

# Accompanier



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

CNI-SBSS' e- publication for internal circulation

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### **Meditation**

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by the means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11.

### **Joining hands together in Solidarity**

Staff of Synodical Board of Social Services with the Church of North India Synod and National



Council of Churches in India participated in the protest-rally demanding for the removal of religious criteria from SC reservation for the re-inclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims in this category under Article 341. Supporters in large numbers with banners and placards came together for this demonstration at Ramlila Ground, and then proceeded towards Jantar-Mantar, New Delhi shouting slogans and

demonstrating on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The event was jointly organized by Dalit Muslim Liberation Movement, National Coordination Committee for Dalit Christians, National Council of Dalit Christians, All India Christian Council with other like-minded civil society organizations.



### **Jabalpur Diocese Initiatives...**

It was collectively resolved in a diocese meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Jabalpur to initiate Church Mission Engagement (CME) for National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Programme with issues of livelihood in the diocese of Jabalpur. Accordingly an orientation is planned at the end of June with the capacity building workshop for the congregations and their leaders' participation. Dr Shailendra Awale, Bidyut Ranjan Sagar, DeepakSingh and Sunil Mahajan shared their inputs on behalf of SBSS during this meeting.

### **'Building Movement & Developing Alternatives...' in KaryaShala**

About 50 social activists from the Forum of Collective Form of Cooperation (FCFC) hailing from different states came under one roof to learn and de-learn People's Movement, studying in detail *Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad* (DSVP) a powerful People's Organization (PO) in western Maharashtra and evolving new findings based on sharing and interacting process carried out in a three-day *KaryaShala* -

workshop with a theme *'Building Movement & Developing Alternatives...'* during 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in Miraj. Rt Rev BR Tiwade, Bishop of Kolhapur, C Indira Dasgupta, Convener of North Zone FCFC and Dr Deepak Kamle, Director, Miraj Medical Centre were the special guests. Bishop Tiwade in his introductory speech elucidated the biblical passages in present context asserting that we all have been anointed by the Almighty to spread the Good Word, to preach deliverance to the captives and to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Indira appealed the participants to respect and treat each other as resource as everyone's from different backgrounds and experiences which becomes a great source of learning and sharing in setting up alternative forces for the acquisition of social and political rights. During this workshop, the participants from FCFC - SPAR, FMSF, PIDT, SCINDIA and different DBSS' worked together developing



an understanding of the cultural context, functioning and challenges faced by the PO, discussed strategies, methods, various models and tools for transforming POs into people's movements as an alternative political force, factors promoting sustainabi-



lity of POs understanding the role of SBSS in facilitation.

### **Turning Every Destination into a Milestone...**

"Devotions with SBSS staff always fascinate me as we relate the Word of God with our work. Seeing these *diyaas* lit in this worship, a thought crossed in my mind... how far I have offered myself spiritually to burn and glow in His mission? How serious I am on the path I am treading on? How would I carry my search further to seek what is righteous and during this journey while empowering others, have I been myself capacitated to turn every destination into a milestone where not only me could look and feel worthy but it would serve as a pointer to others also? With these reflections by Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Co-ordinator and Secretary, Accompaniers Meet began on a high note resulting into retrospections, reflexive responses and repercussions graphing the journey Udaipur onwards... This four-day meet was held at Hill-tops of Matheran near Neral, Mumbai during 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007.



In the opening devotion, CNI RCSA TIIR Ranchi team presented *Salony/ Salai* flowers to each of the accompaniers as a symbol of brotherhood on the occasion of *Sarbuhul - Jharkhand's* tribal festival.

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**At Matheran** Contd...

With this goodwill spirit, the accompaniers not only set the entire agenda but also took care of gathering thoughts on what Matheran should be and should not be? Accordingly roles and responsibilities were identified, sharing and presentations chalked out. For next three days, the group intensively and collectively worked out on where we all stand in this 18 months' journey in terms of perspective building and towards movement building, sharing their experiences at diocese and RCSA level addressing concerned issues. Group Facilitators, Programme Staff & Coordinators (Facilitation, Resource & Support) poured their hearts out sharing and learning from self as well as other's experiences. Ms Heather Payne was present as an external observer during this meet. The group also took opportunity to shake the dance floor with their vibrant steps and later filled the atmosphere crooning melodies in recreational hours.



**Hearty Greetings...**



Many Happy Returns to our accompaniers on their **Birthdays** - Nilesh (1<sup>st</sup> May), Ramnath (6<sup>th</sup> May), and Amen (24<sup>th</sup> May). 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.

We also extend our prayerful wishes to Mrs & Mr Nikhil (8<sup>th</sup> May), Mrs & Mr Rajeev Prasad (17<sup>th</sup> May), Mrs & Mr Sunil (19<sup>th</sup> May), Mrs & Mr Ramnath (22<sup>nd</sup> May), Mrs & Mr Bibhu (26<sup>th</sup> May) and Mrs & Mr Satish on their **Wedding Anniversaries...**

We join in to congratulate proud parents – Mrs Shweta & Mr DeepakSingh on the **New Arrival** in family as they're blessed with baby girl on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

**Days to Remember in the month of MAY**

01 – World Labour Day, 03 - World Press Freedom Day, 13 - **Mother's Day** (Second Sunday in May) 17 - World Telecommunications Day, 25-31 – Week of Solidarity with the People of All Colonial Territories Fighting For Freedom, Independence & Human Rights, 28 - International Day of Action for Women's Health, 31 – World No Tobacco Day.

**Visitors...**

John Cunningham, UK visited SBSS HQ and discussed as how to optimize the organization's experience in the area of Food Security on a regional as well as on national basis. Impressed with SBSS' field interventions, he showed keen interest to collaborate in the areas of Food Security. With Dr Jaishree Mukherji, he is conducting a study for EED to identify tried & tested development processes & practices which contribute to the major problems & challenges facing the majority of people in India who are born into poverty & face hunger throughout the life.

**Deep Condolences...**

Mrs Sheila Jena, wife of Mr Pratyush Kumar Jena, SBSS' former Programme Coordinator passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 due to illness. On behalf of SBSS, Sukumar from CNIRCSA-Barrackpore visited the bereaved family and offered them prayerful condolences.

Mrs Jena was a devoted teacher, popular among students, parents & school management. Teaching was her passion. We remember Mr PK Jena, children Irene and Ivan in our prayers...