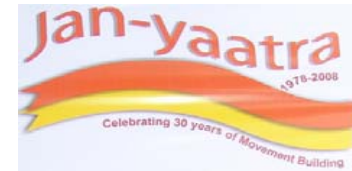




*Jan-Yaatra* (1978- 2008)

**Celebrating 30 years of Movement Building!**



"visiting CNI Bhavan is like a dream coming true... we are excited to be here and glad to meet all our friends from different diocese after years... we indeed ARE celebrating!" says Suhas Dalvi, Community Enabler, Mumbai DBSS

*Jan-Yaatra* was one of the most gratifying moments for the CNI SBSS in their 30 years of long but eventful journey with the people building people's movements. More than four hundred people representing various communities, community leaders, leaders of people's organisations, DBSS staff, Coordinators, dioceses, diocesan boards, bishops, civil society organisations etc participated enthusiastically in this commemorative get-together held on April 17-18, 2008.



SBSS, the Church's expression of love of Christ towards the poor and marginalized, though formed in 1970 along with the Church, the much required thrust, direction, vision and set-value systems were articulated in the Calcutta Consultation held in 1978 on Church's Role in

*(More reflections from the staffs inside...)*

Social Service and Development. Since then, SBSS' involvement with the people led towards holistic understanding of Mission and building communities of resistance.



The celebrations began with thanksgiving worship at Free Church on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Adivasis with their unique culturally rooted performing arts, with their traditional musical instruments welcomed the dignitaries and the gathering leading them into the Church. This was a real *encounter* between the Church leaders and those

tribals who came from the far-flung hilly regions of India's vast landscape. Having completed thirty years and stepping into another year with hope and renewed zeal, it was spontaneous to show its gratitude and continue to seek His support and providence decided to thank and express its gratitude.



The Most Rev Joel V Mal, CNI Moderator, Rev Dr Enos Das Pradhan, General Secretary, CNI Synod and The Rt Rev. P S P Raju, Chairman CNI SBSS along with many others celebrated the service together. The

Moderator brought the Word of the God to His people. He said “we are God’s people; there fore there is a need for all of us to have an encounter with him. Encounter with him will equip all of us”.

Mrs. Kiran Jeremiah, Treasurer, CNI SBSS welcomed all the bishops and dignitaries present for the occasion. Continuing the



accompaniment with the poor and needy, Dr Awale announced the three upcoming new CNI's Resource Centre for Social Actions in the states of North East India, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh at the hands of Bishop Samson Das, Bishop Collin Theodore and Bishop Sunil Kumar Singh. These resource centres will be the reference places for state level advocacy and lobbying. Bishop Kamble launched the Short Messaging Service (SMS) which takes forward the CNI & SBSS to the subscribers.

SBSS, in the last thirty years have got the privilege of opportunity to work with many people. This association has always been a mutual sharing and learning. Many people (from community, DBSS, Dioceses etc) have given their time, energy and support.



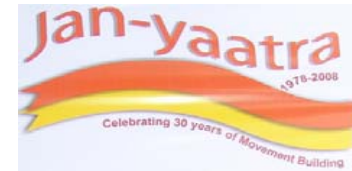
It was appropriate for SBSS to recognise their contribution. Mahananda, a community member from Kolhapur Diocese was recognised for her resilience and will to fight against the system which stigmatize and oppress her. Many community enablers, issue facilitators, coordinator and Diocese were recognised for their commendable service to the community.

Anand Bolimera, Country Head, ChristianAid representing donor agencies appreciated the accomplishments of SBSS and wished the best for the future endeavors. Sanjay Patra,



Director FMSF fondly shared his association with SBSS. Pratyush Kumar Jena former SBSS staff, made a point to be part of this celebration acknowledged the role SBSS had played in his life, shaping his career and taking him through different phases of his journey with people. Philip Jadhav as a former treasurer of the SBSS board expressed his wishes and categorically told the ways through which it attempted to bring good governance practices.

Day two programmes were conducted in a manner which many would not have dared to do. The usual way is to conduct programmes one after the other. The programmes on the second day were held in the premises of CNI Bhavan. Day began with the Bible Study and devotion and had series of events throughout the day.



During the service SBSS released a few publications. They



are 1) *CNI SBSS' Policy Note on Justice and Development* (reprint) 2) *Transferring Values: Transparency and Accountability in Development Cooperation* 3) *Social Security Schemes in India* (Hindi) and 4) *Making a Difference: Case studies of DBSS*.

As SBSS believes strongly in process-oriented approach to any interface irrespective of settings, situations and people, it dared to break the convention by conducting different programmes in parallel with different purpose.



For those who wanted to celebrate could do it either by shopping in the *Hatia* where all dioceses displayed their products (The diocesan staff had set up their stalls in the networking fair

- *Hatia* displaying the local goods made by their reference communities) or interacting with other diocesan people in the lawn by sharing their experience named as *Muktaangan*. Those who had taste for the visuals could see some documentaries of various social issues.



Prof. T. K. Oommen gave a lecture on Church's Role People's Movements and Pradeep Jha from Centre for Science and Environment did a presentation on Climate Change. These talks in *KaryaShala* provided

food for thought to those who wanted to learn and



strategize their actions better in the field. Through *Samvad*, Dr Awale and SBSS team had interaction with



diocesan teams belonging to different dioceses in which there was sharing of evaluation process and course correction. This particular interface in spite of its short duration encouraged those dioceses which are motivated and doing relevant work, instilled confidence to those who dream to do great work in the days to come and those in wilderness were asked to revamp and renew themselves otherwise, the consequence would be nothing less than rejection by the community with whom we work. In the evening *Avishkaar* gave the DBSS teams to display their talents and express their feelings with the fellow brethren.



Thus, these events gave a sort of freeing time to move between and shunt around different programmes.



Rev Dr Enos Das Pradhan in his conclusion and prayer expressed his happiness, appreciation and acknowledged the presence of various people. He said “this celebration is unique because first of all, the celebration started in the Church and secondly, all programmes and various events took

place in CNI Bhavan as it is fashionable now to conduct such programmes in other places. He further said that “people’s presence in large numbers in the Church and CNI Bhavan was a fitting response and respect to the mission of the Church”



The spontaneity with which CNI celebrated this event was equally complemented by the excited participants in multitude who without any inhibitions thronged the headquarters of CNI.



People who gave testimony on their struggle, resistance and hope were vocal and their experience could send clear messages to those are in power. In unison, the participants voiced their joy for being a part of His mission through Church institution. They expressed their gratitude for all the support and guidance provided.