

Bishop Dutta Installed as Bishop of Calcutta Diocese

Ankita Bhattacharjee: On 14th October 2018, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta, had been installed as the 20th Bishop of Calcutta Diocese. He will now be serving as the Moderator's Commissary in the Diocese of Durgapur along with his role as the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta had been elected as the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India in October 2017. He had taken over the role of Bishop in the Diocese of Durgapur in 2003. Since his transition to the helm of this diocese he turned it around from an ailing diocese which was to be annexed into the Bishopric of the Diocese of Kolkata,

into one of the most active dioceses in the Church of North India. As members of his congregation we are very happy for his continued success. His work ethic and dedication is unparalleled. We invoke the Lord's blessings on him and wish him all the best as he takes on another role as a leader. ■



Women Convention 2018

Ankita Bhattacharjee: "...We can stand against any demonic onslaught wearing the armour of God." Ephesians 6: 10-11 (NIV). The Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (DWFCS) of The Diocese of Durgapur and the Daughters of the King, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of New York, had organised a three-day seminar on "Women who Speak Up". The aim of this convention was to empower women to speak up for their Rights and to work towards being a significant force in contributing to the development of our society. Over three hundred women from different parts of Diocese of Durgapur attended the Convention. The three-day conve-

ntion began with a Communion Service where two adults, Mrs. Manisha Solomon and Mrs. Jhampa Ray were inducted into the Daughters of the King and eleven young girls received their Junior Daughter crosses. Post Holy Communion, President of DWFCS, Mrs. Rita Dutta, welcomed the participants in her speech and declared her joy at seeing so many women gather together in sisterhood so that they can all learn from and grow with each other. The occasion was graced by our friends from the Daughters of the King, USA, who spoke about the importance of being advocates and active leaders as women who are part of the community. Each day began with a spir-

ituallly rejuvenating session of joyful praise and worship followed by Bible study session conducted by Rev. Papiya Durairaj, professor of Theology at Bishop's College, Kolkata. On the second day, our guests from the Daughters of the King, Grace Sears and Judy Bordelon, spoke to the gathered women about the organisation, its mission and vision. They spoke about how the Daughters are women who desire a closer walk with our Lord, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of their sisters. This was followed by a session facilitated by Ms. Ankita Bhattacharjee (Communication Secretary, Diocese of Durgapur) and Mr.

Tarun Pal (Capacity Building Officer, Community Development Programme, Diocese of Durgapur), where focus was laid on human trafficking. The participants were made aware about the various ways in which trafficking takes place. They were also shown a short documentary on trafficking and how it affects women. In the evening, a debate was organised where women represented their pastorates to talk on the subject of "Women can change the world". Mrs. Supra Sinha, Vice President of DWFCS, led a session on Prayer Shawl

Ministry. She explained how these shawls, woven with prayers and sent out with blessings, bring comfort, love and warmth to the receiver. The ladies were then encouraged to knit their own prayer shawls during the course of their stay and to continue the ministry in their congregations. The events of the day came to a close with a talent show. The ladies from the different pastorates performed songs, traditional dances and short skits to emphasize the position and role of women in their respective communities and to thank the Lord for giving



Editorial



- Ankita Bhattacharya

"Wherever you go, you take yourself with you..." I came across this profound quote in a book by Neil Gaiman. These words, in the context of the story ("The Witch's Headstone" – in case you want to read it) were said to assuage the fears of a child who was being pursued by goons; but, they hold immense significance in our lives as well. Often we play the victim, assigning blame on others and blaming our situations. But, what if the reason something happens because of who we are? If we are good and kind and take that energy with us we often start noticing goodness and kindness around us. Call it the law of attraction, call it any other new-age term, but what we are

reflects in what we do and what happens to us.

The only constant we have in life are our own selves. Therefore, I interpret these eight words to also remind myself that if I have to enjoy my own company for the next however-many years I am alive, I might as well make that company enjoyable. Luke 17:21 reminds us that, "The kingdom of heaven is within". A very poignant teaching which directs us to seek for heaven and peace within ourselves instead of seeking it in our external reality; the world outside will change but we will always be our constant companion. If that relationship with ourselves fraught with doubt, insecurities and a low opinion how can we ever learn to enjoy that friendship! ■

them this platform to express and voice, their opinions, and thoughts. The final day began with a session by Grace Sears and Joan Dalrymple. They spoke about the daughters around the world and how these women are united in spirit through their communion with Christ. Mrs. Kalyani Bansriar, one of the participants, was a firebrand who said, "...for women to feel safe and to succeed

we have to be our champions; we have to stand united and hold each others hands in order to protect and to nurture our sisters so that we can all work towards preventing our children and friends or ourselves from being trafficked."

"Worship, prayer and an overwhelming sense of freedom, this is what it means to be an armour of God. Today I feel that

power within me. Look at our Madam (Mrs. Rita Dutta); one woman has changed the life of the women of our diocese and of so many children (children who attend the study centres run by the DWFCs). If she can do this much we can surely put on our armours and affect changes in our own families and congregations." – Mrs. Kakoli Paswan, Participant from Burdwan Pastorate. ■

Vacational Bible School in St. Barnabas Church

Dhiraj Kashyap: The month of October brings with it the vitality of holidays. With Durgapuja around the corner it is the month all Bengalis look forward to. The congregation of St. Barnabas Church, Purulia, has adopted this Bengali holidays to its calendar. During the course of the Pujas the congregation of St. Barnabas Church organises a Vacational Bible School. This year too, the time-honoured tradition had been observed from 16th to 19th October.

During the course of the four days, more than 150 school-going students gath-

ered together to participate in this Bible School extravaganza. The Bible education course is also designed with specific attention to teaching manners and morals to the growing children because we believe that "Manners maketh a man". The lessons also include sessions on art and craft. The children are taught how to use easily available materials from their own homes in order to create beautiful art pieces that they can use to decorate their homes. Under the expert guidance and care of Mrs. Aparna Bansriar, the children learned to enjoy the

process of crafting. They also took great pleasure in decorating the creating a wall-magazine with their art, stories and poems. The last day witnessed all the participants of this Bible school gathering together to partake in communal lunch. This was followed by a quiz competition designed to gauge the understanding of the students. The day ended with a cultural programme where the students exhibited their talents; this was followed by a prize-distribution ceremony which signalled the end of the four days of festivities. ■

Adra Church Celebrates World Sunday School Day

Rev. Bijay Lakra : St. Bartholomew's Church, Adra, celebrated World Sunday School Day on 4th November. Six churches from Adra pastorate attended this program. Adra Child Study Centre also participated in this one-day extravaganza along with the teachers and students. 150 members from the different churches inclu-

ding 80 young children were in attendance on this day. The programme started with praise and worship. This was followed by songs and skits with a moral message. The attendees were divi-

ded into groups who then took active part in the group activities that were organised for the day. A communal Lovefeast and benediction after lunch ended the day's festivities. ■



I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish;
no one will snatch them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all;
no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.
I and the Father are one.
John 10:28-30

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Uniting World Annual Workshop

Tarun Pal: The Diocese of Amritsar played host to the annual UnitingWorld workshop this year from 8th to 13th October. The aim of these annual workshops is to create a wider network of understanding and fellowship within Uniting World partners in Asia so that they can function better to achieve their goals of serving the society. Associate Director of International Programs for Uniting World, Jane Kennedy, International Programs Manager – Asia/Africa, Daniel Buckingham and Hindra Sulaksono, Program Partner from Indonesia were present at this workshop. Mr. Buckingham and Ms. Kennedy facilitated the workshop which focused on conducting better group and individual interviews, Child Protection, Disability Inclusion and Conflict Management. I had attended this workshop in my cap-

acity as Capacity Building Coordinator along with our Project Coordinator Ms. Nita Pyne on behalf of the Community Development Programme, Diocese of Durgapur, along with Ms. Ankita Bhattacharjee who is the Communication Secretary of the diocese. Representatives from other South Asian partners of Uniting World, Diocese of Amritsar, Diocese of Eastern Himalaya and Methodist Church of Sri Lanka were also present at this workshop. These annual workshops are the great way for us to meet with Uniting World partners from different projects and learn from their experience. It has opened to us a new vista of how we can achieve our goals of engendering progress to sustainable social development in partnership with others who share our vision. ■



New Edition of "Bijoy Geeti" Hymnal Launched

Rev. Sumanto Naru : On 30th October, 2018, the new edition of Bijoy Geeti hymnal was launched by Mrs. Grace Sears and Mrs. Judy Bordelon from Daughters of the King, USA. This unveiling was done in the presence of the women from the Diocese of Durgapur, led by Mrs. Rita Dutta, President of Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service and Daughters of the King, India. who had gathered for the annual Women's Convention.

The hymnal has been designed with specific attention to the lingual needs of the congregation. The quadrilingual hymn book has songs in English, Hindi, Santhali and Bengali which are the major languages spoken and written in this area. The earlier editions of

the hymn-book did not have Santhali & English songs which had been an issue of consternation among the Santhali-domi-

nated tribes who can not read other languages. The book was received with great joy by the congregation. ■



Prayer Shawl Ministry in St. Bartholomew's Church

Ms. Rupa Pilley : "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." This quote from Luke 23:28 touched the hearts of the women of Adra Pastorate who had discussed, pondered and reflected on it; they also reflected on the life of Jesus our Saviour, who came into this world to give us eternal life, to redeem us from our sins and to heal the sick. Jesus spoke to them that they He had given them the

responsibility of the downtrodden and the sick and to dispel the darkness of ignorance. Hence on 18th October they got together in the church to spend the day with Jesus and to knit a shawl in His presence, which would then be used for the sick and the needy. The programme started with a brief introduction to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a prayer

by Rev. Bijoy Lakra, followed by song, meditation, Bible reading and message by Mrs. Alka Lakra. The women felt themselves redeemed by the presence of our Redeemer through their small act of devotion and faith. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. The day ended with vote of thanks by Mrs. Ava Pilley and a closing prayer by Rev. Bijay Lakra. ■



OSL Training Program In St. Michael's Church

Ayan Kumar Tudu : The Order of St. Luke (OSL), Healing ministry training program was held in St. Michael's Church from 23rd - 25th October, 2018. Members from Durgapur United Church, Benachity and Raniganj Pastorate were in attendance along with the local congregation. The training program was the perfect medium for the 52 participants to reflect on their knowledge of the scripture. Rev. Sumanta Naru & Rev. Rabindranath Ray encouraged the

participants to read the scriptures in a way that they can carry out the Healing Ministry with fruitful results. The conductors also held healing sessions for the participants and a non-Christian person who had come to receive healing. The conductors, Rev. Naru and Rev. Ray taught 26 verses

from the scripture. At the end of the training program each participant was given Holy Oil to be used during healing sessions. Prayer groups were also formed in each participating pastorate so they can cater to the healing needs of their respective church and the surrounding areas. ■

