

SUMMER CAMP 2015



This year, Summer Camp in Durgapur was presented by the women of Durgapur Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (DWFCS) from the 22nd to the 24th of May. It was a HUGE success, mostly in part to the women who worked so hard to present a wonderful Christian learning opportunity to the children of Adra, Durgapur, Raniganj, Purulia, Bankura and Baldahura (Malda). These women who worked so tirelessly are: Mrs. Rita Dutta, president DWFCS, Ms. Nita Pyne, Mrs. Lorraine Kobiraj, Mrs. Archana A. Dey, Mrs. Santa Toon Das, Sangita Lippert and many others. They worked hard for many hours to prepare decorations for the event, with the theme of

“Trekking Through Proverbs”, using one's Heart, Hands, Feet, Mouth and Ears in a way to be God-pleasing in accordance with scripture. Further it was very inspiring to observe that all the expenses for the programme was donated by various women of the DWFCS. So this to me was a great story of a self-sustained programme by women, who did not depend on any external support from anyone.

More than 200 children arrived on Friday morning, receiving their Summer Camp shirt and cap, room and teacher assignments. Throughout the week-end, they sang songs, played games, made crafts, and learned Bible verses found in the Book

of Proverbs. On Friday evening, we had opening ceremonies with words of greeting provided by Mrs. Dutta and prayer by Revd. Samuel Halder. Mrs. Archana A. Dey, served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. The children and everyone specially enjoyed and appreciated the theme song for the "Summer Camp 2015", which was composed and tuned by Mrs. Santa Toon Das, who led the children in all the songs.

There was also a presentation by the teachers of the Camp, "Reporting from the Serengeti". It was a great skit by the staff, with the teachers and the students enacting as lions, tigers, hippos, giraffes, parrots, cheetahs and other

jungle animals, singing songs.

On Saturday, the children had Praise and Worship time together, played games, and prepared delicious beverages or salads for the food contest. All of it was wonderful! Later that evening, we were presented with beautiful and colorful cultural dance performances by the various Child Development Centres, as well as a fashion show entitled “From Junk to Funk”, with the theme of utilising recyclable materials to make clothing. The students were really very imaginative! They came up with wonderful ideas. The children went to bed late in the evening after

a energising dance with the teachers and staff of the Diocese in Durgapur. It was a great night.

On Sunday the children attended the Sunday Morning Sung Eucharist Holy Communion Service at the St. Michael's and All Angel's Cathedral at the Diocesan Bhavan in Durgapur. After service there was a closing ceremony and the students left to their respective centres with wonderful memories of their time in Durgapur. I wish Summer Camp all the best and may it continue to enrich, bless and guide the children in this corner of the world, who might have otherwise been lost in oppressions of time. ■

Joyce Wright

Bishop Receives Another Award

On Saturday the 2nd of May 2015, The Rt. Revd. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta, Bishop of Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India (CNI), was awarded with the "Significance Community Service Award", by the Rotary Club of Aerocity Durgapur, District 3,240. The prestigious award was handed to Bishop by Past Rotary International Director and Past Foundation Trustee PDG Rtn. Ashoke Mahajan at the ROTARY, TAALIM, DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY 2015, hosted by Rotary Club of Aerocity Durgapur.

As a special attraction at this event, the children of Durgapur Child Study and Development Centre (DCSDC), performed the inauguration song on string instruments such as the violin, viola, cello, double bass etc., under the leadership of Ms. Ruth Pugh, missionary from Methodist Church United Kingdom, who has trained the children in all the string instruments and music.

A short message was delivered by our Bishop about the marginalised origins of the centre Children and their amazing transformation

of hope, initiated in them by the women of Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (DWFCS) of the Diocese of Durgapur. He shared in his message that “Children's were like roses, wherever one gets good fragrance, children would always be there. Though these talented children were from the slums but when you provide them good TAALIM (holistic tutoring) as per the "Rotary District Training Assembly 2015" theme, they will bear the fruits of a world class quality performance, which was witnessed by all present



at the Assembly. During the evening the children played a Dance performance on “MANSOON RAGA”, which enthralled the witnessing audience, who burst into shouts of roaring applaud, saluting the children on their excellent performance.

To coordinate the total programme with the Diocese and the Rotary,

at the end of the day I was overwhelmed with the children's performance, which once again reminded me that they are the real assets of the Diocese of Durgapur. Their performance keeps the Diocese of Durgapur so high in front of all the dignitaries both within and beyond the borders of our great sub continent of India. ■

Subrata Gorai

Editorial-SUPERMAN: THE HOPE FOR ALL MANKIND



In the summer of 2013, *Man of Steel* put Superman back on fans' radars in a big way. Even when a new director took a completely different direction with the Superman franchise, the film was still filled with Christ comparisons.

There are minor things to take notice of, such as a young Clark Kent reading the philosophies of Plato, just as a young Jesus certainly read and studied the Torah. Clark is also thirty-three years old at the climax of the film, the age many scholars believe Jesus to have

been at the time of his death.

An adolescent Clark Kent also watches his earthly father, Jonathan Kent, die in a tornado, something he could have prevented had his father felt the world was ready to see what his son could do. Compare this with Jesus at the wedding in Cana when a miracle is asked of him, yet he responded, "My time has not arrived" (John 2:4).

While he was alive, though, Jonathan Kent struggled with his fear that the world wouldn't understand his son. "When the world finds out what you can do, it's gonna change everything," Jonathan shares with his young son. "Our beliefs, our notions of what it means to be human. Everything...People are afraid of what they don't understand."*

Surely Joseph had similar struggles concerning Jesus, the boy he raised as his own son. When Mary became pregnant with a child who was not his, Joseph had in mind to divorce her quietly until an angel told him who the baby was. We can only speculate Joseph's reactions, but protecting Jesus became uppermost in his mind, as indicated by their mad dash to Egypt in order to flee the wrath of Herod. For no longer was his priority to protect young Mary from public disgrace; rather, he found himself suddenly responsible for helping to protect and raise a child who would save the people from their sins. This child was the hope that a world crying out to God had been waiting for.

It is in this theme of hope that we find the heart of *Man of Steel*. Upon meeting his biological father for the first time, Clark (whose Kryptonian name, he learns, is Kal-El) is told, "The

symbol of the house of El means hope."* And this is the symbol placed on his chest that resembles an S. His father, Jor-El, sent his only son to Earth to bring the people hope.

The hope that God sent to earth was his Son, Jesus. From Adam and Eve in the garden, to the Israelites wandering in the desert, to the people of Israel who had been conquered by foreign kingdoms, the Old Testament is filled with people calling out for help. They desperately needed God's intervention. They knew they were broken, sinful, and without hope on their own. In response, God "gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Though the world's need for everlasting hope was fulfilled two thousand years ago when Jesus came to earth, it has by no means been realized

by all. We oftentimes find ourselves fighting our need for hope. It does not make sense that we need someone not of this world to save us. Nor do we understand why a father would love a people so much he would send his only son to die for them. And the confusion makes us afraid. Afraid of our vulnerability, of our fragility, of our dependency.

The people of Metropolis certainly did not immediately realize their need for Superman when General Zod tried to create a new planet of Krypton out of the foundation of earth, which would have resulted in billions of deaths; but that didn't change the fact that they did, indeed, desperately need him. And countless millions today also trudge through their days crying out for hope, not knowing that it has already come.. . ■

Trishikh Dasgupta

Holla SriLanka!



UnitingWorld Australia is the overseas partner of the "Community Development Programme", Diocese of Durgapur, which was previously known as the "Community Development Programme Sarenga" and the "Urban Slum Development Programme, Durgapur". Recently between the 10th to the 15th of May 2015 a South Asian

Regional Conference and workshop on "Design, Monitoring and Evaluation" was conducted for the various selected project partners of the UnitingWorld is South Asia. The participating organisations were namely the Diocese of Durgapur, Diocese of Eastern Himalaya and the Diocese of Amritsar of the Church of North India from the

subcontinent of India and the Methodist church of Sri Lanka. The workshop was held at the paradise Beach Hotel in Negombo in Sri Lanka, very close to its capital city Colombo.

Nita Pyne, Project Coordinator, Tarun Pal, Programme Facilitator and Trishikh Dasgupta, Design and Development Person of the Community Development Programme, Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India participated in this five day workshop.

The workshop was conducted by Stephanie Dalton Programme Manager, UnitingWorld and Margaret Watt, representative of the UnitingWorld Board from Australia. The workshop was very innovating and completely out of the box. Active group exercises, learning through games and theater were essential



learning tools at this workshop. The workshop also provided a great opportunity inter-religious and inter-cultural learning as the partners from Sri Lanka and India came to know much about the issues in both these countries.

The participants also went on a day's excursion to see and understand the lives and troubles of the fisherman community of the region, who earn their livelihood from the extremely ecologically rich lagoon. A visit to the fisherman's village also helped in bringing about clarity on their situation. After this the team made a visit to the NARA Mangrove Park of the Sri Lankan Government, which is dedicated to the

preservation and protection of the rich and varied mangrove species and diversified ecological life in the Lagoon region. Further on the same day the team visited the "Gampaha District Inter Religious Collective", a forum dedicated to religious peace and development in Sri Lanka.

Overall the workshop was extremely beneficial to the participating agencies, who went back to the programmes of social development with richer knowledge and experience. We wish more of these workshops to be conducted in the future for the holistic benefit of the communities that we serve. ■

Nita Pyne

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Adding SALT to Life



On Wednesday the 27th of May 2015, twenty individuals gathered together at the Shanti Griha conference hall at the Diocesan Bhavan campus at Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur to add a bit of SALT to their lives. As salt enhances the taste of any food this SALT too has been found to enhance any human intervention.

SALT is a development approach, strategy and tool which literally expands as Stimulate, Affirm, Lear and Transfer (S. A. L. T). It is the very basis of the "Hands On Health" (HOH) programme of the Diocese of Durgapur, implemented through the Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital (KSNH) in Sarenga. The concept of HOH was coined by Affirm Associates worldwide for the first time. The programme here at KSNH Sarenga is in joint collaboration with United society (Us) of the United Kingdom, which was established in 1701 to work in partnership with the Anglican Churches and the community.

This one day Strategic Consultation was conducted by Mr. Davidson Solanki, head of International Programmes of Us. Joining the consultation were four experts from the Diocese, namely, Revd. Amiya Das, Mr. Khagendra Nath Das, Ms. Nita Pyne and Mr. Trishikh Dasgupta. The other sixteen members at the consultation were representative members of the Joint Facilitation Team (JFT) and Local Facilitation Team (LFT) of the HOH Programme. Mr. Pradip Baux, who had been

looking after the programme from 2012, shared about the journey programme in Sarenga. Diocesan Ordinand Mr. Sandipan Sinha who has been appointed as the part time Coordinator of the HOH Programme, was also present at the consultation.

The concept of HOH and Salt was clearly understood by the participants. It was shared that how HOH involved three stakeholders, namely the Diocese, KSN Hospital and the Community where the programme would be implemented, along with Us as the Collaborating Overseas partner. It was clearly understood that the HOH and Salt was a process where members of the JFT and LFT would visit a community and Stimulate them to recognise their problems, Affirm with them and help them find out solutions to their problems. And at the same time learn from community, while building a stronger relationship with the community.

Previously this programme was directly implemented at the KSNH Sarenga, however it could not gain much momentum. However The Rt. Revd. Probal Kanto Dutta, Bishop of the Diocese, recognised the strong potential in this programme and took it over as a Diocesan Programme in collaboration Us of Uk, whose have pledged to keep on supporting this programme in the coming days. ■

Sandipan Sinha

A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

The people of the Lord in Saint Michael's Church Durgapur are celebrating 50 (Golden Jubilee) glorious years of their journey this year. As a part of the celebrations the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service of the Church observed a day's retreat celebrating womanhood and especially of that being a mother on Sunday the 10th of May 2015 on the theme "A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR".

Mrs. Santa Toon Das, President of WFCS, St. Michael's Church wholeheartedly thanked all the partakers in the programme through her inspirational and encouraging welcome speech, in which she emphasised the women being true, strong, bold, and finally be fruitful in keeping God's will – walking in His path as shown by His son Jesus Christ. Around 50 women of 16 years and above from St. Michael's Church Durgapur and its neighboring Durgapur United Church, both under the Diocese of Durgapur passionately joined in the curriculum. After the morning mass, the women of both the churches congregated inside the church for the day's programme.

Beguiling the day's programme was an entrancing greeting dance performed by the women of the St. Michael's Church to the tunes of the Bard Rabindranath Tagore – 'Anandoloke Mongolaloke...' – This set the state of mind of all present. Refreshing and revitalising songs of praise and worship set off the rhythm of the programme's atmosphere.

The day was also chosen in which a very enlightening session on the Prayer Shawl Ministry was aptly and deftly illustrated through by Mrs. Archana A Dey, the Secretary of the Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service and the Prayer



Shawl Ministry of the Diocese of Durgapur. Elaborately she elucidated the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the DWFCS – why it was formed, its history, its thoughts and then the main process of shawl making, how they are made, for whom they are made.

Subsequently the participants involved themselves in yet another wide-ranging and educative sitting for the main theme for the day – A Spoonful of Sugar piloted by Revd. Amiya Das, Vice President of the Diocese of Durgapur and the Presbyterian-In-Charge of St. Michael's Church. In the group discussions that followed, each group were given two female personalities from the Bible, one good (positive) and one bad (negative) personality, to discuss within themselves the good/ sweet and the bad/ bitter qualities of each of the woman whose names were given to each group. On one hand when there were names like Ruth, Mary Magdalene, and Esther etc. were given, on the other hand names like Delilah, Isabel, the Daughters of Lot, the Wife of Potifer's Wife (Herodias) etc. were also given to be discussed. It was noteworthy to observe the enthusiasm and indulgence showed by each of the participants during this discussion. At the end of

the discussion the groups were able to distinguish the sweet and the sour part of each of the woman in the Bible. This session was a special one as because the participants were also able to identify and recognize the sweet side of their own personalities and dispose of the sour side as well at the end.

Post lunch once more the participants assembled to a stirring yet inspiring homily by Revd. Sumanta Naru, the Stewardship Director of the Diocese of Durgapur and the Presbyterian-In-Charge of Durgapur United Church. Upholding the story of Namaan, he very suitably connected it to our lives. He endorsed the sweetness or the love expressed in the story by the protagonist. He further put up Jesus' example and revealed that it is only through love that is within us that we can spread sweetness throughout this creation by walking in the way of Jesus – just as sugar makes anything sweet in which it is added. He urged everyone to make their lives sweet, full of the Lord's love, which in turn will make this world a place full of sweetness and love.

The eventful day of companionship, and learning, sharing and above all understanding the understandable things through the Bible – the Lord's Word, the



mandate set by Jesus Christ (Spreading LOVE & SWEETNESS) came to an end by the vote of thanks expressed with gratitude and thankfulness by Mrs. Priti Dukuria, Secretary of the WFCS of St. Michael's Church. The WFCS of St. Michael's Church and especially each and every one of the participants would like to extend their heartfelt thankfulness to Revd. Naru for sharing such an interesting and

inspirational subject from the living word of the Lord.

We hope that each participant who attended the retreat would spread sweetness throughout this otherwise a World that has been shrouded by bitterness. Hopefully they would make this world a better place spreading sweetness based on Christian values as shown by our Savior Lord Jesus Christ. ■ **B. K. Raj**

OSL India Reaches Far Corners



The OSL India (The International Order of St. Luke The Physician) Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India (CNI), has been an extremely successful ministry in spreading the love and comfort of Jesus to thousands of individuals of varied faith, ethnicity, caste and creed in not only the eight districts under the jurisdiction of Diocese of Durgapur, but to other parts of India as well.

Recently as a witness to this claim, under the leadership of Revd. Amiya Das, Director, OSL India and assistance of Revd. Sumanta Naru, Chaplain OSL India and Mr. Tapas Naskar Evangelist, OSL India, organised a two day Immersion Bible Study and OSL Training workshop centred around the 26 healing instances of Jesus from the Bible, was held on the 21st and the 22nd of May 2015, at Arambagh in Hoogly District of the State of West

Bengal, where the Diocese does not have any presence.

This was also a great effort towards interdenominational cooperation as the programme was organised with 33 participants at the Seventh Day Adventist Church with representatives from the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, CNI and Seventh Day Adventist Churches.

Using simple, local and understandable language the work of Jesus' healing ministry was explained to the participants. Group discussions, plays, songs and poetry were the major mediums in this workshop, which eased the understanding and enhanced the learning experience of all. Through blessing with Holy oil and prayers the participants pledged to carry forward this valuable learning in administering Jesus' healing in the lives of the people of their

communities who were suffering from some kind of mental, physical or spiritual crisis.

Pastor Manash Das, presbyter of the Seventh

Day Adventist Church, his wife Mrs. Sujata Das, evangelists Ujjwal Pal and Dipankar Sarkar played a great and tireless role in making this workshop a success.

The OSL India team wishes the people and churches of Arambagh all the best in their future healing endeavours. ■

Revd. Amiya Das

Nepal Earthquake Affects Malda

On Saturday the 25th of April a severe earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hit the country of Nepal with continued aftershocks the earthquake according to official records took 8,676 lives injuring 21,952 people and rendering thousands homeless. This earthquake not only affected Nepal but many surrounding countries. It also affected some communities in the

Malda District of the State of West Bengal, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Durgapur. Fortunately in the recent past the Diocese had built a Safe Home at the Baldahura village in Malda and immediately after the earthquake many families of the region came to take shelter in the "St. Michael's Safe Home". More than twenty mud houses of the region

have been damaged and are uninhabitable. The Diocese has taken up the challenge and is in the process of rehabilitating the lives of these destabilised people. We are thankful to everyone who came forward to support the earthquake affected brothers and sisters of ours from both within and beyond borders with their prayer and support. ■

Revd. R. C. Kisku

Story Corner

Story of the Feetless Hawker

He rode in, on a motor scooter with two additional support wheels, in front of the Good Shepherd Eye Clinic and Hospital in Durgapur. The tips of two wooden crutches touched the floor before the 58 year old man Sushil Nandi dismounted from his scooter. Everything looked okay about this happy elder, whose life's journey could be seen etched on his very parched skin. The moment Sushil started walking, one could realise his drawback in life; the absence of both of his feet, which he lost many years back, to the bone crunching onslaught of a roaring locomotive of the Indian Railways, where he worked as a railway hawker, selling his wear, carrying it on his head, leaping from train to train, many a time crossing the railway tracks very fast and with lot of risk to earn a livelihood in this unforgiving and modernised, civilised, globalised world.

Accompanying him was a young man of 31 years of age, by the name of Hela Tantubai. Though



Hela looked to be a quiet healthy and normal, his most severe disadvantage in life was the absence of the right forearm, which he lost few years back, while he met with an accident working as a mini truck driver.

Sushil presently runs a very small grocery shop nearby the very same railway track that took away his feet and the chance of a brighter future many years back. Hela presently is jobless, the compensation that he received from the insurance done by the mini truck owner was Rs. 2,00,000/- which has finished in trying to live with a wife and family during the past years.

Both these gentlemen came to the Good Shepherd Eye Clinic and Hospital, got medical treatment for their eyes



and have witnessed positive progress of their particular eyesight problems. However the most important point to be noted from the lives of these two men, is how incompetent various factors of society such as the Government, Civil Society Organisations and even Religious orders have been to be able to respectfully rehabilitate our differently abled brothers and sisters of the society.

Today this case study has touched my heart to be more conscious about differently abled people in all our programmes and surroundings. All of us should walk a mile more in order for someone to take a very small step, which may be magnanimously meaningful in that person's life. ■

Trishikh Dasgupta