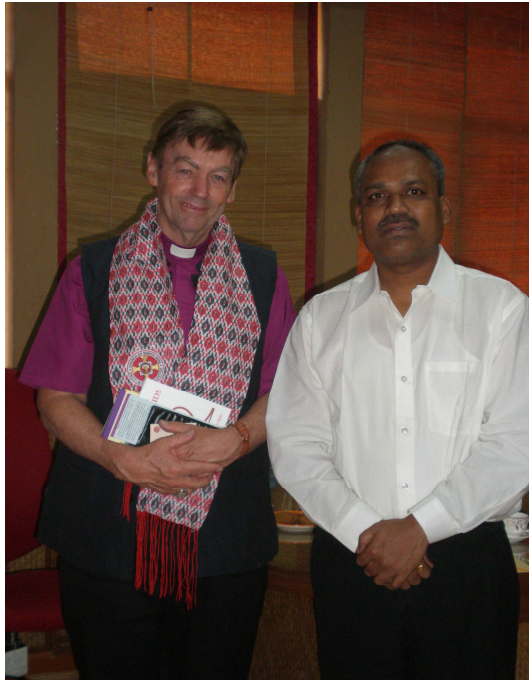


Visit of Bishop Philip Huggins to CNI-SBSS

The Right Reverend Philip Huggins, Bishop of the Northern & Western Region from Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has visited the CNI-Synodical Board of Social Services on March 16, 2009.



He met Dr. Shailendra Awale, Chief Coordinator & Secretary and the SBSS Staff at Head office. Bishop Huggins who also heads and involved with Social Welfare program of his Church discussed development scenario and challenges in present context. *"We need to use India specific lenses to understand Indian situation", said Dr Awale.* Poverty in India is structural and deeply rooted in class and caste hierarchy of Indian Society. It is about discrimination and denial of human rights to dalit communities. As issue is complex and not only economical in nature, the solution should address structural response towards inclusive practices.

He added building movements of marginalized communities empowering them

to participate in political process and policy dialogue is a key to move forward.

He explained the SBSS and DBSS partnership and working with People's organization in building *Critical Mass* in detail.

Bishop appreciated the work of the SBSS. He shared life cycle approach of their social welfare program with research, assistance and advocacy as key interventions. Life cycle approach provides an opportunity to meet specific needs of the target age groups. With research we can assess needs proficiently and respond adequately. While they agreed that there is a challenge to involve local congregation in mission and we need to evolve new models of engaging congregations.

Bishop offered special prayer for work and ministry of CNI SBSS and also promised to visit CNI SBSS in November 2009. Dr Shailendra thanked Bishop for his time and blessings and expressed good wishes for his journey back home.



Bishop Philip Huggins & Dr. Shailendra Awale

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