



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

Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, & it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe & not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 1:2-8 (NIV)

An Evening at Rashtrapati Bhawan...

A delegation team lead by Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Coordinator & Secretary, CNI SBSS and Rt. Rev. PL Kamble, Bishop of Nasik met Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Patil, the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on September 4, 2007 and submitted her the Draft of Memorandum in person regarding Equal Rights to Dalit Christians. On behalf of the entire Christian community, the delegation put forth their request through the President of India to the UPA government to implement the recommendations of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) Report by granting Scheduled Caste status to Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity during forthcoming Session of the Parliament.



Enterprise Solutions to Poverty : Role of the Church

To gain an in-depth understanding of currently effective Micro Enterprise Development, Small and Middle Scale Enterprises' programmes run by the faith-based organizations and Churches in India and in the other parts of the world and to examine implemental strategies and models, the Synod of Church of North India (CNI) in partnership with Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS), UK organised a workshop on Enterprise Approach to Poverty and Role of the Church on September 2-4, 2007 at CNI Bhavan, New Delhi. Rev Dr ED Pradhan, General Secretary, CNI Synod inaugurated the workshop with Ms Kiran Jeremiah, Treasurer CNI SBSS, Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Coordinator & Secretary, CNI SBSS, Vinay Samuel, OCMS, UK and the bishops of Eastern Himalaya, Nasik and Patna.

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State Policies and Regulations, Business Culture and the enterprising qualities of the people have made India an excellent context for economic development. This workshop aimed towards identifying new efforts – initiatives facilitated by the Church and shall also concentrate on scaling up existing ones.



CNI SBSS' Chairman The Rt Rev PSP Raju, Vice-Chairman The Rt Rev Anil Stephen and one of our board members The Rt Rev PC Singh shall be participating in Micah Network Asia- Pacific Regional Consultation on "Marginalised People – Our Christian Response" to held in Malaysia during October 1-5, 2007.

CNI SBSS Treasurer Ms Kiran Jeremiah has been selected to participate in a CWM (Council for World Mission) team visit hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ, Madagascar (FJKM) from September 5-20, 2007.

Thanksgiving...

We thank Lord Almighty for helping and guiding us all at every step while journeying and taking His mission forward... The CNI SBSS Governing Body met officially on August 29, 2007 at Bishop's Office, Diocese of Kolkata. Annual Report of CNI SBSS, Audited Accounts Statement and Auditor's Report were presented and approved. Presentations were also done by the CNI RCSA team leaders and group facilitators. The Chairman and the members of the Board wished CNI SBSS team the best appreciating their commitment and hardwork. It was a lively meeting with free-flow discussions. We thank the Chairman and all our esteemed Board Members for their continuous support and prayers.

Local Capacity for Peace (LCP)

Working Group's Meet & Application Training was held on August 12-14, 2007 at Teri Gram, Gurgaon Haryana. DBSS Staff representing Eastern Himalaya, North East India, Patna, Chota Nagpur, Nagpur, Kolhapur and Agra



dioceses presented case-studies from their project areas as per the LCP guidelines. Concerns from respective DBSS were listed out and future plan was prepared in the working group meet. Mr. Jochen, EED, Germany was the external facilitator who conducted sessions with Deepak Singh.

Deepak Singh was also invited as a resource person to facilitate the similar sessions in application training for CASA held at Jaipur during August 16-17, 2007.

Capacity building through Accompaniment

The series of events in latter half of the August swung the CNI Resource Centre of Social Actions (RCSA) for Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi into high action. Workshops on Cash Flow Development, Advocacy and People's Organisation were held during August 22-26, 2007 involving team from RCSA Barrackpore and DBSS Staffs from Chotanagpur, Patna, Cuttack,



Phulbani and Sambalpur. The **Cash Flow Development** Workshop conducted on August 22-23, 2007 aimed towards developing a process that would make cash-flow more relevant, effective and tuned with the changing developmental paradigm. While understanding the steps involved in the cash-flow development, it was noted that planning should be based on programmatic, organizational and institutional perspectives covering issues along with the cross-cutting themes working on. There was also detailed discussion in terms of locating the status and position of the work done on Church Mission Engagement (CME) and building People's Movement. **Advocacy** is one of the important 4-A approaches CNI SBSS has adopted to deal with different issues and concerns with a Rights-Based Approach (RBA). It not only amplifies the voice of the meeker masses but also helps them to seek a solution for their problem. To develop a common in-depth understanding among the stake-holders, a workshop was organized on August 24, 2007 at Ranchi. Throughout the day, Policy-level advocacy aimed towards making a new or amending an existing policy as well as the People-centred advocacy ensuring the effective implementation of existing pro-people policies were discussed in detail along with the tools and levels viz. Bureaucratic, Legislative, Judicial and Media. In group-exercises, participants learnt the structures right from the Panchayat to the State and Central Government and the steps involved in the advocacy like framing the problem, data collection and analysis, sensitising and mobilising the people and taking a step further to act on the pertaining issue. Session on Right to Information (RTI) complemented the learning participants had on advocacy. Participants agreed that RTI Act 2005 would serve as an effective tool for the advocating the issues. The participants readily took part in yet another workshop on **People's Organisation** (PO) to work on how and with what strategy a PO can result into PM with the basic and common understanding. In this common learning they shared the ideological base, existing patterns of leadership, style of issue handling and governance of their respective POs viz. Dalit Sanskar Sangathan – DBSS Sambalpur, Anchalik Shikshya Abhiyaan Samiti – DBSS Phulbani, Adarsh Adivasi Atmasahayata Sangathan– DBSS Cuttack, GramSabha Parishad Kendra, Kurkura – DBSS Chota Nagpur and Mahila Adhikaar Manch – DBSS Patna.

Days to Remember in the month of September :

05 - Teacher's Day, 06 onwards... Appreciative Enquiry, 08 – International Literacy Day, 21 – International Peace Day, 28 – Martyrdom Day.



Hearty Greetings...

Many Happy Returns to our accompaniers on their **Birthdays** – Banamali Mohanti (15th September) and Mervin Makhwan (26th September). May Lord Almighty bless 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 on the **Wedding Anniversary** of Mrs & Mr Santosh George (12th September)