



Journeying Together Towards Building Communities of Resistance & Hope...

CNI-SBSS' e- publication for internal circulation

March 2007

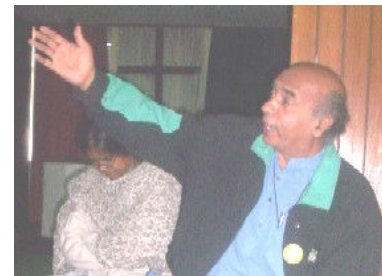
Meditation

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God...But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you..... Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Matthew 5:9; Luke 6:27-31 (NRSV)

Give up and Get Freed...

Father Thomas Kocherry, social activist and multi-faceted personality divulged the history of globalization in the context of Food Sovereignty in an entire new way while interacting with the CNI SBSS team. He challenged the group to rediscover the prophetic dimensions of Christianity warning them about the temptations like institutionalization, power and money. He said through appropriation and accumulation we are holding on to the resources, that are meant for human well-being, limiting its access to the very few! With his concern revolutionaries becoming fundamentalists/ fascists, he encouraged the team to be miracle workers bringing His kingdom. Father Thomas also helped the group in understanding the Bible in political context. He explained how we voluntarily enslave ourselves binding us and falling prey to accumulations.



Father John Vattamattam, former director of Christian Health Association of India (CHAI) introduced Father Thomas to the group. This meeting was held on Monday, 5th March 2007 in CNI chapel and begun with the sharing of the beatitudes from the New Testament by Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Co-ordinator, CNI SBSS.

SBSS with ACT Development

ACT (Action by Churches Together) Development, the new global alliance for development, celebrated its first assembly on February 5-7 in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the All Africa Conference of Churches. By working collaboratively, the alliance aims to increase the effectiveness of ecumenical work on poverty, injustice and human rights abuse. The alliance brings together 55 ecumenical organizations and churches. The Assembly considered the future direction of the alliance as well as its mechanisms and programmatic activities. It was agreed by the Assembly that ACT Development should continue discussions with ACT International, the churches global alliance for emergency response, to explore possibilities of a structural relationship between the two alliances. A close working relationship will also be maintained with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance.



Chief at ACT Development Assembly

Extending Consultation And Training



John S Kumar was invited as a visiting faculty by Xavier Institute of Social Sciences (XISS), Ranchi to teach Disaster Management to MA (Rural Development) students. This is a recognition SBSS being respected for its expertise. SBSS has developed a curriculum as well offered training on Disaster Management, placing it in context of Indian experience as India's response to the disasters.



Happy Birthday ...

Many Happy Returns to our accompaniers - Sudeep (6th March), Anil Kumar (8th March), Bhola Nath (17th March) and Deepshikha (18th March).

May Lord Almighty Bless all of them abundantly and be with them always as they are serving Him being an important actor in His mission with SBSS.

Forthcoming Events...

- **Partners Meet**

Scheduled on Wednesday, March 07, 2007. This is the day to decisively share and proclaim ideas and the process of coming praxis! An opportunity... again to share the new initiatives and process of consolidation where SBSS meets its resource sharing partners. We extend warm welcome to our partners in mission – Kirsten Gade - EED, Belinda Bennet – Christian Aid, Sanjay Patra – FMSF and all others.

- **Accompaniers' Meet**

Accompaniers Meet will be held from April 11-14, 2007 in Panchmadhi (Pachmarhi), Madhya Pradesh. We shall gather in Jabalpur/ Itarasi on Tuesday, 10th April 2007 in the morning and together start our journey towards the venue. Details'll reach you soon.

Days to Remember in the month of March : 08 - International Women's Day (*Theme : Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls*), 15 - World Consumer Rights Day, 21 - World Forestry Day & International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 22 - World Water Day (*Theme : Coping with Water Scarcity*), 24 – World Tuberculosis Day.

Prayer against Oppression



Almighty God, who hast created us in Thine own image, Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of Thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sharing our work and Learning from others is one of the fundamental processes in development work. Hereby all Accompaniers at CNI RCSAs are requested to share their experiences and work. After all this breaks the boundaries and takes us to the broader world. So please share your happenings so that we can share with others...

Accompanier is an electronic newsletter for SBSS' internal circulation, freely transmitted by Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS), a justice & development arm of the Church of India (CNI).

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