



Accompanier

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



CNI-SBSS' e-publication for internal circulation

May-Jun 2009

Meditation

What good it is, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:14-16.

Shared Understanding on CME

The team of Accompaniers from HQ and RCSAs came together again at SBSS' HQ on 13th May 2009 and put the hours together developing a collective understanding on Church Mission Engagement (CME) through brain-storming, inviting and sharing the ideas and thoughts collectively and presenting them in the wider group.

The group dealt with the basic conceptual clarity as what is Church and Congregation? The journey from CAP i.e. Congregation Action Programme to the present model – CME, Present need as per the context, roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, feasibility of the existing models and future plan.

[Click here for the detailed note](#)

Dr Mardi's Visit



"Can we undertake different processes and adopt different approaches rather than RBA while working with the marginalized communities?" questioned Dr Mardi of All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society (AISWACS) during his visit to SBSS HQ on 13th May 2009.

He interacted with the SBSS team and shared his views, expressing the importance of strengthening the 'inherent organic units' like pahanraja in adivasi tradition taking pride in our own culture. We refer ourselves as people-centric but many a times we get more structure-centered rather than actually focusing on empowering the people's organizations and civil societies. He also stated that the political, economical, social and cultural spheres dominate the community but it is the economy that pervades into polity.

SBSS team shared with Dr Mardi about the new phase 'Speaking Out...' and the concept of the Critical Mass with an extra emphasis on Building Movements at the grassroots level.

NEWS FROM RCSAs

Workshop on Land Issues for Church Leaders

DBSS Marathwada with the Diocese of Marathwada and RCSA Pune had organized a two-days' workshop for the Church leaders on land issues during 26-27 May 2009 in St Philip Church, Aurangabad. The participants mainly comprised of the Diocesan & DBSS Board Members, Pastors and Members from the Congregation.

Rt Rev MU Kasab, Bishop of Marathwada inaugurated the workshop. In his inaugural speech he stressed on the promise made by the Lord (Genesis 28:13) to His Children. In following sessions, the RCSA team shared about the SBSS' Vision and Mission, DBSS' interventions, Land Struggles, CME and NREGA. (Keep watching this space in next issue for detailed report.)

Moni shares about her Bangladesh Visit

Though I have conducted few Evaluations before (both within and outside SBSS), evaluating Church of Bangladesh's Social Development Programme (CBSDP) during 18-30 April 2009 was special for me for two reasons – it was an overseas PME evaluation to be done individually and also analyze the programmes with the team of experts. Bibhu had also accompanied the team.

This process had boosted-up my confidence and made me enthusiastic and overwhelmed. With the series of meetings, field visits and a wrap-up session on concluding day, I was not only able to finish the draft report on time but also did a power-point presentation. I wrote the report systematically, trying to see the context with the set objectives that I had developed at the beginning of the study. While reviewing, I could also share with the CBSDP team about the PME systems that they have institutionalized along with the present context, their systems with appropriate case-studies, its functionality and relevance, giving recommendations for further improvements.

[Click here for the detailed note](#)

LCP Internalization through Self-Demonstration

“What do we really want to do in LCP (as it is now integrated in the Speaking Out... phase)? How wise we have become (with the ToTs, Orientations, Workshops attended/ conducted)? Is there any change in our methodology (considering the feedback - reactions/ responses from our fellow participants)? How far I have personally succeeded in identifying the role of 'Self' in regard to my attitude and approach? Have I realized what I really need to exhibit?” were the main concerns discussed and reflected upon in a brief meeting held on Monday, 27th April 2009.

[Click here for the detailed note](#)

Recent Developments...

The last issue of Accompanier shared about Bidyut's new designation as the Grants Manager... With the recent developments, Sudeep Sanchit Tigga, PFT Coordinator & Team Leader RCSA Ranchi and Bibhudutta Sahu, Programme Associate with RCSA Pune have been designated as the Programme Facilitators. Vikram A. Jadhav, earlier based at SBSS HQ, w.e.f. Monday 25th May 2009 will be based at CNI RCSA, Pune.

Rev Manjari Manoj Nanda, Associate Coordinator - CME, has joined the doctorate programme in Ministry under the Synod of Seerampore. She had appeared for the comprehensive exam in April'09. Presently, she is working on the D. Min dissertation project proposal titled "Towards a Relevant Model for Mission Engagement of Churches in the Agra Deanery of the Diocese of Agra, CNI" under the supervision of Dr. Sunil Caleb, Principal, Bishop's College.

We remember our accompaniers in our prayers and wish the best for them as they are serving Him and His people through His Mission with CNI SBSS.

Meetings/ Conferences/ Training - Workshops attended...

Sudeep and John attended INECC meeting and Water Consultation organized on 17th – 18th April 2009 in CNI Bhavan's Conference Hall. Main agenda of this meet had issues related to the Climate Change and Water.

Elizabeth and Ritu attended ToT workshop on Gender, Diversity & Development from 6th-9th April 2009 at Visthar, Bangalore. The main objectives were to gain conceptual clarity to understand concepts and theories related to Gender, Poverty & Development along with strategies and methodologies for mainstreaming the Gender.

Manjari and Vikram attended LCP's Coordination Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal held on 1st & 2nd April 2009. Partners from South Asian Organizations working on Peace Initiatives – Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) had come together to coordinate the programme in coming days.

Bon-Voyage& Best Wishes

We upheld in our prayers, Dr Shailendra Awale, Chief Coordinator and Secretary, CNI SBSS as he is overseas taking the good work of and good word about SBSS. During his week-long visit, Dr Awale will attend the ACT Development Assembly to be held during 25-31 May 2009 at Beunos Aires, Argentina and shall also interact with the activists from various international development agencies.

Hearty Greetings!

Birthdays & Anniversaries in June'09

Many Happy Returns to our accompaniers – Nikhil Kumar (1st June), Shyam Lal (11th June) and Monijinir Byapari (23rd June). May Lord Almighty bless all of them abundantly and be with them always.

We also remember family of our accompanier celebrating their Wedding Anniversary and offer prayerful wishes for the long companionship of Mrs & Mr Banamali Mohanti (4th June).

Days to Remember in the month of June'09

4 – International Day of Innocent Children & Victims of Aggression

5 – World Environment Day

16 – International Day of Solidarity/ International Refugee Day

17 – World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

20 – World Refugee Day

26 – International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking/ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

30 – Santhal Revolution's Day.