular study of God's Word. The third initiative is the distribution of Bibles to the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) members of Khekhra Church and Barot Church, with the aim of strengthening their spiritual growth and encouraging regular study of God's Word.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to serving the community through both practical assistance and spiritual support. The following categories were recognized and felicitated: Widows, Single Parents Meritorious Students of Classes X and XII Winners of the Sunday School Drawing Competition Winners of the Youth Bible Quiz The programme commenced with an opening prayer led by Rev. Morisson Rose, followed by the Scripture Reading by Mrs. Lakshmi Masih, Vice President of DWFCS. Thereafter, the Secretary, Dr. Neetu Joseph, and the President, Mrs. Dora Prem, warmly welcomed all the

guests and participants. The sermon was delivered by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup, Hon'ble Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi, CNI, who shared an inspiring message with the congregation. The programme concluded with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction. It was attended by members of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service and the extended DWFCS family. The event proved to be a blessed and memorable occasion, bringing encouragement and joy to all those present.

Sunil Sannoo
Diocese of Delhi



DIOCESE OF DURGAPUR NEWS

DIOCESE OF DURGAPUR CELEBRATES ITS 54TH FOUNDER'S DAY



A Blessed Milestone for the Diocese of Durgapur to celebrate its 54th Founder's Day on 1st July 2026 at Central Church, Bankura. The Diocesan Office bearers, Clergy, Heads of Institutions, Laity, and the Congregation gathered to express gratitude to God for His faithfulness and guidance throughout the years. The celebration started with a Holy Communion service, presided over by Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur. The preacher and Guest of Honour for the celebration was Revd. Ajay Daniel Kale, Professor of Caleb Institute, Delhi. In his inspiring sermon from Psalm 127, he emphasized the importance of building our lives upon the Lord who is the firm foundation who sustains and guides his people through every moment.



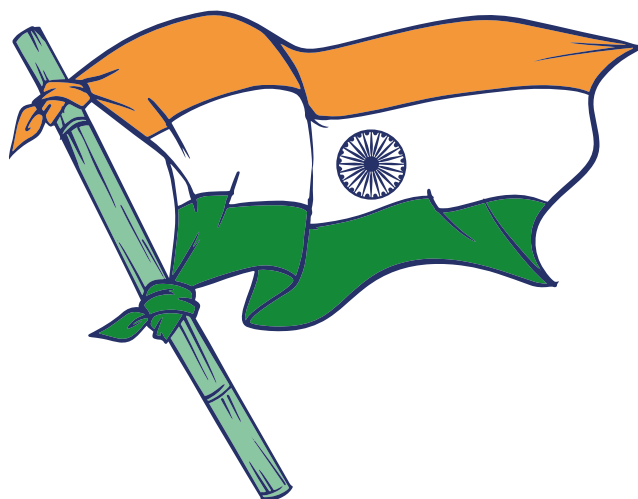
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR ON "A RIGHTEOUS LEADER"

On 1st July 2026, a seminar on leadership was organized in St. Michael's School, Bankura under the Diocese of Durgapur, as part of the Founder's Day program. The seminar was led by Revd. Ajay Daniel Kale on the theme "A Righteous Leader," based on Ruth 4:10-18. Drawing inspiration from the life of Boaz, Revd. Kale highlighted the essential qualities of godly leadership, emphasising integrity, responsibility, faithfulness, and unwavering commitment to God's principles. He encouraged the participants to emulate Boaz, whose righteous leadership was reflected in his obedience to God, his compassion for others, and his willingness to act with honour and accountability. Concluding the session, Revd. Kale challenged the participants with two thought-provoking questions on integrity: "What will we refuse, and what will we embrace, in order to become righteous leaders and create history?" These questions was a powerful call to self-examination and a renewed commitment to Christcentred leadership.



RENOVATED BISHOP'S HOUSE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On 1st July 2026, the newly renovated Bishop's House at Bankura was solemnly dedicated to the glory of God by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, in the presence of Diocesan office bearers, clergy, Institutional Heads, office staffs and members of different pastorates. The renovated Bishop's House has been thoughtfully developed to serve as a vibrant centre for retreats, leadership meetings, seminars, training programmes, and other Diocesan ministries and activities. It is envisioned as a place that will foster spiritual growth, fellowship, and effective ministry for the life and mission of the Diocese. The dedication of this renewed facility marks another significant milestone in the journey of the Diocese of Durgapur, bearing witness to God's enduring faithfulness, gracious provision, and abundant blessings as this house is set apart for His service.



JUNE 2026, REPORT OF DIOCESE OF GUJARAT, CNI DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY BUILT CHURCH AND PARSONAGE



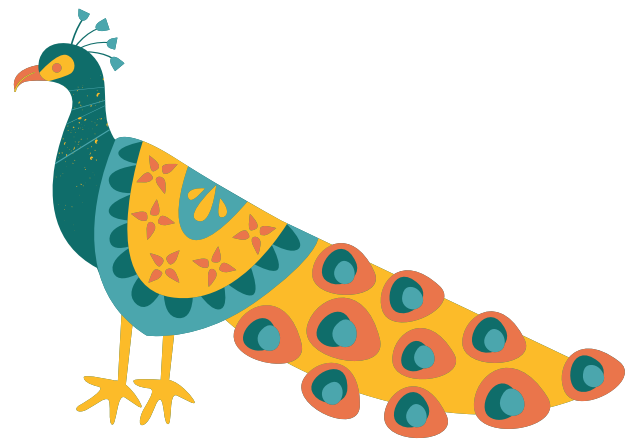
In June 2026, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian, The Deputy Moderator of the CNI Synod and Bishop of the Diocese of Gujarat, Church of North India, officially inaugurated the newly constructed Church building at Bhilwara and the newly built parsonage for the pastor at CNI Church Bamanvel, marking a significant and spiritually uplifting occasion in the life and mission of the CNI Gujarat Diocese. The Church was consecrated for worship services, particularly for regular Sunday gatherings, prayer, and contemplation. Meanwhile, the pastor's residence was dedicated for the pastor's accommodation during the church's mission and ministry. Along with The Rt. Revd. Dr Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator of the CNI Synod and Bishop of the Diocese of Gujarat, the dedication service was attended by the Revd. Ranchod Gamit, Vice President and Revd. Dr Manoj Kumar V. Gohil, the Diocesan Secretary. This significant and auspicious occasion was also witnessed with reverence and gratitude by a significant number of clergy and a faithful congregation. The Rt. Revd. Dr Silvans S. Christian, led the dedication service, proclaiming God's word and emphasizing the importance of growing in Christ in all facets of life. He urged every believer to lead a Christ-centered life and to take advantage of the opportunities to testify and witness to Christ. He also cautioned the Church to be humble and take responsibility for faithful participation in God's mission in and around the world. The Dedication of the newly built Church and parsonage stands as a symbol of the spiritual growth of the Diocese of Gujarat which will go a long way in testifying the omnipotent hand of God Almighty and also will serve as a place of worship and guidance for the community in the years to come.



INAUGURATION OF TWO NEW PASTORATES OF THE CNI GUJARAT DIOCESE

A historic and significant event occurred in the life and ministry of the Diocese of Gujarat, Church of North India, on June 23 and 29, 2026, wherein two new pastorates were inaugurated. A major step in strengthening the mission and ministry of the Gujarat Diocese has been taken with the formation of the new pastorate of Ghanikhut, through bifurcation from CNI, Netrang, and Khutadia, through bifurcation from CNI Gadat.

The Rt. Revd. Dr Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator of the CNI Synod and Bishop of the Diocese of Gujarat, officially inaugurated the new pastorates in the presence of all office-bearers of The Diocese of Gujarat, pastors, church leaders, and a large number of believers. The Rt. Revd. Dr Silvans S. Christian, preached the word of God and encouraged everyone to fulfil the Great Commission. The Gujarat Diocesan Secretary, Revd. Dr. Manojkumar V. Gohil, addressed the new pastorates during the inauguration ceremony and described the necessities that led to their formation. Additionally, he emphasized upon the vision and mission of the Diocese of Gujarat, well as the newly appointed pastorates' responsibility to continue strengthening the ministry of The Gujarat Diocese, CNI. The Revd. Ranchod Gamit, Vice President of the Gujarat Diocese, concluded the ceremony with prayers of gratitude, seeking Gods guidance and blessing for the newly appointed pastorates so they can serve the Lord and people in the spirit of Diakonia.



PASTORS RETREAT AT DALHOUSIE HELD ON 25TH – 27TH MAY 2026

The Pastors Retreat for Presbyters of the Diocese of Jabalpur CNI, was held at Dalhousie from 25th – 27th May 2026 at Dalhousie in a peaceful and spiritual refreshing atmosphere. The aim of the Pastors' Retreat was to provide pastors with an opportunity for spiritual renewal, personal reflection and physical and emotional refreshment. The retreat began with an inaugural prayer said by Rev. Thomas Kujur, Vice-President, Diocese of Jabalpur. The pastors were led into the time of praise and worship as we sat at the Sadhu Sunder Singh Chapel of the Earth Centre, Khyber House and Praised God for all His immense blessings and grace given to us. During this retreat, the pastors were asked to recommit themselves and strengthen their relationship with God through prayer, worship, and the study of His Word. Immediately after the praise and worship, an inspiring Bible study was conducted by Rev. Arvind Peter, a senior priest in the Diocese of Jabalpur. His message encouraged the pastors to remain faithful and committed to their calling and work for the up-liftment of His Kingdom. After the Bible study, time was given to all the pastors to share their testimonies and share their ministry experiences. The beautiful surroundings of Dalhousie provided a quiet environment for personal reflection and prayer. The pastors enjoyed fellowship meals which were provided by Mr. Richard and his family at Earth Centre, Khyber House. After lunch we were taken for sightseeing and admired the beauty of nature. Lots of recreational activities were organized which strengthened unity and friendship among the pastors under the guidance and leadership of the Rt. Rev. Ajay



Umesh James. The retreat was a wonderful experience as pastors dedicated themselves afresh to God's Service and prayed for their churches and communities. This retreat also encouraged fellowship among pastors, promoted mutual support and encouragement and equipped them with biblical insights and practical skills for an effective ministry. We thank God for His guidance throughout the retreat and express our gratitude to our Bishop the Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, who thought about the pastors and arranged such a meaningful retreat. We also thank the Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan, Bishop of Amritsar Diocese, for allowing us to use the Retreat Centre, and a special thanks to Mr. Richard and his family for looking after us and taking care of our boarding and lodging.

The Rev. Bruce Thangadurai
Secretary,
Diocese of Jabalpur CNI

ONE DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP WAS JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH IN INDIA & THE DIOCESE OF JABALPUR CNI ON - 15TH APRIL 2026

Theme - True Belonging: Disability Inclusion Workshop

A one-day Training on the theme "True Belonging: Disability Inclusion Workshop" was jointly organized by the National Council of Churches in India & the Diocese of Jabalpur CNI on 15th April, 2026 at the Vikas Asha Kendra Conference Hall from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm under the able leadership of the Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, Bishop Diocese of Jabalpur CNI. The Workshop began with the opening address led by the Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, Bishop Diocese of Jabalpur CNI and thereafter the Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary NCCI addressed the gathering. The workshop was attended by 24 Presbyters of the Diocese and 6 Heads of Institutions under the Diocese of Jabalpur. The First Session: The simulation exercise activity was done by Rev. Ribin John. Everyone participated in this exercise activity and were able to put themselves in the shoes of the person with loco motor disability & visual impairment.

The Second Session: The second session was about Voices & Experiences. Conceptual understanding of Disability session was conducted by Mr. Nelson Nag who spoke in detail about barriers, definitions and types of disabilities, myths, barriers and principles of inclusion. The Third Session: The Third Session was taken by Mr. Bevei Konah Simeon, Programme Executive, NCCI on "Theology & Church Realities". Groups were formed and there was a group discussion where participants presented various issues relating to Disability. The Vikas Asha Kendra: Ministry for the especially Abled under the Diocese of Jabalpur CNI. One of the Staff, Mr. Vinay Rajput who is a Music Teacher and Braille maker spoke about his struggles and how he finally joined the organization and about his experience of training students in Music. The Fourth Session: Mr. Nelson Nag gave a detailed presentation on the Policy & Practice of Legal Frameworks on Disability Overview of (Rights of Persons with Disabilities) RPWD Act and implications for the Models of Inclusive Church, best practices and practical resources (NCCI IDEA) showed about resources and mentioned about the resource link to visit the NCCI website.

The NCCI conducts online Monthly Fellowship, for persons with Disability, on the first Saturday of every month, from 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The Fifth Session: The Rev. D a n i e l N a t h , Auxiliary Secretary, Bible Society of India for Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh, spoke about the audio Bible and Braille Book on the Gospel of Luke. The workshop concluded with the closing prayer and the Benediction pronounced by the Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, Bishop Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI.



The Revd. Subha V. Gadi
Assistant Presbyter

DIOCESE OF NAGPUR NEWS

NAGPUR DIOCESAN PASTOR'S MEETING HELD ON 14TH AND 15TH JULY 2026 AT DIE ARK OF MURE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND DIOCESAN KOINONIA CONFER

NDC Pastor's Meeting: - NDC Pastors' meeting was presided over by the Rt. Revd. Paranjyothi, Bishop of Nagpur Diocese. It was his first meeting with Diocesan clergies after his election as the Bishop of Nagpur Diocese of CNI, he was welcomed by the Revd. John George - the Vice President of the Nagpur Diocese along with clergies. In his initial speech, Bishop Paranjyothi shared insights from the life and ministry of Moses. He divided the life of Moses into three phases. First phase of his life was spent in Egypt studying its socio-political ideologies. Second phase of his life was spent into wilderness learning the lessons of shepherding. Bishop Paranjyothi said that it is very similar with theological students who spend these two phases of their early life studying theology and learning lessons from practical ministry simultaneously. Third phase of the life of Moses was spent in utilizing whatever he had learnt from theory and practice. Bishop Paranjyothi encouraged all the pastors to utilize whatever they learnt and practiced during their seminary days in their respective congregations and fulfill the task given by Lord Jesus. Pastors' ministerial reports: - It has been a regular practice in the Diocesan pastors meeting to hear from the pastors about their ministerial reports. It is also time to introspect, unlearn and relearn from each other's experiences to enhance our ministerial objectives. Nagpur Diocese has 20 fulltime pastors and 2 honorary pastors who were retired from the Diocesan services but continue to render their services. Apart from these pastors there are 17 to 18 evangelists who preach the gospel in rural-urban areas of the Diocese. Property Development Program: - Mr. Sanjay Singh appointed as an honorary consultant for the Nagpur Diocesan Trust Association (NDTA) said that Nagpur Diocese has numerable property resources. But there are some issues. In some places property lease have been expired and have not yet been renewed. In some places, part of the property has been encroached. Renewing the property lease and removing encroachment is a gigantic task. Hence he proposed a Joint Venture on some of the freehold land and thereby renew the leases of the leased lands, build personages, and strengthen the evangelistic work of the churches. He also told all the pastors to share these ideas of property development program into their respective congregations.



Bishop's House warming ceremony: - Bishop's house was in a depleted condition and needed repairs. Rev. John George the presbyter in charge of All Saints Cathedral conducted the housewarming ceremony in Bishop's House after its repairs. All the pastors also joined him in this housewarming ceremony. Some guests were also present on this occasion. Mrs. Manjusha Stephenson the Diocesan Secretary thanked NDTA Management committee for repairing of Bishop's bungalow. Special Intensive Revision (SIR) workshop: - Bishop Paranjyothi had invited Advocate Jitendra Velekar and Engineer Swapnil Phuse from an NGO known as 'JAGAR' in order to give information about Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to all the pastors and requested all the pastors to make their congregations members about the importance of SIR. He also said that social responsibility comes first to the spirituality and therefore pastors must engage into fulfilling their social responsibilities. Administrative matters: - Mrs. Manjusha Stephenson Hon. Secretary and Mr. Samson Samuel Hon. Treasurer were present in pastors' meeting along with Bishop Paranjyothi. Several issues were discussed particularly with regards to forthcoming AGM and election in different pastorates of the Nagpur Diocese. Finally Bishop Paranjyothi offered the concluding prayer and with Lord's Prayer, pronounced blessings.



The Revd. Ganesh C Barve
Presbyter
Nagpur Diocese of CNI

