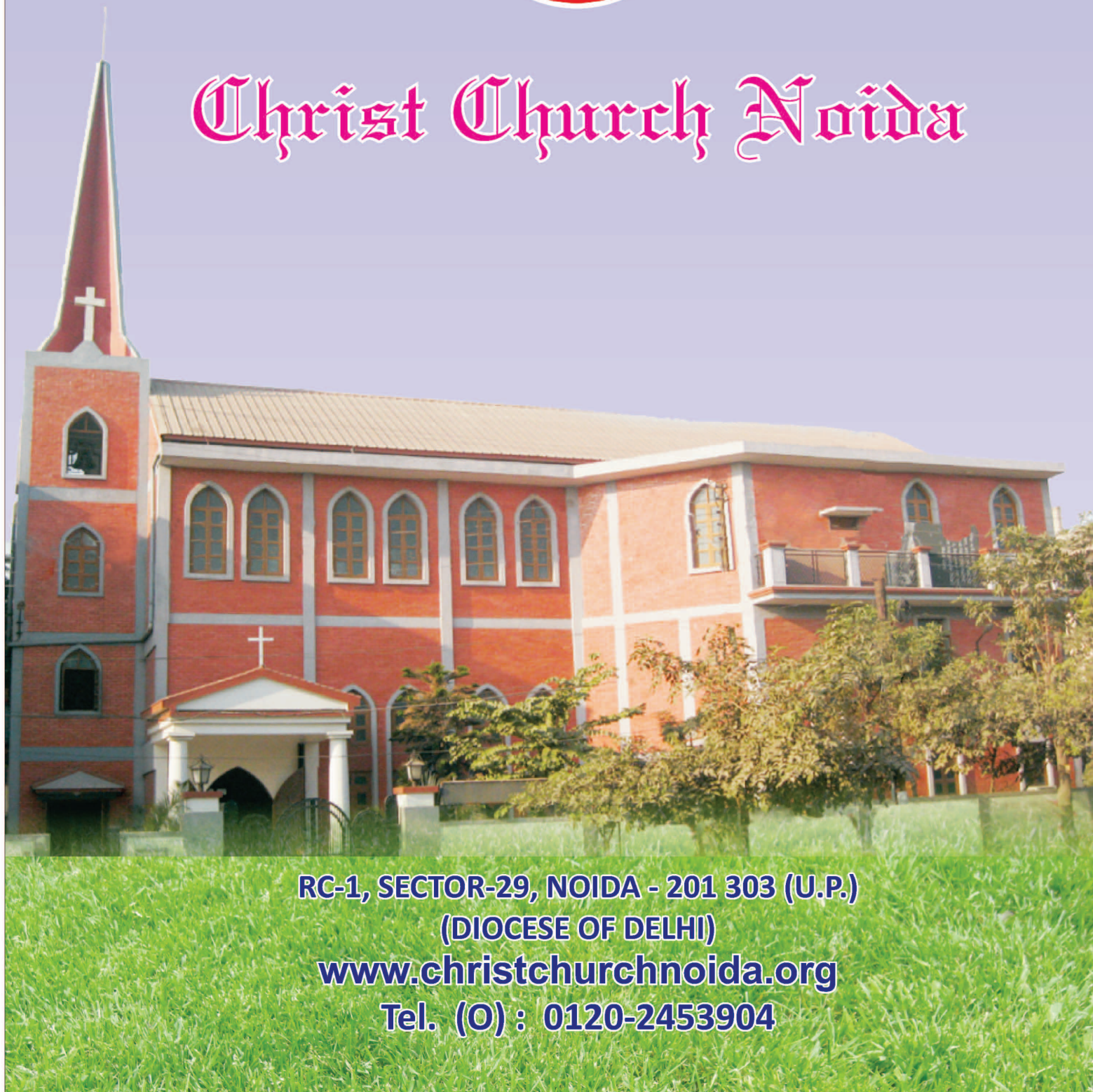




Christ Church Noida



RC-1, SECTOR-29, NOIDA - 201 303 (U.P.)
(DIOCESE OF DELHI)
www.christchurchnoida.org
Tel. (O) : 0120-2453904

Silver Jubilee Souvenir



CHRIST CHURCH NOIDA
DIOCESE OF DELHI

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CHRIST CHURCH

DIOCESE OF DELHI

RC-1, SECTOR-29, NOIDA 201 303 (U.P.)
TEL : 0120-2453904, Website : www.christchurchnoida.org



Foreword



Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth (Ps. 108:5)

It gives me immense joy to be a part of the Silver Jubilee year of Christ Church Noida. It has been indeed a period of great learning and growth for me personally.

I Praise God for the guidance and spiritual nourishment this Church has received in the past 25 years which has resulted in it being the shining star of Noida. The Church had and has been magnifying the glorious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ these last 25 years through their service in the community and spiritually uplifting activities involving children, youth and women through last 25 years in Noida. We are truly grateful to our Lord Almighty who has held our hand throughout this journey.

I humbly pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon each family member of Christ Church Noida, so that the whole church may be renewed and transformed and be a living witness of Jesus' love and His gospel in the whole National Capital Region.

May God Bless Christ Church Noida abundantly.

*Rev. Kamal Mall
Presbyter-in-Charge*

“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”.

Col 2 : 7



Christ Church, Noida
(DIOCESE OF DELHI)
RC-1, SECTOR-29, NOIDA - 201 303
Opposite Botanical Garden Metro Station
Phone : 0120-2453904



www.christchurchnoida.org
Celebrating Silver Jubilee Year

Christ Church, Noida Activities

Morning Holy Communion Service	: Sunday 9 am
Praise & Worship Evening Worship	: Sunday 6 pm
Deaf Fellowship	: Sunday at 11:30 am
Sunday School	: During the Service
Prayer Cell Meeting	: Wednesday 7:00 P.m. in Church
Women's Fellowship	: 3rd Sunday after Worship
Youth Fellowship	: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11:00 am
Bible Study Fellowship	: Friday at 6:30 pm
Choir Practice	: Saturday 6:30 pm in Church
Sign Language Class	: Saturday 6:30 pm in Church
Drum Classes	: Saturday 4-7 pm in Church

Christ Church, Greater Noida Congregation **YMCA Chapel, Greater Noida**

Morning Worship	: Sunday 8:30 am
Holy Communion	: Second & Fourth Sunday
Cottage Prayer Meeting	: 1st & 4th Friday at 7:30 pm

With Best Wishes

Rev. Kamal Mal
Presbyter-in-charge
+91-9968682474

R. Adml Sushil Ramsay
Secretary PC
+91-9810232776

Col. M. L. Lukose
Treasurer PC
+91-9958888776

Celebrating our 25th Church Anniversary

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great honour and privilege that we are here today to give God the highest praise and thanks for His wonderful kindness as we celebrate our 25th Church Anniversary.

It is truly a blessing to be God's mouthpiece for these many years.

A Church anniversary is a time that we set aside to reflect on our past, but more importantly to appreciate the present while focusing on a divine, strategic vision for the future. We are here to highlight on our Church's central purpose in the local community and the world at large.

As God continues to bless us and send new sheep our way, let us encourage everyone to appreciate the goodness of God in our lives and for His peace that reigns in the Church and on our families. If we continue pressing on in the work of the Lord, we know that the Lord will surely reward us because, after all, He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. It is important that we remember that the journey has just started and in our quest for a better society, the Church must be visible. Just like the name of our Church, we are progressing in the Lord and pray that the grace of God that has been helping us thus far continue to abide in us as we Win Souls for Christ One Sinner at a time. Our steadfastness, commitment and painstaking efforts to ensure the spread of Christianity must continue and we would like to thank our Church leaders and all members for setting positive examples.

We would like to congratulate everyone and give thanks to God Almighty for His continued protection, guidance and mercies upon us as we celebrate and enjoy the Church's Silver Jubilee.

We pray that as you browse through the pages of the Souvenir, may your lives be touched with the Holy Spirit and give you immense joy and peace.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire Editorial team and friends who have silently helped us and encouraged us in launching the Souvenir today, November 13, 2013, especially remembering our Presbyter in charge, Rev. Kamal Mall and Ord. Varun Alfred.

We love you Christ Church and are thankful to be a part of such a great Church!

Roma Das
Chief Editor

Sub Editors: Stella Miller
Helen Sekar
Sachin Daniel

Kamna Cowasjee
Convenor

Cover page Design: Phillip Nath
Photo Coordinator: Vinay Ralph
Asst. Coordinator: Angel Singha



Pastorate Committee 2013-2014



Silver Jubilee & Souvenir Committee

CONVENOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Celebrating 25 Years of Christ Church in Noida has been an exciting experience and a trip down Memory Lane. It has also been a picnic! Meetings were governed by Food for thought. Nothing can be achieved on an empty stomach!!!

I take this opportunity to thank the Pastorate Committee for appointing The Silver Jubilee Committee and Souvenir Committee a mixed bunch of young and old and those in-between to come together for a common cause. While the Silver Jubilee Committee planned the events, the Souvenir Committee had to present the events in a readable, memorable manner. The two intertwined after a time and the result is this magazine which has tried to capture the moments of the last few months in reports and pictures, testimonies, memories and activities. The vision of our pastor Rev. Kamal Mall, guided us all through these enjoyable moments. The adorable Sunday school children, the vivacious youth, the backbone, (the Women's Fellowship), the worker bees (the men) without whose help nothing moves, all had a part to play in the success of the various programmes.

It was exciting to plan a logo, a souvenir for gifting; to make houses, design banners and badges; to compete in singing, in Bible quiz, in games, and to come together to host a retreat for men and women and a Vacation Bible School and Fest for children, a Health camp for the community, and sports for the young and old and a Mahasangati for all!!

Turn the pages and read about it all. We have tried to capture the essence of the years, of new beginnings, constructions, growth and outreach. If there were struggles there was also enthusiasm. At every stage the congregation united to accomplish the need of the hour. We have tried to capture it all and put it together in this keep-sake issue.

HAPPY READING!!

Kamna Rohini Cowasjee

And members of Silver Jubilee and Souvenir Committee





DIOCESE OF DELHI

(THE CHURCH OF INDIA)

1, CHURCH LANE, NEW DELHI-110001
PHONES : 23717471, 23358264

The Right Revd. Sunil Kumar Singh
B.A., B.D., C.E. (Maj.) P.G. (Dip.)
Church Management (U.K.)
Bishop of Delhi



Ref. No. : Bsp's Office / Message-CC-Noida/2013

Dated : 18-10-2013

MESSAGE

Grace and Peace to you all at the pastorate of Noida

It is a great privilege to write a message to you as you celebrate 25 years of the inception of Christ Church Noida. In 1988 a vision was born in the thinly populated town of Noida and today, 25 years later we can praise God for strategically placing the church at a crossroad which stands tall as a beacon of Faith, Hope and Love

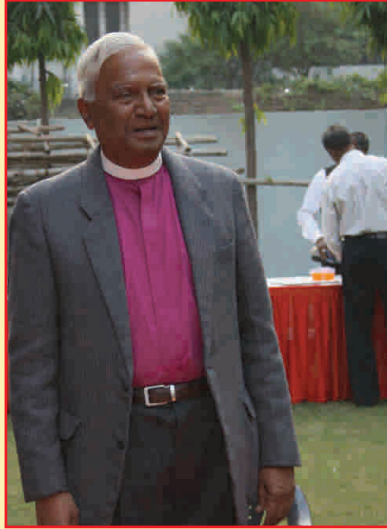
It is apt at this juncture to appreciate the hard labour of Revd. Col. Lawrence Massey, and his successor Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup which has resulted in Christ Church Noida, being a shining pearl of the Diocese of Delhi. Your Silver Jubilee year theme; Arise and Build is not only a call for action but gives a promise that God will be with us in the next 25 years.

In one of the Psalm, the Psalmist points to the importance of unity; "how wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony" Ps. 133:1. We must not fail to see here that the Psalmist believes that God will offer His people this blessing if they remain together. In other words, unity becomes a requisite for enjoying the blessings of God.

My prayer for Christ Church Noida would be that the congregation may grow in Faith and Service to the Community.

With Prayers and God's blessings

†Rt. Revd. Sunil Kumar Singh
Bishop of Delhi (CNI)



Message

We are very grateful to God that Christ Church Noida has become such a great centre for Christian worship. We thank God that in His wisdom He gave us a plot of land which was so wisely and efficiently developed by the leaders and parishioners settling into the new area. Many were high ranking members of the armed forces who had recently retired and they contributed generously to the building of a new church and congregation, led by Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, himself a retired officer.

As we have visited the Church over the years we have seen the number of Worshippers grow almost week by week. All ages and different walks of life are welcomed; people from and feel included. The amazing extension of the church building Upwards and the extension of the Church's spiritual life outwards has become a living witness to the Lord's blessing.

May God continue to bless Christ Church Noida.

Congratulations on your Silver Jubilee on November 13th 2013!

Bishop Maqbul Caleb



Message

It is my joy to greet my fellow-members of the Congregation of Christ Church, Noida, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Happy Occasion of the Silver Jubilee on 13th November 2013, May this celebration demonstrate the joy, warmth of fellowship and maturity of having grown in Christian Faith and Spirituality over the past 25 years of grace, nurtured by God's words and the holy sacraments. Let us together Arise and Build this further to the glory of God.

Oct. 27, 2013

Pritam B. Santram



Message

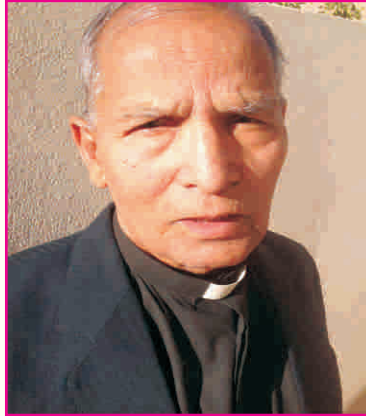
Greetings and thanks for your kind invitation.

It gives me immense pleasure to see that Christ Church Noida is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. It gives me much joy to see how the Church has grown from strength to strength in all these years. The labour of all who dreamt and realised the formation of this house of the Lord has paid off. The hard work of all the elders, Women Fellowship and young people has shown much fruit and so many blessings keep flowing from this fountain of faith.

I wish all the congregation members a good year ahead and may the Good Lord bless all of you in all your endeavours and programmes.

God Bless You.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Karam Masih



655, Sector-29,
Noida-201303
15 August 2013

*The Reverend Colonel Lawrence Massey
Former Honorary Presbyterian-in-charge
and Founder Christ Church, Noida*

Dear Reverend Kamal Mall,

It gives me immense pleasure to share this note with the members of Christ Church Noida, on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

God in his mercy has blessed this church much more than I could foresee on 13 November 1988, in its first inaugural Holy Communion at Flat No 655, Sector 29, Noida. When I look back, I find that surely the one fundamental need in our life and Service for God is the blessing of God upon it.

The next point I want to share is Gal. 3:28 "Ye are, all one man in Christ Jesus". To us who, believe, the cross of Christ is central to all time because it is central to the whole work of God. Once this is kept in mind all our problems within the Church will be over. Connected with this is our partaking in Holy Communion.

Communion is not only an act of uniting yourself with God through Jesus Christ but an act of uniting yourself with everybody else who is united to Christ. It is an act by which we affirm one absolute moral commitment, to love one another. Further, I want to draw your attention to John 15: 4, where Jesus told us to "Abide in me". These words express our intimate and spiritual union with Him. We must realise to what closeness of union, to what intimacy of fellowship, to what wondrous oneness of life and interest Jesus invited us, when he said, "Abide in me".

Finally, I pray that God will bless all of us, to become His Hands and Feet to carry the message of God to all with whom we come into contact.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey



Blessing and Installation of Church Bell





The Cathedral Church of the Redemption

(Diocese of Delhi, Church of North India)

1, Church Road, North Avenue, New Delhi - 110001
Tel. : 011-23093325, 23094229



27-10-2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! It gives me great joy to know that Christ Church, Noida is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. We were in Christ Church, from 2004 May till 2011 April. These were seven good years for us as we saw this Church growing from strength to strength. The Multi-utility complex of the parsonage, Sunday School room, and other infrastructure all came into existence with the co-operation and team work of the entire parish. The Parish Hall and the Steeple also came into existence a year later. On the Spiritual front regular Bible studies, prayer cell and Family Retreat were conducted which strengthened and nourished each one of us. We as a family, are very grateful to all the members of Christ Church, Noida for all their warmth and love showered upon us during our tenure there.

On the occasion of your Silver Jubilee, we wish the Christ Church family and Rev. Kamal Mall every blessing as you continue on this journey of faith. May the Lord bless you all and keep you! May He make His face to shine upon you! May He be gracious to you! May the Lord turn His face towards you and give you His peace!

With every blessing, Shalom,

Shalom

The Revd Dr. Paul Swarup

Presbyter-in-Charge



THE SYNOD OF THE CHCIRCH OF NORTH INDIA

CNI BHAWAN, POST BOX NO. 311, 16, PANDIT PANT MARG, NEW DELHI-110 001 (INDIA)



MESSAGE

It gives me immense joy and happiness to note that during its Silver Jubilee year the Christ Church, Noida, Diocese of Delhi of the Church of North India, is celebrating its Thanksgiving Service on 13th November, 2013. I personally and on behalf of the Synod of the Church of North India bring my greetings and heartily congratulate Rev. Kama! Mall, the Presbyter Incharge, the Pastorate Committee Members and the congregation of the Christ Church Noida on this auspicious occasion.

This Celebration is a time for reflection, as you seek to deepen your relationship with the Lord and His Church that He calls us to be. The occasion of Silver Jubilee is a time not only to celebrate the great gifts and blessings that God has poured upon your Church over the years past, but it is also a time to look ahead to the future and continue the work that the Lord has entrusted us with, in building up the Body of Christ.

To commemorate this special occasion, the Christ Church Noida is bringing out a souvenir. May this souvenir remind people of their rich past, and also become a part of history for the future generations. I wish Christ Church Noida, every success as it continues to serve the society and particularly the people in the Noida area under the able guidance and effective supervision of its Presbyter Incharge. I pray that they may continue this journey with great vigor as they step into another challenging year ahead.

(ALWAN MASIH)

GENERAL SECRETARY

Moderator

The Most Revd. Dr. P. P. Marandih

Bishop's House, Christ Church Compound

CNI Diocesan Centre

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B. L. Joshi
Governor, Uttar Pradesh



Raj Bhawan
Lucknow - 227 132

Date : 30 October, 2013

Message

I am pleased to know that the Christ Church NOIDA is celebrating its Silver Jubilee function on 13th November, 2013. To commemorate the occasion a Souvenir is also being published.

I extend my best wishes on the occasion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Joshi'.

(**B.L. Joshi**)

AKHILESH YADAV



CHIEF MINISTER
UTTAR PRADESH

LAL BHADUR SHASTRI BHAWAN
LUCKNOW

Date: 21 October, 2013

Message

I am happy to know that Christ Church, Noida is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year.

It is heartening that Christ Church, Noida is serving the humanity by executing various welfare activities for needy and poor.

On this occasion, I extend my greetings to Christ Church, Noida.


(Akhilesh Yadav)

Immanuel Mar Thoma Church

E-97/A, SECTOR-50, NOIDA - 201 307 (U.P.)



*Rev. Kamal Mall and Members of Christ Church, Noida
Dearly beloved in Christ,*

I am so pleased to note that Christ Church, Noida is publishing a Souvenir in connection with its Silver Jubilee Celebration. Silver Jubilee is a time to look back and see God's grace in our faith journey in many ways. So I join with all the members of the parish in praising God for the manifold blessings you have received from above during the last 25 years. A church that is situated in the heart of the city should be a place where the presence of God is proclaimed.

Celebration is not a time to make self-congratulations but to look forward and take up new challenges ahead of us. Make use of all the given blessings for the building up of the church and society. I hope and pray that the Silver Jubilee Celebration will give you an added enthusiasm and courage to lead an authentic Christian life in your personal, familial and community context. Love the Lord and His body the Church more than anything else. My best wishes and prayers to each and every member of the Parish. May God make your Silver Jubilee Celebration a grand success.

May God bless you all.

In Christ,

Rev. John G Mathews, Vicar.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NOIDA

(ARCHDIOCESE OF AGRA)

Parish Priest

Tel : 0120-2507412

Mobile : 9278402025



A-71/A, SECTOR-34
NOIDA, U.P.
INDIA
PIN. - 201 307

Date 29-10-13



To.
Rev. Kamal Mall
Christ Church,
Sector-29, Noida.

It is with great joy that I join the Christ Church Community in their Silver Jubilee celebration.

I thank God Almighty for blessing this community to bear witness to His Son Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in His footsteps for last twenty five years in NOIDA.

I pray as the pinnacle of the Church is visible from far and wide, may God bless the faithful of this Church to continue to bear witness to their master in their lives.

My congratulations to one and all.

With love in Christ

(Fr. Stephen Kolandaiswamy)



Bethel Methodist Church

(DELHI REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN INDIA)



E-97/B, Sector-50, Noida, U.P. 201 301
Phone : 0120-2500248
Mobile : 09911373228

To,
Rev. Kamal Mall
Christ Church, RC-1,
Sector 29, Noida,
UP 201 301

18th Oct. 2013

MESSAGE

Dear Rev. Kamal Mall,

Greetings and thank you for your invitation! I am happy to learn that Christ Church Noida is planning to release a souvenir on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee Celebration. I congratulate and pray that God may continue to use the congregation for His glory. Be thankful for what the Lord has done and in faith look ahead to receive more.

Church is committed to preach the gospel, therefore "...you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." Philemon : 6.

Bethel Methodist Church wishes the entire congregation on this historic occasion.

God Bless You.

Sincerely,

Rev. G. Sam Mishak
(Pastor)



THE METHODIST CHURCH IN INDIA

DELHI REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Rev. Varinder Kumar
PASTOR IN CHARGE

To

Dear Rev. Kamal J. R. Mall
Presbyterian in Charge,
Christ Church, Noida



Dear Rev. Mall,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate you and also the Christ Church, Noida for releasing a Souvenir on the occasion of Silver Jubilee year of your Church.

I am greatly moved to know that Christ Church, Noida celebrating its Silver Jubilee year. On behalf of my congregation I really want to appreciate the ministry of your Church. Christ Church has made a huge contribution in the lives of people in Noida.

I pray, may our dear God bless you all and the ministry of your Church and continue to use your congregation as a channel of blessings to many.

I would like to encourage & appreciate you, the Pastorate Committee and all the Members of the Christ Church, Noida with this Word of God:

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain". 1 Corinthians 15:58b.

With warm wishes and blessings,

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Varinder Kumar

Priest In Charge

Bethel Methodist Church, Noida

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH – ENGLISH CONGREGATION

E – 97/B, SECTOR – 50, NOIDA, U. P. – 201301

TELEPHONE: 09818456156; 0120-2501497, E-MAIL: Direct: rev.varinder@gmail.com; varinderk@rediffmail.com

OFFICE: bmcnoida@gmail.com; WEBSITE: www.bmcnoida.net



MAR GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A 97/3, Sector 51, NOIDA-201303, Dist Gautam Budh Nagar, UP

Mail: orthodoxchurchnoida@ymail.com

Website : www.orthodoxchurchnoida.com



Hearty Greetings to the Vicar and the members of Christ Church in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is a profound delight to know that your Church is celebrating the Silver Jubilee during this year.

On behalf of Members of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church Noida, we wish your celebrations reflect the joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit. May this Silver Jubilee celebration continue to contribute more and more to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ



Rev Fr Jacob George
Vicar & Chairman

Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church

CONFIRMATION SERVICE IN THE HOME



Christ Church NOIDA in Unity Witness & Service



HISTORY

Christ Church Noida or CNI Church Noida as it was then known, came into being almost at the inception of the Noida Township itself. Its address is witness of the fact that it was the first Religious Complex (RC -1) to be recognized in this newly appointed and developed city.

In December 1987 Revd. Col Lawrence Massey came to settle in Noida post retirement. Within ten days of his arrival he was writing to the Bishops of Delhi and Agra, expressing the need of a Church to be established in this budding barren town. By November 1988 he had written permission from the then Bishop of Delhi, Rt. Revd. Maqbul Caleb, to start a Church here. On 13 November 1988 the first service was held in the home of Revd. Col. L. Massey, presided over by Rt. Revd. Maqbul Caleb, Bishop of Delhi. Thence started the *spiritual growth* of this little congregation with worship services held in homes of the founding members. Every existing sector of that time had a few Christian families, and whether their houses were small or big, it did not matter; they opened their doors to Sunday worship in rotation.

A typical Sunday worship in one's home automatically necessitated the involvement of the neighbours; we borrowed chairs to sit on, and maybe a suitable table for the priest to place the Cross, his Bible and prayer and hymn book too and maybe extra mugs to serve tea after the service also. The furniture in the drawing and dining areas were re-arranged to accommodate rows of chairs for maximum occupancy. Readers were appointed from members of the household where the service was being held, and from the first arrivals; hymns

were chosen not necessarily according to the theme but depending on the tunes most knew or at least the Leaders knew. The most popularly sung hymns, at a crunch, were "Showers of Blessings" and "Param Pita" and "Ashish Tujh se Chahate hain"; these became our anthems.

We started participating in the Diocesan Ekta Utsav from December 1989 with the Cake and Brownie Stall, which we continue to this year.

This Mela was specially memorable for us as the proceeds of this had been earmarked for the Noida Church. Physical possession of this plot was taken in February 1990. A small Chappel was soon constructed and an inaugural service of this small church was held on 30th May 91. The Noida congregation was active: it had Sunday services, and Sunday school. The youth group was mobilised to clean the church premises, and decorate the church on special occasions. There was a good choir guided by Col. Victor Duraiswami who organised the Sunday singing, the choral rounds during Christmas time and special hymns on special occasions. By December 1993 this chapel was extended and the new Altar dedicated. Alongside a Pastorate Committee was started, a Church bearer appointed, Womens' Fellowship and Youth Fellowship formally initiated. Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth was the first Lay-leader appointed by the Bishop of Delhi. Here it will be appropriate to state the names of some of our then stalwarts who are no more, who were instrumental in guiding in the establishment of the Womens' Fellowship in particular, and taught the younger generation the value of participating in the Diocesan Womens' Fellowship and their various activities. Mrs Usha Shukla, Mrs Georgina Kerr, Mrs Rosalind Nair were



MEMORIES - CHRISTMAS PLAY



CHRISTMAS PLAY



CHRISTMAS PLAY-2

some of the office bearers of that time. Rev Paul Swarup was then the leader of the Diocesan Youth Fellowship and had played a small part in motivating the Youth of our congregation, attending a meeting in the home of Wg.Cdr. Dennis Harison.

The growing Church celebrated 13 November as its Birthday with a special service with cakes and coffee afterwards. An Easter Vigil Service was held on top of a hillock in what was then known as Nandan Kanan Park and families were eager to get there sometimes with dogs included, to light their candles and hold their service. Eggs and buns were carried to have later. This was followed by a regular Service in the Church which we all managed to attend after making a quick dash home. Carol rounds were something everyone participated in and the group got bigger as they went from home to home. Christmas Dinners were organized in homes first and later in the Church premises, and visits were made to St. Mary's Home and gifts distributed to the poor; Womens' Fellowship got active and started Friday Bible study, Sunday School picnics were organized. It was a small but truly *united* congregation, striving together to enhance the growth of the Church in all its aspects.

In 1994 CNI Church Noida was re-christened Christ Church Noida.

In December 1997 the first phase of the edifice of Christ Church Noida was completed and dedicated to the service of the Lord by Rt.Rev. Karam Masih.

Revd.Dr, Paul Swarup had come to Christ Church Noida in April 2004 following the retirement of Revd.Col L.Massey. *His initial emphasis was on unity and spiritual growth through fellowship, prayer and study groups, sharing, preaching and teaching.* By this time the congregation membership had grown to more than 200 families and the Church saw some 300 worshippers on Sunday and many more on festivals. A 'Shamiana' was put up during Christmas and Easter to accommodate the numbers. A growing Church

needs to have systems in place and transparency in its accounting. These were necessary for embarking on its future construction works of parsonage, community hall and steeple. All these were taken up in phases over the next few years and completed by April 2007.

Rev. Col. Massey had a house in Sector 29. Rev.Dr Paul Swarup stayed in accommodation rented for him. Therefore the Parsonage was top priority. The Parish Hall and Steeple followed.

The Bell was donated by Dr. Mathews. These constructions were completed by 2007.

ACTIVITIES

Rev. Paul Swarup also gave emphasis and impetus to Vacation Bible School, Church Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Choir and special programmes during festivals and Church activities and involvements increased in leaps and bounds. Family Retreats, Lenten Bible Study, Prayer Cell, Wednesday Prayer Meetings, Workshops for building Christian Leaders, were part of the growth activities that the Church saw.

It was now time to look outward. Reaching out to the community has always been a concern of the Church. This concern was translated into action through **Child Education** for the under privileged, **social support and acceptance** of the terminally ill, **nutrition and health care** for the slum dwellers. With the support of the Noida Community and NCR we have achieved this.

A number of Outreach activities were taken up over a period of time like space given to Alcoholics Anonymous, Free medical facilities for the poor, but for various reasons were discontinued. What got sustained was the Education Programme embarked upon in 2007.

On 14th November 2007, Christ Church, Noida embarked on its first Noida centric education programme, in Chalera Village, Sector 44, Noida. The target beneficiaries were the marginalized

children of the migrant population living on the outskirts of one of the old villages which now form part of this new ever-expanding model township of Noida. We are happy to state that in the years since its inception, the school has made great inroads into improving the status, appearance, priorities and life-style of the children and parents alike. The school has been set up with a view to give non-formal education so that the children will be trained to join regular schools after a few years. At this present juncture 24 students are studying under Church sponsorship in Lord Mahavir Public School, Sai Shiksha Sansthan, some in Vidya & Child and in Sadarpur and also the Government School in Chalera. In the last five and a half years a total number of 250 students would have benefited from this programme.

In July 2009 a Vocational Tailoring Project was also introduced with the long-term aim of providing economic independence to the women of Chalera village and Ambedkar Vihar in Sector 37, Noida. Working in collaboration with Usha International, certificates are issued to the students on completion of 3 months and 6 month courses. Other such community based programmes are visualized in the future.

FETES

During Rev,Col Massey's tenure, three fetes were organized in 1997, 1998 and 1999 to meet the shortfall in the construction and raise funds for various other needs of a new Church. These were then discontinued.

When Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup took over, fetes were again organized from 2004 onward to meet the construction costs of the next few phases as stated earlier and later the Education and Vocational Outreach programmes initiated by the Church.

Fetes now form an integral part of the Church's annual activity. Beneficiaries from the income generated besides the Education and Vocational Outreach Programmes are support to the Bible Society, Workshops organized by Union Biblical Seminary, Youth for Christ Ministry and Mission work and three orphan girls.

Rev. Kamal Mall took over from Rev.Dr.Paul Swarup in May 2011.

CURRENT STATUS

To Rev.Kamal Mall has fallen the task of not only consolidating the activities initiated by Rev.Dr.Paul Swarup but adding to them as per the growing needs of the Church. Current activities include ----

- ◆ *Sunday School and Women's Fellowship, Youth Activities* conducted during and after the regular service. Youth are encouraged to participate in inter-church Diocesan activities like debates and singing competitions and they manage to bring home some prizes.
- ◆ *Family Retreats* have been organized twice a year on 26 January mostly at the YMCA in Greater Noida and in October at Dehradun, Nainital and Palampur. Response to both have been good.
- ◆ *Prayer Cell* is conducted every Wednesday.
- ◆ *Bible Study* on Fridays in houses and on Sunday evenings in church and through the Lenten period.
- ◆ *The Choir* organises special recitals periodically and especially at Easter and Christmas. As earlier, our choir members are also encouraged to join the Delhi Christian Choir.
- ◆ *Sunday School* is run diligently by volunteers both senior and youth and organizes children's pageants at Easter, Christmas, and special occasions
- ◆ *Women's Fellowship* holds Breakfast Sales, organizes the cakes at Christmas and holds the stall at the annual Ekta Utsav, besides sponsoring the education of three children of an orphanage and visiting St. Mary's Home and other institutions.
- ◆ *Vacation Bible School* has become an annual feature since 2009, in which a multitude of Church volunteers have participated

- ◆ *Workshops* have been organized by Haggai Institute for strengthening *Spiritual growth and outreach skills and the Union Biblical Society*.
- ◆ In November 2007 the *Chalera Outreach Project* was initiated in the village Chowpal to cater to the education needs of children from the neighbouring slum area. This has done much towards building of self-esteem, self-reliance and moral regeneration of some 60 to 70 students in the school every year and with a spill-off into the families.
- ◆ In 2009 a *Tailoring Project* was initiated in Ambedkar Vihar in Sector 37, an area generally referred to as “Harijan Basti”, to equip the women with vocational skills. Thanks to a tie-up with Usha International certificates are issued for both six-month and three-month courses.
- ◆ In 2011 the Church in Greater Noida held its first service in the YMCA Chapel

Garden metro station, stands proud as a stolid symbol of the Christian faith and truth. It is visible from afar and a prominent land-mark in commercial and residential Noida. It is hoped that with Time it will be associated with more charitable projects and be known for them. All this is thanks to the vision of this small community in the past and present, who have made this dream possible.

Revd. Col. Lawrence Massey as the founder presbyter of Christ Church, served for 17 years and was responsible for all the hard work that goes into the initiation and establishment of a religious edifice. His pioneering work will be remembered.

To Rev. Dr. Paul Swrup fell the task of completion of the structure and consolidation of the Christian Community.

To Rev. Kamal Mall falls the hardest part of taking it forward as a united body.

One sows, another waters and the community benefits. May all be to the Glory of God.

Kamna Cowasjee

Thus it is that Christ Church Noida, situated as it is in Sector 29, at a strategic and a prominent cross-road, and walking distance from the Botanical





The Youth - CCGN



Women Fellowship - CCGN



The Backbone - The men - CCGN

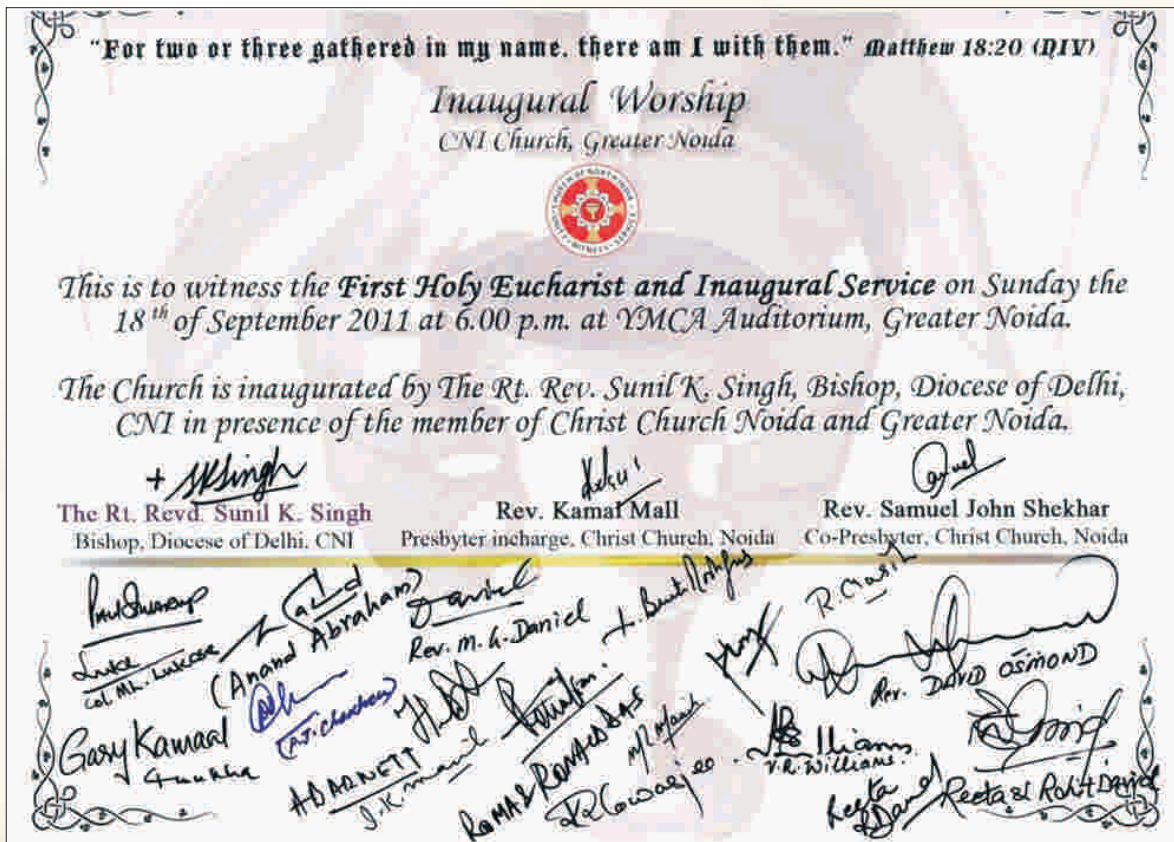
GREATER Noida REPORT



CHRIST CHURCH, GREATER Noida 2ND ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE September 18, 2013

One remembers with reverence Almighty God who answered the prayers of the congregation of Christ Church Noida (CCN). I believe that the inauguration of Christ Church Greater Noida (CCGN) is an answer to the prayer-chain and the enthusiastic commitment of the congregation and leaders like Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup, Rev Kamal Mall, and Rev Samuel John Shekhar. It is at the same place and the same time with almost the same weather condition, that two years ago CCGN was inaugurated by the Rt. Rev Sunil K Singh, Honourable Bishop of Delhi on the 18th September 2011. The presence of Brig. Rajiv Williams, Col. M. L. Lukose, Mrs. Roma Das and Mr Ronald Das, Mrs. Ranjana Chauhan and Mr P. J. Chauhan, Mrs. Reeta David and Mr Rohit David, Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee and Wg. Cdr. R. A. Cowasjee, Mrs. Shirley Ramsay and Rear. Adm. S.K. Ramsay, Mrs. Rita Masih, and Dr. I. K. Masih, Mrs Meenul Masih, Mr. Abraham Daniel and, Mr. Garry Kamal are recorded in the Inaugural document. Mrs. Ruby Levi and Mr. Edwin Levi, Mrs. Shanon Mukha and Wg. Cdr. R Mukha, pastors from other denominations and a large number of members of the congregation were also present. On this day two years ago CCGN was established on the promise of Christ:

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.
(Matthew 18:20)





Today CCGN has grown as a fulfillment of His promise. In the last 2 years with the increase in numbers, the congregation has become a well-knit family in Christ. Worship and many ecumenical activities have provided it with an identity. The congregation stands today at the threshold of a new dawn. Change is the way of life and so it is with our Church. I firmly believe in the potentiality of this congregation to grow in unity, love and camaraderie; it holds promise of great possibilities. Our trust in Him will guide us so that we do not go wrong. So help us God.

The CCGN is in robust health and is growing. As we enter the third year of our existence, there are great tasks lying ahead. We are one in the body of Christ and believe that together we will march forward gaining great heights spiritually and congregationally. When God is with us, success waits at the next turn. Numerically and financially we need to grow besides consolidating on the spiritual gains and strength. Requirement of a pastor stationed at Greater Noida is desirable and the need of the hour. There is a challenge to extend membership to a number of CNI members who are residing at Greater Noida and also bring a number of CCN members residing at Greater Noida and in its vicinity to worship here with us. CCGN hopes and prays that the support and spiritual guidance of all the pastors, elders and believers may continue so that we may contribute fully to the Church of North India and its life of worship- witness-service.

Ord. Varun Alfred joined CCN in November 2012 and sustained the new community at Greater Noida with acumen. In the 2nd year of the Church, Morning Service commenced, thus making it possible for more believers to become regular worshipers. YMCA also helped by allotting a better and larger room, thanks to Mr. Inderjit Lall, Chairman YMCA, and the Board Members.

The Greater Noida congregation is participating with great zeal in the Silver Jubilee programme and general activities of CCN, bringing them closer with the parent Church. Ms. Kiran Bose has been nominated to represent the Pastorate in Youth Forums; Mrs. Shefali Egbert was nominated on the Outreach Committee, and Dr. I. K. Masih, Mr. Ravi Egbert and Mr. Sunil Bose on other committees. Mrs Meenul Masih as the House Vice-Captain of Rocking Peters, actively participated in Silver Jubilee Programme. Mrs. Rita Masih has been nominated to represent the Pastorate in the Diocesan Council this year. This has brought members of the congregation worshipping at Noida and Greater Noida together. We are grateful to all those who extended support to the nascent Church in its growth; for the guidance of Rev. Kamal Mall and the Ad Hoc Committee and its execution by the young-enthusiastic Ord. Varun Alfred. The Pastorate Committee has supported us at every step. In various ways Mr. P. J. Chauhan, Rev. Samuel John Shekhar and Mr. Ronald Das have continued to support the Church in its various activities. On behalf of each one of the members of CCGN thank Jesus Christ for his blessing on each one of the congregation at Noida and Greater Noida. His blessings are on all those who serve the Almighty with humility and responsibility. May we be worthy of His blessings.

Dr. I. K. Masih

Reflections ...



Rev. Col. L. Massey

At the outset, I would like to start by emphasizing that despite my weaknesses, failures, drawbacks; God in His Grace and Mercy has been pleased to bless my ministry. The Blessing of God the Almighty have been far greater than the proportion of my labours or any gifts I possess/ed.

God blessed the CCN, wholly for His Name's sake. So let all glory, honour and praise be to HIM.

- 1 **When did you take charge as Presbyter in Charge of Christ Church Noida?**
- 2 **What was your initial thought about CCN before taking charge as Presbyter?**
- 3 **Was your initial experience as Presbyter different from your thoughts as stated above? If yes, how?**

Note: Answer below is my response to above stated three questions.

I retired on 1 Dec 1987 and came to Noida on 13 Dec 1987 to stay in flat No 655 Sector 29, Arun Vihar, Noida.

On 21 December 1987, I wrote to the Bishops of Agra and Delhi Dioceses, that I am an ordained priest and am available for the service of the Church. This is when my role or the process of my functioning as the presbyter in charge started.

In response to my letters, the Bishop of Agra wrote to me that I should meet him on 5 Jan 1988 and Bishop of Delhi asked me to meet him on 18 Jan 1988.

Meeting with Rt. Revd W.D. Simon, Bishop of Agra on 5 Jan 1988 at Agra.

In this, I discussed with the Bishop that since Noida falls within the Agra Diocese, and I was here to advocate, in light of the need, the raising of a Pastorate in Noida. I offered to contact CNI families and undertake the necessary work; I also offered myself as a Pastor in an Honorary capacity.

The Bishop told me that he very much appreciated the idea but expressed his inability to respond to the issue due to the lack of funds. He advised that I should contact the Bishop of Delhi, as Noida falls on the periphery of Delhi. He also told me that he was willing to formally transfer Noida to Delhi Diocese. Further he suggested that I should inform the Bishop of Delhi about this discussion. I communicated the contents of this discussion to the then Bishop of Delhi during my meeting with him as well as a letter, dated 14 March 1988.

Meeting with RtRevd M Caleb, Bishop of Delhi on 18 Jan 1988 and subsequent developments which culminated into my appointment as Hony Presbyter in Charge CCN with effect 1 Oct 1988.

In our meeting of 18 Jan 1988, I informed Bishop Caleb about my meeting with Bishop Simon and gave the gist of our discussion.

Bishop Caleb asked me to put the proposal in writing with signatures of CNI families. Hence, I sent him a letter dated 14 March 1988 signed by 16 families with request to approach the Noida Authority to allot land for the construction of a Church building to meet the spiritual and religious needs (see Appx E) of Christians in Noida.

To

The Rt Revd A Gopal, Bishop of Delhi,
Bishop's House, 7 Church Lane, New Delhi 1.

Dear Bishop Sahib,

Please refer to our previous communication regarding purchase/ construction of CNI Church in NOIDA dated 14 Jan 88.

2. To meet the spiritual/religious needs of christians at NOIDA, to who their lives spiritually relevant and to catch their fervent wish in Christ, it is necessary to organize them into a local Christian Congregation. With this objective in mind, we the undersigned humbly takes the privilege of requesting your honour to take steps to organize us into a CNI Congregation/within the Diocese of Delhi.

3. We have also pleasure in informing you that Revd Colonel (Retd) LAWRENCE MURPHY, who has been ordained as a Presbyter by the Rt Revd D J MURPHY, Bishop of South (CNI) is available to take up as Holy Priest of the CNI Church NOIDA as and when formally organized. The matters regarding MINISTRY and organizational aspects of the proposed NOIDA Church will be discussed and finalized on your visit to NOIDA in due course, for which a suitable date may kindly be intimated.

4. Thanking you.

~~Yours faithfully,~~

YOURS IN CHRIST,

1. M. D. INAMATHAN
C-11 Sector 26 NOIDA ✓
2. J. N. EGBERTS
D-46 Sector 26, NOIDA ✓
3. J.A. Peters
139/29 NOIDA.
4. Mrs J. C. Gergan
D/168 Sector 27, NOIDA
5. Bhimashan
1004/29
Kumar Vihar ✓
6. Lily Kumari
910/37 NOIDA ✓

7. R. S. Dora
(Mrs. Gera (Retd) R.S. Dora)
1352 Sector 37 NOIDA
8. Mrs. R. Sanyal
486 Sector 37 NOIDA
9. SITAHA KALH
A-42 SEC-20, NOIDA
10. J. TRESSLER
(J. TRESSLER) Wagon
D-70/sector 21 NOIDA
11. Vijaya
(Vijaya Meena)
F 50 Jai Kanya Vihar Sec 37
12. A. S. A. ...
1004/29

On 5 Apr 1988, Bishop Caleb wrote to me vide his letter No.I-8(11)/88 to inform me that the matter would be discussed in a meeting of the Diocesan Society and he would let me know the outcome by Jul/Aug 1988 (see Appx F).

On 28 Jul 1988, I had a detailed discussion with the Bishop and he asked me to send him a new/fresh letter signed by CNI families. Accordingly, another letter dated 16 Sep 1988 signed by 12 families, which further requested that I be appointed as Hony Presbyter in Charge (see Appx G) was sent to the Bishop.

I was, as such appointed Hony Presbyter in Charge Christ Church Noida (which was still in formation stage) with effect from **1 Oct 1988. (see Appx H).**

Q4. What was the approximate congregation strength at the time of your taking over as Presbyter in Charge?

Ans. It was 12 families.

Q. 5. How was your experience serving as the Presbyter of CCN?

What were the changes that came during your tenure as Presbyter of CCN? And what were the highlights during your tenure as Presbyter in Charge?

Ans.5. This was my first experience as a presbyter. Prior to my move to Noida, I was actively engaged and often took charge of the service in stations such like Pachmarhi as a lay man for almost two years mid 1979 to mid 1981 as the Pastor used to visit once in three months from Chindwara (MP). Therefore there is no comparison for me. Spiritually, I found that this was a blessing which deepened my belief in God and the power of prayer. Overall, over a period of 17 years, no doubt there were challenging situations both big and small, but all were overcome in the end. So I can happily say that it was totally satisfying; the fact that I saw the Church growing by leaps and bounds during my tenure. The day I handed over to RevDr Paul Swarup i.e. 1 May 2004, I had the satisfaction of knowing that this was a sound and spiritually growing Congregation. It has since grown in numbers even further and as I continue to worship together with the congregation, I feel that God is blessing this Church.

Important Highlights during my stewardship of 17 Years.

- A. Giving shape to the CNI families as a Congregation.
- B. My appointment as Hony Presbyter in Charge, CCN. It might be the only case in Delhi Diocese where Presbyter has been appointed on the request of Congregation.
- C. Transfer of Noida from Agra to Delhi Diocese.
- D. Holding of first Holy Communion Service on 13 Nov 1988 at 655 Sector 29 i.e. my residence with Bishop Caleb also joining us.
- E. Holding of Sunday Service in member's houses in rotation in the absence of Church building.
- F. Holding of the first meeting of the Congregation to elect Ad Hoc Pastorate Committee on 20 Nov 1988 at the house of Late Anil Santram i.e. 486, Sector 37, ArunVihar, Noida, after Worship Service. This was done on the advice of the Bishop. In this meeting, late Anil Santram was elected as Hony Secretary and Rohit David as Hony Treasurer. Copy of the minutes is attached as Appx J.
- G. Allotment of Land by Noida Authority, taking possession and subsequent construction of the Boundary Wall.

FROM
THE BISHOP OF DELHI



PHONE : 387471
GRAMS : DIODEL

1, CHURCH LANE
NEW DELHI-110001

DIOCESE OF DELHI

Ref. No. I-8(11)/88

Dated 5 April 1988

Revd Col L Massey (Retd)
Flat No: 655 (FF), Sector 29
Arun Vihar
NOIDA - 201 301
Distt Ghaziabad
(UP)

Re: Purchase of Land/Construction of CNI Church in NOIDA

Dear Colonel Massey

Many thanks for your letter of 23rd March regarding purchase of land/construction of CNI Church in NOIDA. I am most grateful for the information that it will cost ₹ 100/- per sq mt. I would also appreciate if you could let me have the address of the NOIDA authorities concerned with the sale of land.

As I mentioned earlier, the sanction for this project can only be given by the Diocesan Society. A meeting of the Society can now only be held after the summer vacation, that is to say, in July/August this year. It is only then that I will be able to give you a definite answer.

Thank you once again for your interest and concern in the matter of building of a church in your area.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

+Maqbul Caleb

(The Rt Revd MAQBUL CALEB)
Bishop of Delhi

cc: Diocesan Secretary

cc: Diocesan Treasurer

MC/smd

FROM
THE BISHOP OF DELHI



PHONE : 387471
GRAMS : DIODEL

1, CHURCH LANE
NEW DELHI-110001

DIOCESE OF DELHI

Ref. No. Clergy-A/72/88

Dated 1 October 1988

Revd Col Lawrence Massey
Flat No: 655 (FF)
Sector 29
NOIDA - 201 301
Distt Ghaziabad

Dear Colonel Massey

This is further to our conversation about the need to appoint an Honorary Presbyter for the Christian families in NOIDA. I now write to authorise you to be the Honorary Presbyter in charge of NOIDA.

As you know that so far there is no church building in NOIDA. In this connection I would request you to kindly set in motion all the necessary formalities with the local municipal/development authorities for the purchase of a piece of land measuring not less than 500 sq yds. You would please keep me informed about the progress in this matter, so that I can arrange for the funds when they are needed for the purchase of the land.

I would also request you to kindly conduct worship service on Sundays in the home of one of the CNI families and also do other duties of a presbyter.

At the next meeting of the Ministerial and Personnel Committee of the Diocese, I will be informing them of your appointment as the Honorary Presbyter in the Diocese of Delhi.

If there are any other questions or enquiries, kindly write to me or contact me on the phone. I shall be grateful for a word of confirmation from you about this appointment.

I wish you every blessing in your ministry in NOIDA.

Yours sincerely

† Maqbul Caleb

(The Rt Revd MAQBUL CALEB)
Bishop of Delhi

cc: Diocesan Secretary
Diocesan Treasurer

MC/smd

- H. Construction of temporary structure to accommodate 50 to 60 members. With increase of members, to enlarge it to accommodate about 120 members.
- J. Laying of the foundation stone for the present Church Building and the completion of the present Church building.
- K. Dedication of present Church Building. A letter from Mr Atal Bihar Vajpyee, former Prime Minister, sending his good wishes

Q 6. What according to you could be termed as special challenge during that same period?

Ans 6. Raising of funds for the construction of the present Church Building. It must be remembered/acknowledged that each family during that period contributed towards the building fund either salary or pension for one month. In addition, each family further contributed cash either for one pew and in many cases more than one pews. One family bought Piano for the Church and got marble and artisans from Jaipur and had the Pulpit constructed. Every month members have contributed towards the building fund.

Q 7. What do you like the most about CCN? According to you, what distinguishes CCN from other Churches in the Diocese of Delhi?

Ans. The practice of opening the church building at 0600 hrs and to keep it open the whole day and to welcome all. This allows and makes welcome even non-Christians to walk in for prayers while passing in front of the church building.

The major distinguishing feature of CCN is that with the blessings of God, it is built by the Congregation; by giving their time and generously contributing to the building fund.

Q8. What was your long-term vision for growth and development of CCN?

Ans.8. My long term vision for growth and development was that each member must know the importance of knowing the word of God and prayer. It is only by prayer that we can live such a life that every word of God can be fulfilled in us.

Q.9. How, according to you, has CCN made an impact on the society in the surrounding areas?

Ans.9. I have been told by many non-Christians that the coming-up of the Church among them is one of the good things that happened in Noida. The result is visible in the presence of many non-Christians as they visit the Church daily feeling at home and a few keep coming every Sunday to have prayers said for them and their families.

Q.10. What is the one thing you would like to see changed at CCN? And, why?

Ans.10 I would like to see a change in the venues for retreats. While it is true that many are blessed with abundant resources, the yearly retreats are generally held at costly and distant places like Mussourie, Nainital, etc. The costs limit the attendance and participation of many families. Retreats should be held at nominal charges to allow greater participation and be more inclusive.

A second point that I feel very strongly about is that Community meals, that are an important part of the community, should not be **contributory alone**, BUT there should be a drop box and members should pay/contribute towards the meal in accordance with what they can afford.

In these troubled times we take the opportunity to publish this letter written by our present Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee (while he was leader of the opposition in 1997) with the hope that his dream of uniting the people of this country... and national integration may soon become a reality.

A. B. Vajpayee
LEADER OF OPPOSITION
LOK SABHA



NEW DELHI.

December 15, 1997.

Dear Rev. Massey,

Congratulations to your congregation and to you on the successful completion and dedication of Christ Church Noida on December 7, 1997.

I am aware that this would not have taken place without the tireless efforts of fund raising by the entire congregation and without the coordination and leadership of yourself and the voluntary efforts of your pastoral and building committees.

There are many lessons that can be learnt from this seemingly impossible project, - when people unite for a common cause and work with faith, anything is possible.

It is my hope that we would be able to really unite the people of our great country under one flag and one cause, so that the task of national integration is achieved.

I would like to wish your congregation a Merry Christmas as you prepare to celebrate this holy festival, the first of many to come in the years ahead.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. B. Vajpayee
(A. B. VAJPAYEE)

Reverend Colonel Lawrence Massey (Retd.),
Christ Church,
Sector 29 RC-1,
NOIDA (UP) - 201303

Why? It is a basic tenant of a Christian life to be loving towards all. In everyday life this translates in our being all inclusive and ensure that all are able to participate. A society is judged by how it treats its least fortunate.

Q.11. *What is the one thing you would never like to change about CCN? And, why?*

Ans.11. I would like to see always in the CCN - The holding of combined Hindi/English Service, this brings all of us together and gives us a feeling of oneness. Where services are held separately in Hindi and in English, members have feelings of being separate congregations.

Q.12. *In which area do you see CCN growing more? And which area(s) require more effort and hard work for CCN in the coming years?*

Ans. 12. It is growing both (i) in numbers i.e. In membership (ii) financial resources. CCN needs revival. *O Lord revive thy work in the midst of years.(Habkkuk 3:2).* Members must have deep humility and intense desire and fervent prayer and look towards Lord to achieve revival. We must remember revival is God's work. He alone can give it, it must come from Him. We will be in danger if we feel happy what God has done in CCN so far and is doing and to count this as His pledge that He will keep on doing more for us.

We may congratulate ourselves on our outreach program; giving some scholarships and other signs of life and goodness around us. We are in need of total dependence on Him. It is the spirit of absolute dependence on God, giving Him the honor and the glory that will prepare us for revival and the challenges the Church is going to face in the days to come.

Q. 13. *What is your message to the congregation on the occasion of the 25th year of Christ Church Noida and to the congregation in general:*

This message should be read along with message already handed over to Rev Kamal Mall and Kamna Cowasjee before leaving for Iraq on 22 Aug 2013. When we talk about Congregation, it means presbyter(minister) plus members; hence my message keeping this in view is :

For the Minister(s)

God needs ministers who can draw close to Him, live in His presence, and by their intercession draw down the blessings of His Grace on others. The thought of unworthiness or of unfitness, should never come into his mind. The blood of Jesus provides an infinite worthiness to make your prayers acceptable. The church depends upon its minister to an extent that we may little realize. He is the steward of the mysteries of God and as ambassador for God to beseech men in Christ's name to be reconciled to Him.

For the Congregation

If St Paul, after having preached for 20 years in the power of God, still needed the prayers of the church,(Eph 6:19; Col 4:3; 2nd Thes 3:1), how much more do the minister(s) in our days need it. The minister needs the prayers of his people. He has a right to them. He is in very truth dependent on them. It was St Paul's conviction that Christians had power with God and that their prayers would indeed bring new strength to him in his work.

So, I, take this opportunity to request all members of CCN not only pray for their minister but for all ministers of the Church. Pray that ministers will be people of power, of prayer, and full of Holy Spirit.

For the spouse/family

Q1. Describe your family's journey/experience as a Presbyterian's wife/children?

Spouse

My late wife KHURSHID also known as Dolly, supported me wholeheartedly. Until the day she passed away. On in 27 Aug 1999, (May her soul rest in peace in the presence of our Lord and Saviour). She was a very popular figure in the Congregation. Incidentally, while we were posted in Hyderabad, she was one of the first persons to encourage me to get ordained and involved deeply in the Church.

Children

I have three children Austen, Basil and Chitrakleha. Both Austen and Basil were Army Officers, when I retired on 1 Dec 1987. Both rose to become Lt Col's during my tenure as Hony Presbyter in Charge CCN. Chitra was an undergraduate, year one at the time of my retirement. After her graduation, she went to read law at Nottingham University, UK, going on to complete her LLM and Phd in International Law. After completing her Phd in 2001, she joined UNO, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva. My two eldest grandchildren were born during this time.

Q2. Share your most memorable moment/event as a family while serving in CCN?

Ans.2. My son Basil, was awarded the gallantry award of Shaurya Chakra for which the Investiture ceremony took place in Ashoka Hall, Rastrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. It was a big occasion not only for the immediate family but for all relations and friends.

In addition, the birth and baptism of my grandson Sahil, who was the first child to be baptized in the CNN. Currently, he is a serving Captain in the Indian Army.

.....Let us Praise the Lord. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



Massey Family 2013 sans Sahil Massey

Reflections 2 ...



QUESTIONS

1. When did you take charge as Presbyter in charge of Christ Church Noida [CCN]?
APRIL 2004
2. What was your initial thought about CCN before taking charge as Presbyter?
NEW PLACE WITH NEW CHALLENGES
3. Was your initial experience as Presbyter different from your thoughts as stated above? If yes, how?
HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, GREAT TEAM WORK AND A LOT WAS ACCOMPLISHED
4. What was the approximate congregation strength at the time of your taking charge as Presbyter In-charge?
ANYTHING BETWEEN 200-250 WORSHIPPERS EVERY SUNDAY
5. How was your experience serving as the Presbyter of Christ Church Noida? What were the changes that came about during your tenure as Presbyter In-charge of CCN? And what were the highlights during your tenure as Presbyter In-charge?
HIGHLIGHTS WERE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL THROUGH CAMPS AND THE PRAYER CELL.
BUILDING OF MULTI-UTILITY COMPLEX PARSONAGE, SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS, TOILETS AND CHURCH BEARER'S QUARTERS AND ALSO BUILDING THE PARISH HALL AND STEEPLE OF THE CHURCH
6. What according to you could be termed as a special challenge during that same period?
BEGINNING OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMMES WITH THE CHALERA CHILDREN
7. What do you like the most about CCN? According to you, what distinguishes Christ Church Noida from other churches in the Diocese of Delhi.
TEAMWORK AND GENEROUS GIVING
8. What was your long-term vision for growth and development of CCN?
REPLICATE MODELS LIKE CCN IN GREATER Noida AND OTHER PARTS OF Noida

9. How, according to you, has CCN made an impact on the society in the surrounding areas?

DEFINITELY PARTICULARLY WITH THE POOR

10. What is the one thing you would like to see changed at CCN? And, why?

MORE PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES

11. What is the one thing you would never like to change about CCN? And, why?

GREAT FELLOWSHIP AFTER SERVICE

12. In which area do you see CCN growing more? And which area(s) require more effort and hard work for CCN in the coming years?

NEED TO FOCUS ON REACHING OUT

13. What is your message to the congregation on the occasion of 25th year of Christ Church Noida and to the congregation, in general?

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE KEEP THE GOOD WORK GOING

For the spouse/family:

1. Describe your family's journey/experience as a Presbyterian's wife/children during your time in Christ Church Noida?

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT THOUGH IT HAD ITS UPS AND DOWNS

2. Share your most memorable moment/event as a family while serving in Christ Church Noida.

FAMILY CAMPS AND THE JOURNEY TO TORCH BEARERS



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School



Remembering old times.....

The temporary structure of Christ Church Noida, was, where the beautiful Parsonage now stands. In that building, in a small little corner room, all the little children would assemble for Sunday School. Their singing could be heard loud and clear and sounded heavenly.

Once the new church building came up, the temporary construction was brought down so that the Parsonage could be built but this meant looking for alternatives for the Sunday School gathering! Another challenge!

The challenge did not deter the teachers and children from assembling and gathering together unto HIM! The place under the staircase had not caught anyone's attention yet and it was still available! Small chairs and tables were arranged under the stairs, right up-to the door and the Sunday School room was all set for the classes to be resumed whole heartedly!

Time flew and the parsonage was ready- this meant that now the children of Christ Church Noida, had a lovely place of their own a room below the parsonage. Sunday School began the very next Sunday with children seated very comfortably in their own place. The dedicated and committed group of teachers were overjoyed as they were zealous about sharing God's word with the children. The word of God was brought to children through various activities such as drawing and colouring, singing, sharing stories from the Bible and much more....

May the Sunday School keep growing! We remember the stalwarts of the Church who played a vital role in taking initiatives to begin the Sunday School especially Mrs. Shunila Santram, 1st Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. Jaya Santram, Mrs. Ruth Nath, Mrs. Kiran John, Mrs. Mildred Meshy, Mrs. Nirmala Murch, Mrs. Valentina Muthumani. Others who have continued keeping the Sunday School vibrant with activities and singing till date include. Mrs. Ranjana Chauhan, Mrs. Anita Keskar, Ms. Anjali Browne, Ms. Margaret Meshy, Ms. Angel Singha, Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Preeti Emmanuel and Mr. Ronald Das.

The Sunday school team encourages members of the Church to join in ministering to the children through Sunday School and BE BLESSED!

God's work continues unending.....

Vineeta Rebecca Williams

(Sunday School teacher)

2004----2005 about 6 months

2012----2013 about 9 months



WE ARE GATHERING TOGETHER INTO HIM-SUNDAY SCHOOL MIDDLE GROUP



WE SING PRAISES TO THE KING- LITTLE ONES AT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL



A New and Enriching Experience.....

February 2010 brought me to Christ Church Noida and I was immediately drawn to the children of the Church- a beautiful Church with God's word and work reaching out to both believers and non-believers under the shepherding of Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup.

I had the opportunity of meeting his lovely wife Nina and her parents Rev. Raj Murch and Mrs. Nirmala Murch, from the hills of Kumaon. A family that inspired me to be part of Sunday School Ministry along with my husband.

I began with great apprehension as I did not understand where to begin with children.

We prayed and God led us to lead! The pages of the Bible opened before us revealing God's promises and purpose in establishing new relationships. I have personally experienced God working in my life through this ministry and have been encouraged to solidify relationships with people within the church and build new relationships with those outside the walls of the church.

And now under the guidance of our Presbyterian-in-Charge, Rev. Kamal Mall, his wife Mrs. Neeta Mall, the elders of our Church and even the youth, we continue to grow in the Lord and carry forward HIS vision and mission in our lives.

Our Sunday school is more than an hour of Bible study at church. We sing praises to God, we pray for our needs and we rejoice in the Lord. Our Sunday School is the foundation to support a child's life. It's about beginnings; starting to recognize the Bible as more than just a book carried to church. It's learning to respond to others with attitudes and actions of love and respect. It's discovering a conscience knowing what's right and wrong based on what the Bible says. It believes that when you pray, God is listening. Most importantly, it's about learning to love others because God first loved us. Children - they're at that age between learning to read and becoming a teen. But they're also beginning to truly understand what it means to be a Christian. Our hearts and minds will be blessed as we feast at the banquet table of great insights written for us in the Bible by Godly and gifted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose at Sunday school is:

- 1. Teach the Word of God until our children are sanctified wholly and mature in Christian discipleship.*

2. *Help them mature spiritually by involving them in soul-winning ministries, reaching and teaching others to be disciples of Jesus Christ.*
3. *Identify individuals who need encouragement to pray for all needs, inviting them to gather in small groups and attend regularly; establishing and experiencing the Power of prayer.*

Our Sunday School is blessed to have children in the senior group : Kevin, Shirley, Johanna, Minhael, Annette, Arlene and Diya who enjoy sharing the word of God with children younger to them, in groups, ministering and encouraging them to take a closer walk with God! Blessed are the ones junior to them who attend school to learn to walk in the ways of the Lord. As we seek to be and make Christ like disciples, we invite all to contact us to join in this wonderful ministry to children to reach out to them with God's love, joy and peace.

Thank you Arunima, Anita, Margaret and Mrs. Mukha for your help in Sunday School.

May the Lord continue to bless our Sunday School.

Roma Das

(Sunday School teacher 2010 till date)



WINNERS OF THE COLOURING COMPETITION



THE YOUTH REPORT

The youth group of Christ Church Noida started in 2005 under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup. In the beginning, the group started with Bible studies every Saturday at Mr. Luke Chandekar's residence. The people participating in the studies were Mr. and Mrs. Chandekar, Mr. and Mrs. Samir Mukha, Aloyious, Ashish Dukalu, Anuradha Romulus, Rahul Stephen, Margret Meshy, William Meshy.

The Bible studies were conducted by the elders and had a lot of interaction on the youth issues. The other activities of the group were outreach programmes, church, activities like alter serving, ushering, conducting Youth Sunday's every alternate 5th Sunday of the month.

The youth of Christ Church Noida for the first time in any church in north India presented the Passion of Power of our Lord as a UV light and sound show on the Easter weekend of 2013. We wanted to do something unique that would interest all the youth in our church.

At present we have around 20 youth members. Out of which some are dedicated to interpreting for the Deaf Fellowship and others on a regular basis contribute in alter serving.

The first President of the youth group was Anuradha Romulus succeeded by Shefali John. Then it was headed by Alice Meshy and presently Margret Meshy is handling the youth. At different times we were guided by Brig. Rajiv William, Mr. Shibu George and other old members of our church.

As a conclusion I would take the opportunity to thank all the members of the church especially Rev. Kamal Mall for his constant support and guidance to the youth.

Margaret Meshy



The Vibrant and active Youth at different Church activities



Youth Concert



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

**Christ Church, (CNI, Diocese of Delhi),
Sector-29, Noida.UP.**



Presentation of Report on the Womens' Fellowship for Christian Services (WFCS) of Christ Church Noida at the Women's Retreat May 2013

Jai Masi Ki !!! Praise the Lord!!!

Honorable Ladies, Dear Sisters and believers in Christ,

I, Manorama Lukose, a former President of the WFCS, of Christ Church, Noida, and I am privileged and honored to present a Report on the activities of our Fellowship.

WFCS, Christ Church Noida was formally initiated in the year 1991- 1992. I would like to bring to your notice the fact that our Church & its women's fellowship has a very humble beginning.

In Dec 1987, Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, on his retirement, came to Noida with his family, to settle down here. His vision and initiative, was instrumental in founding this Church. He gathered, the handful of believers, then living in Noida, to start a Sunday Worship Service. On 13 Nov 1988, First Divine Service was organised at the residence of Rev. Col Lawrence Massey. It was presided over by Rt. Rev Maqbul Caleb, Bishop of Delhi. There after, Sunday the Divine Worship service was conducted in rotation, in homes, for the next 3 years. All of us opened our homes for Sunday Worship with great zeal and happiness. By 1989 our strength grew to 20 families and Rev Col Massey was continuing his Liaison with the Bishop of Delhi, for a Church at Noida.

By God's Grace, physical possession of the Church Plot, allotted for our Diocese, was taken in Feb 1990 and a small temporary Church was constructed by us, at the corner of the plot. Inaugural Divine Service was held in this church on 30 May 1991.

Ladies of all Families took pride in keeping this Worship Place neat & clean, in turn. As the membership grew and this Chapel became small, we extended it in Dec 1993. Subsequently, in 1997 construction of the present Church, (ground Floor), was completed; then the Parsonage and subsequently the Parish Hall, Steeple and the Bellfry. We praise Almighty God and thank all, who helped in raising the funds

& constructing this Complex. WFCS also played a role in furnishing the Church & Parsonage. And was regularly cleaning the Church.

With the guidance of Late Mrs Georgina Kerr, Late Ms Usha Shukla and late Mrs Rosalyn Nair, the first informal office bearers, we started the WFCS, Noida in Feb 1992.

First activity of our WFCS started by our Participation in the Delhi Diocesan WFCS Fete, held at St. James Church, Delhi. Our stalwarts, Mrs Kamna Cowasjee, Ms Kiran John and Ms Helen Harrison put up a Briyani Stall, of course assisted by Mr. Alex John & Wg Cdr. Dennis Harrison.

WFCS, thereafter, visited St. Mary's Old Home and distributed Linen, Clothes & sweets to the old ladies. Thus the Women's Fellowship Activity, started in Noida.

Simultaneously, Women's Prayer Group also started. Mrs Premila Lal, Mrs Helen Harrison, Mrs Kiran John and Mrs Manorama Lukose took the leadership. We prayed for the early construction of the Church, for the growth & strength of the Church, Women's Fellowship, Sunday school & Youth.

Subsequently we started formally electing the President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer, prior to the AGM of the Church. We also started the Membership Fee System and started the Fund raising program by Breakfast Sale on Sundays and contributions.

We started our meetings regularly, on each third Sundays and occasionally for urgent matters.

I take this opportunity and mention a few of the challenging and major activities which we undertook every year, inside & out side the Church. In the beginning, we started visiting an orphanage Grace Home, in Noida.

We at times, gave them Breakfast & Cash assistance, as they were not fully operational. We invited them to our Church for Christmas Tree & Fellowship Dinner. Gifts were also given to the children. Our ladies donated generously. Many a times our ladies have been visiting them and have been giving them, dry rations, clothes summer & winter, caps, socks, stationary etc.

We also visited Najafgarh Orphanage, carrying car full of articles for them. To our surprise, we found about 100 odd children and many old age people over there, which was much above our expectation, and the articles we carried were just a drop in an ocean. But our members prayed that our small help, may be the little drops that make the mighty ocean.

St. Mary's old Home was also visited by our ladies, and donated soap, hair oil, tooth paste & brush, combs, towels, nighties, soft drinks etc. We shared prayer with them. We had wonderful & heart touching experience and their response was marvelous.

Sick people were also visited for prayers and their birth days were also celebrated with them to bring smiles on their faces and encouragement & strength.

We visited needy persons, destitute and poor people. We visited at Love India Girl's Orphanage, in Delhi and distributed Sweaters, Dry ration etc. One Nine Year Girl, who lost the vision, was picked up by us and got her eyes operated, lenses were got fixed at the Lady Hardings Hospital in Delhi. and the entire expense was born by us. Now she is grown up and with beautiful eyes.

In the same way, we provided Medical help & traction equipments and diet for a 5 year old boy who could not walk straight. He could walk after the treatment. We also supported the son of a Christian domestic servant for his education for 9th to 12th class. He passed the 12th Board Exam with good marks.

We also supported needy members of the church in delivery case, daughter's marriage & education and shared happiness with them.

Presently, the WFCS supports 3 girls of St Michaels Girls Hostel. We intend to support them in the future also.

Women fellowship is participating in various church Activities.

On the 5th Sundays, we conduct the divine service in the church.

Since 1989, we participate in the Diocesan Ekta Utsav by establishing "Cakes & Brownie Stall", this tradition is still continuing.

In our Church, ladies have been managing White Elephants Stalls and 3 to 4 stalls during Garden fete and the collection is donated to the church.

During Christmas & Easter, ladies take pride in decorating the Church with fresh Flowers, assisted by men & children. We also organize Easter Breakfast, Love feast on Maundy Thursday and cakes at Christmas.

We share the sorrow of members of the departed souls, by joining them in prayers and providing them food for 3 to 4 days.

We celebrate Mothers' Day, International Women's Day and World Prayer Day.

We are members of the Diocesan WFCS.

This Women's Retreat is also a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations organised by the Women's Fellowship.

As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, our Church conducted a Health Camp, in which more than 800 people attended for medical check up which lasted from 11 AM to 5 PM. Women's Fellowship, provided refreshments by way of Soft Drinks & Snacks for the entire people, through out the day of the camp.

All this was achieved with the co-operation, unity and generous contribution of the women's fellowship members. With God will help we will do better in the future.

I also appreciate and thank our founder priest Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, subsequent priest Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup and the present Rev. Kamal Mall for rendering inspiration and guidance throughout.

I thank all the ladies present here today and for the patient hearing and promoting the Women's fellowship at various levels. I place on record my appreciation of all the members of WFCS, Christ Church Noida, for organizing such a grand event with the able leadership of Mrs Neeta Mall.

May the Wonderful Living Words of God, reach to the depth of our Soul. Nothing is impossible if we do not doubt but believe and have faith in the Almighty God, with all our heart, mind and soul

Ms Manorama Lukose,

Former Hon'y President.



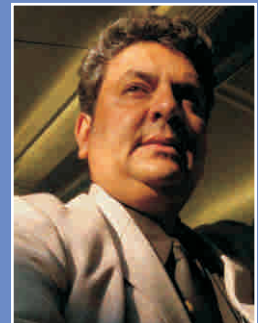
DEAF FELLOWSHIP, CHRIST CHURCH Noida

It was fortuitous that my family and I came to Christ Church Noida. Till 2008, I used to preach in Free Church, Sansad Marg, whose Presbyter was kind enough to allow 150 odd deaf adults to use their Parish Hall every Sunday for praise & worship. My children always had strong faith and belief in Jesus except they never were a part of any formal Church. We had devotions, bible study, etc. all through Sign Language and at home.

Until one day in June 2008, my kids and I decided we needed to go to Church formally. My daughter and I started going around from church to church in Noida looking for a “Protestant” church until our attention was drawn to Christ Church at Sector 29. That afternoon, we entered the Church and found Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup sitting in the lawn. We explained our situation and he suggested that we start coming to church and enrol the kids for the confirmation class. We agreed. The coming Sunday, my wife, my kids and I got dressed and reached church dot at 9AM. My daughter, though nervous, interpreted the whole service in Sign Language, sitting right beside me in one of the pews. We could feel the inquisitive eyes watching us. In 2008, barely six of us in (my family) came to the Church to worship. Then my deaf friends who wanted their kids to grow, also joined in, the confirmation classes. What started as a need for my children to be an active part of Church turned into a blessing for the Deaf Fellowship of today where we have over 75 deaf members in our Church with the encouragement of our current presbyter, Rev. Kamal Mall, our children are interpreting the entire service every Sunday right up front and visible from any part of the Church. Somehow the gap between the hearing and the deaf seems to be bridging and growing in faith. We have become a part of our Church just like the women and youth fellowship. One of our lay leaders in our Church is a deaf member.

Message from the Deaf Fellowship.

- Zorin Daud Singha





THE INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE ALPHABET



Christ Church Outreach Projects History & Status



Christ Church in Noida is in its Silver Jubilee Year. We have much to celebrate. The main edifice of the Church was consecrated in December 1997. It took another 9 years to complete the construction of Hall, Steeple and parsonage. Having completed that, it was in 2007 that the Church was in a position to look outward into the community.

Background

No Church can claim sustained growth, unless it envisions activities which would promote spiritual growth and also look outward for external growth engaging itself with the society around it. There was a general consensus amongst its members, though not explicitly spelt out, to seek outreach activities which would take us in the desired direction. As a first step we tried to work out a free medical clinic to be run by our member doctors but unfortunately the project could not be sustained for more than a year. But two other activities, providing financial support to three orphaned girls and permitting the Alcoholic Anonymous to function from our premises and supporting them to the extent of providing hospitality, did continue. These two, though termed as outreach projects, suffered from lack of / limited opportunity for the members of the church to participate, except by making financial contributions and the actual operations were vested with third parties.

Our quest for identifying suitable projects in which the Church would have direct involvement in all respect - financial, planning, management, evaluation and growth - continued. During the course of several deliberations in the Pastorate Committee meetings, possibility of starting a school for the underprivileged children was discussed, but no concrete step could be taken until two things happened:

1. A study conducted by Dr. Helen R. Sekar, titled "Child Labour in Urban Informal Sector : A Study of Ragpickers in Noida" revealed that there were 925 ragpicking children in the age group of 5-14 years in various sectors of Noida. Dr. Helen R. Sekar is a Senior Faculty Member of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, an autonomous body of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. She is also the Coordinator, **National Resource Centre on Child Labour**. Dr. Helen R.



Sekar was and is a member of our Pastorate Committee. Her study reported that financial problems and non-accessibility of schools were the main reasons for ragpicking children to be illiterate. Most of these children belonged to migrant families. They lived in huts/old dilapidated structures, which hardly had any basic amenities and their living conditions were extremely poor. In addition to deprivation of educational opportunities they hardly had any opportunity for holistic growth and development. Children identified through the study in one of the slums named 'Chalera' were mobilized by Christ Church Noida for rehabilitation / education. Several visits were made to establish rapport with the community, particularly with the families of children deprived of

childhood, to assess their needs. To respond to the immediate need of children an Education Centre was started in the Community Centre (*Baarat Ghar*). A camp was organized to generate awareness among the community on the importance of education which facilitated in the enrolment of children to the Education Centre.

2. Simultaneously, a seed funding agency, Mustard Seed Foundation (MSF) of US, agreed to support the Church in initiating the project in the society. MSF agreed to fund the project for three years with equal contribution from the church and promptly sent their first year's contribution of US\$6000. This marked the beginning of what is now known as the Chalera Project.



Back ground of Target Population

With the help of Dr. Helen Sekar a target group was identified at the settlement near Chalera Village situated about 2 KM from Christ Church. The settlement houses families from a number of North and East Indian States living below the poverty line. The families were found to sustain themselves from the meager earning of the female members of the families working as house maids and to some extent supplemented by the earnings of their children. As is usual in such settlements, men of these families are not gainfully employed and even if they do have some earnings, these are squandered away in alcohol, gambling and the like. Children were found to be mostly illiterates though some of them had been to schools but became dropouts mainly due to financial reasons. We are all aware that if these children are left to fend for themselves without proper care, guidance, and support they are more likely to grow up as anti social elements and cause harm to themselves and others.

Goals and Objectives of Chalera Project

When the project was conceived, it was clear in the minds of the people involved that Christ Church had no ambition to start a formal school and progress towards higher classes leading to Senior Secondary level. The Fundamental objective was and is to provide basic education and prepare these children to face up to the challenges of the unkind world, and to prepare the younger ones if possible to enter main-stream schools. It was clearly envisioned that the best way to equip them to adjust in society is to instill in them in their formative years, moral values along side skills of reading and writing.

The model now established in Chalera Village could be replicated in other similar Villages in and around Noida. The identified objectives included

- a. Equipping some of the children to join main stream schools
- b. Provide all assistance to place them in such schools
- c. Support them financially for their education
- d. Monitor, mentor and support them as they progress
- e. Alternately help them to obtain basic education certificates through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
- f. Help older children to be equipped to face life's uncertainties through skill development based on individual talent and / or vocational training programmes.

It was also understood that in order to achieve these goals the programme should adopt a multi pronged approach as briefly mentioned below:

- a. Evaluate the children, based on the age group they fall in and the level of literacy they possess, into two or three groups and impart basic appropriate education factoring the above inputs.
- b. Instill in them a sense of hygiene
- c. Through periodical medical check up by volunteer medical specialties identify medical needs of the children and offer assistance in treatment and support
- d. Offer them some refreshments as supplement to their nourishment and build health and well-being amongst them
- e. Instill in them a sense of discipline in their conduct while at study and also outside the 3 hours they are with us.
- f. Expose them to the environment outside their settlements through planned visits and outings.
- g. Celebrate with them national special days and religious festivals and in the process educate them of the values represented by these
- h. Bring out the hidden talents in them and offer them opportunities to develop these further
- i. Give them a feeling of being wanted. Encourage members of our Church and others to meet them as frequently as possible at a social level.
- j. Involve them in group activities with other such children being supported by various NGOs and instill in them a sense of healthy competition which translates to and in turn is aimed at strengthening their level of confidence in themselves and builds up their self esteem and self worth.
- k. Engage with them in any personal problems and do counseling to the extent possible.
- l. Offer them inspiration and instill in them Christian Values and Nationalistic pride through regular rendering of Biblical and other Stories and explaining to them their meaning, and the ethics involved, singing of hymns and national anthems and songs and prayer.
- m. Finally to inculcate in them, in due course, a keen desire for knowledge, an awareness of opportunities, an incentive to go for regular studies and a moral stature to generally live as good and productive citizens in the community



Progress thus far

The project started at the Village Center at Chalera with the cooperation of the Village Panchayat and the Civil Authorities with about 60 children attending, on 14 November 2007. Classes were held from 2pm to 5pm. Three teachers were engaged, who besides being capable of teaching and dealing with such a group of varying age and background, were also committed to the cause. Study materials were provided from time to time based on the progress these children were making. A number of the action plans listed above were incorporated into the programme,

After one year of functioning in Chalera, in which time the children were graded into three classes, provided a modicum of education and disciplined into the education mode, the children were provided with uniforms. They were given an exposure to the world outside Chalera through excursions to Rail Museum, India Gate and over a period of time have also visited the Doll's Museum, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Millenium Park and picnicked on the lawns of the Cathedral Church of the Redemption. They have celebrated festivals, been provided with nourishment and exposed to a medical check-ups.

In October 2008 with 20 promising students picked up from the initial project and supported financially by Jindal Steels Limited, the Chalera Extension Programme was established at the Church premises in Sector 29, Noida, to prepare them with intensive coaching to enter main steam schools. The Church had the necessary infrastructure to conduct one or two classes. At the time it was strongly felt that in the overall development of the children it was important to give them a better ambience and therefore the need of pulling them out of their immediate surroundings and making a better place available to them. Practically speaking, running two classes in one room did not prove to be a good idea, especially when the number of students in each class increased.



Children were ferried between their settlement to the Church Sunday School facility and back using school rickshaws hired for this purpose. The plan or vision was to provide the children quality education and to give them a platform for holistic development. Efforts were made to enroll the children in good schools preferably English Medium schools and those who did not get admission would be provided a platform of appearing through the OBE / NIOS system.



Placements were done after students cleared class-III in class-IV in hard Mahavir School, Sector-29, Noida

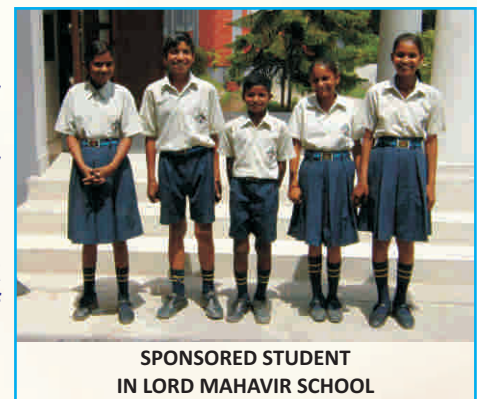
Though placement in schools continues, the extension programme has since been merged with the Chalera Project w.e.f. July 2012

The Present Status:

Programme run at the village : Three teachers look after the Chalera Programme in the village, which runs from 8.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday. Fifty five students have been divided into Nursery, KG and Class I. English, Hindi, Mathematics and Social Science are taught. Simple text books have been adopted to make learning easy. Milk and biscuits / bananas are distributed daily. An Assembly is conducted with students reciting a prayer and singing a hymn. All attempts are being made to provide a holistic approach to education by giving the students opportunities for all-round growth. Basic Computer Education has been introduced. Moral education based on the Bible is allocated as a subject in each class on a daily basis. Drawing or colouring is done once a week. Poems and action songs have been taught. Marching and exercises have been taught to instill discipline and coordination. At the close of day the National anthem is sung. Besides excursions mentioned above, they have participated in three 'Bal Melas' and walked away with prizes in each. Festivals are celebrated and sweets distributed on National holidays and major festivals. Provision of uniforms along with shoes and socks and a cardigan in winter have been provided in the past and are on the anvil this year too. Medical Camps have been conducted. On Doctors suggestions Vitamin Supplements and Chyavanprash and Waterburys Compound have been provided with a view to raising resistance levels to colds and coughs and maintaining good health.

Sponsored Programme

Five students are currently being sponsored in Lord Mahavir School @ Rs 25,000/ pa. There are thirteen students currently studying in Sai Kripa School in Sector 135 Noida, for which the Church is committed to pay for admissions, books and uniforms, while the parents pay the monthly school fees. This was done to seek more parent involvement in student education. Here too we have some sponsors who take care of the Church committed expenditure.



Vocational Project

In July 2009, Christ Church embarked on a Tailoring Project for young and older women, to help them acquire a profitable skill. This was done in collaboration with Usha International, who provide the course study materials and recognized certificates for the students. They also helped in the acquisition of machines and a trained teacher and provide support to maintain these



TAILORING UNIT

machines. Four batches of students have been issued certificates so far, with an average of 10 to 15 students in each batch. The programme employs one teacher and a Supervisor so there is someone to ensure classes run, even if the teacher is on leave.

This programme is entirely supported by the Church but could definitely do with specific financial sponsorship.

Community Involvement

As mentioned earlier, for the overall physical and mental development of students, Medical Camps including eye and dental care have been conducted. Doctors from the Church fraternity have participated in these and are at hand to take care of any medical problems that may require attention and treatment.

Volunteers from the Church youth and women's wings have engaged with the children to develop skills in spoken English and teaching Block-printing, as a part of a skill development programme, teaching computers and tutoring them. Earlier, there have been bi-monthly programmes in singing and teaching of Bible verses and stories by The Youth for Christ members. Children have been invited to attend the Fete and given money for spending. Some members have sponsored lunch for the students and engaged them with games and singing, while some have sponsored their uniforms and books in the past. Gifts are distributed at Christmas.



OUTREACH STAFF

Finances:

Mustard Seed Foundation and Jindal Steels Limited were committed to provide financial support for the Chalera Project and the Extension project respectively for limited durations. For the rest our Church members have been very liberal in their financial contributions for this outreach programme, though a short-fall is felt after funding stopped. Major expenditures are for books and uniforms for which sponsorship is always welcome; optional expenditures include excursions and gifts at Christmas.



EXCURSIONS

CHURCH IN NUTSHELL

With love to Christ Church family Noida
from + Pritam B. Santram



I. I. "CHURCH" is a very commonly used word among Christians. Who, or what is it? Where has it come from? It has come from the Bible. In the New Testament it is the English translation of the original Greek word "ekklesia". In Urdu it is translated as "kalisiya". Generally Christians as also wider public, when they hear the word "church", conjure up in their minds the image of a building where Christians worship. Check it out! The **first** meaning of the word "church" in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, 1996, is, "a building used for public Christian worship" (p.197). In the New Testament the original Greek word *ekklesia* (translated as *Church* in English) occurs 112 times where it always means a group or **community** of Christian people, and **never a building** for worship. As such in those days believing Christians did not **go to Church, they themselves were the Church, and assembled for worship as the Church**, just as today believing Christian people in community **are** the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ being its origin and its head. In Matt.16:18, Lord Jesus declared to Peter, " **...I will build my Church**".

Where in our world do we find the Church which the Lord Jesus builds? Today, we see it in diverse organized, institutional and denominational forms like the Methodist Church, the Pentecostal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Mar Thoma Church, the Baptist Church, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Church of South India, the Lutheran Church, the Church of North India, etc., (the long list goes on). In spite of these diverse manifestations as Churches, their members, like the members of our Church the Church of North India -- confidently confess, "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church", and know themselves to be a constituent part of it (CNI Constitution page-1, Cl.1). In a profound prayer which also appears on page 43 of the CNI Lectionary for 2013, the Church is rightly described as "**that wonderful and sacred mystery**", thereby acknowledging that its full being, its meaning, its calling and relationship to Christ and to the human community are to be constantly explored and discovered by the believing community in every age and context. Epistle to the Ephesians 5:32 actually applies the word "mystery" to the "church". All devout Christians, in their minds and hearts, rightly hold their Church, its ordained servants (in the CNI, Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons), its organized systems, institutions, rules, customs, programmes of selfless service and compassion, its grand buildings and ways of worship, and its traditions etc., with affection and awe. All these, when genuine and faithful to Christ, stand out as magnificent signs of Christ's lordship and redeeming work in the world. In these and such manifestations, the Church is an awesome global phenomenon

The development of the “Church” beginning from one person, the Lord Jesus Christ, through his disciples to the millions in the world's population spread over the whole earth over a span of just 2000 years down to our own Church today, makes a fascinating history worth knowing. But it also raises many questions worth asking and seeking answers to, in order for us **to be the Church** of Jesus Christ.

II. Church in the New Testament: In the time of the Apostles, in the 1st Century A.D, the first among those who responded in faith to the preaching of the gospel were Jews in Palestine, and later the Gentile converts from outside became part of the believing Christian community. As scattered Christian communities sprouted in different parts of the world they grew in their self-understanding and consciousness as one distinct, Christ-centred community of faith. Glimpses of the nature and character of this believing community as “church” can be seen and believed in the collection of writings in the New Testament. Because of the divine-human nature of this “*wonderful and sacred mystery*” it is described through the language of images, or metaphors, which are indicators to its reality in relation to both God/Christ and the human community. Here, below, are some of the well-known images of the Church in the New Testament. These are what **we**, as the Church (the CNI), Christ Church Congregation, Noida, and individual members of it, **are called to be**, and more.

New Testament Images of the Church.

1. A Chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people...I Peter 2:9. Here in just one verse we have the “**Church in Nutshell**” as the writer and readers of the 1st Epistle of Peter understood it: “*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*”. What wonderful calling and privilege **to be**. But this is not for our personal pride and enjoyment. St. Peter hastens to add the challenge and responsibility this calling demands: “***in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.***” Awesome !

2. Household of God, Ephesians 2:19. “*...You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also of the members of the household of God.*” It is God's family. Should there be any place for broken relationships, mutual alienation, unforgiveness, breakdown of mutual communications, lack of mutual transparency in relationships, love and caring, etc. in such a family?(See also Heb.3:6).

3. Temple of God, Ephesians 2:21-22: “***In him [Christ] the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God***”. I Corinth.3:16,”*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (Also I Corinth.6:19).* II Corinth.6:16, “***We are the temple of the living God.***” I Peter 2:5 reads: “*Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...*”

4. Church as the new Jerusalem. In Galatians 4:21-26 St. Paul allegorically uses the names of Abraham's two wives Hagar(Slave) and Sarah (Free) to illustrate two different aspects of the place of **Jerusalem** in the history of the people of God. Hagar signifies the old earthly Jerusalem as Israel under the bondage of the law from Mt. Sinai. Sarah stands for the free, redeemed community as the heavenly, or **new Jerusalem**, the mother of the redeemed, which is an allusion to the Church. In Hebrew 12:22-25, the writer, echoing Old Testament sentiments, tells the suffering Christian community about their new status in relation to God: ***“But you have come to mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus...”***. Converts to the Christian faith from the Jewish community applied the imagery of **Jerusalem** to the Church. What Jerusalem was to the Jews (Israel) the Church was to the Christians. This is joyfully sung in our churches in the well-known hymn No. 139 in *English Hymnal* (No. 119 in *St. James' Church Hymnal*):

***“Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy”***

All the sentiments, emotions, aspirations, the sacredness and integrity which in the past were focused on Jerusalem were now transferred to the Church and accepted by it in shaping its institutional and religious life. Revelation 21:2 envisions the Church as **the new Jerusalem** dressed up like the bride of Christ.

5. Bride of Christ. In **II Corinth.11:2** St. Paul reminds the “Church of God” in Corinth that he had promised them (metaphorically speaking) ***“in marriage to one husband, to present [them] as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*** The writer of the Epistle to the **Ephesians** in Ch.5:22-32 elevates the relationship and union of husband and wife in marriage to the mystical relationship and union between Christ and the Church. Having elaborated on the mutuality of relationship, its intensity, tenderness and obligations in the union of husband and wife, the writer declares, in 5:32, ***“This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to the church.”*** Book of Revelation Ch.21:2, mentioned above, envisions the Church more precisely as **a bride adorned for her husband, CHRIST**. Can our local congregations of the CNI (including Christ Church .Noida, on its 25th Anniversary,) claim that they reflect the beauty, tenderness, devotion, purity , loyalty and the intensity of love for Christ **as the bride of Christ ?**

6. Body Christ: Ephesians 4:11-12, ***“ The gifts he [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”*** Ephes.5:23, ***“Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the savior”***. **Colossians 1:18**, Christ “is the

head of the body, the church ;”(see also Col.1:24).This is the most profound image of the Church in the writings of St. Paul . It says a lot about the nature of the Church in its relation to Christ, of its members' in relation to each other, as well as functionally in its institutional form. In **Romans 12:4-8** without actually using the word “church”, St. Paul, in verses 4 &5, tells the Church in Rome : ***“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”***

In **I Corinthians 12: 12-27**, St. Paul's exposition of the Church as the **Body of Christ**, is even clearer, heart-searching, particularly applicable to our Church today, and also somewhat entertaining: ***“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.”*** Then after elaborating the functioning of the different members of the body in a lighter vein in verses 14 to 24a (read these), St. Paul touches a very sensitive nerve not only of the Church in Corinth, but particularly of the Church of North India, including our congregation in Noida. It demands all the faith, love, energy, courage, humility and integrity of the members, Pastors and Bishops for the wholeness of the Church: ***“But God has so arranged the body, giving greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”*** This pristine character of the Church is hardly reflected in the functioning of our congregations, committees, councils and the Synod.

III. Our Church as we experience it today. The above images of the “Church” from the New Testament are grand and very impressive. The church-going Christians are at least vaguely aware of them, and sometimes proudly connect with them. But as has been mentioned above, increasing number of Church members dealing with church matters confess, in hushed voices, that these images are hardly reflected in the character of the Church in ground realities. This is clear from the way we sing the famous 19th century hymn ***“The Church's one foundation...”*** by Samuel J. Stone, **omitting** the original 3rd verse which confessed:

“Though with scornful wonder men [we] see her sore oppressed, By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed: Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up “How long?” And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.” (Eng .Hymnal 489;Golden Bells 503; St. James' 187; SoP 107).

Ill-informed and complacent members of the Church are not willing to hear about this ground reality of the **oppression, tearing apart, distress, cries**, and the **“night of weeping”** of the Church. Their reactions to such fact-facings are like those of the Jews in Acts 7:54-57. When they heard the truth about themselves, ***“they became enraged and***

ground their teeth at Stephen... they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. For members of the Church **to be the Church**, they must scan its ground realities and honestly deal with them.

The sins in our Church which are causing the above-mentioned distress, oppression, rupture in relationships, cries and nights of weeping are not always obvious and carnal like murder, debauchery, etc. There are, of course, many known cases of shady property deals, financial mismanagement involving Bishops and other functionaries of the Church of North India. Minute No.EC:90:2012-217 of the CNI Synod's Executive Committee of August 2012 records the admitted fact of **“Criminal Cases against Bishops, Functionaries and others in the CNI”** (Confirmed printed Minutes, pages 86-89). The fact of the continuing presence of unethically acquired private ***Maa Vaishnav Education Society*** patronized by the Diocese of Delhi is a sore point on the ***Faith and Order of the CNI***. The oft repeated story of the infamous **fraud and forgery** of the 11th CNI Synod's Minute **No.S:11:01-686** of Oct.2001, with distressing consequences till now, is too well known to be detailed here. That disease of **forgery of minutes** and **tampering** with records of decisionmaking bodies by the decision-makers, scribes and custodians of Church records has widely infected the Church down to the level of Pastorates and Congregations. The sins corroding the sanctity of the Church and spirituality of its members are subtle, unexposed, un-confessed, and are embedded in the soiled consciences, vested interests, greed for higher positions and influence in the Church, of its clergy and their sycophants. The anguished cries of Church members are going up, **“How long?”** There is urgency of sustained mutual communication and open discussions among Church members about spiritual, moral and pastoral issues in the Church, along with **corporate penitence, fasting and prayer**.

On Saturday, 14th September(2013) in one of the important activities celebrating Silver Jubilee 25th year of establishment of the Congregation of Christ Church, Noida, the **“Men's Retreat”**, twelve male members of Christ Church Congregation, participating in a competition of Choirs , enthusiastically sang out the following spiritual surge from within (in Hindi, *Songs of Praise*, No.1007):

“Ek aag har dil mein ham ko jalaana hai, Bhatke hue jeevan ko, Prabhu se milaana hai.”

It was interesting to see our Pastor in the audience with a mystical smile on his face as he heard the males from his flock surging forward with fire of the Spirit in their hearts.

16th September, 2013

Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.

e-mail:bishopsantram@gmail.com



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I feel very strongly of the need to recognize the part played by the following individuals during my tenure as Presbyterian-in-Charge CCN. Currently, the lack of recognition of these individuals is like a burden on my heart.

During the visit of Bishop M Caleb on 13 Nov 1988, he advised that the Ad Hoc Pastorate Committee be elected immediately, so that matter of Land for Church Building could be progressed with Noida Authority effectively.

In the first meeting of the Congregation held at 486, Sector 37, Arun Vihar, Noida, members of Ad-hoc PC were elected. Please note that a scanned copy of minutes is forwarded herewith, so that it can remain part of the Church History as well as Records.

The role of the 12 signatories to the petition to the Bishop of Delhi to initiate a CNI Church in Noida needs to be acknowledged.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. C. M. Dinanath | 2. Mr. I. N. Egbert | 3. Mr. J. A. Peter |
| 4. Mrs. F.C. Gergen | 5. Mrs. D. Tressler | 6. Mrs. Lilly R. |
| 7. Maj. Gen. R. S. Diol | 8. Mrs. R. Santram | 9. Mr. S. Lall |
| 10. Wg. Cdr. S. K. Tressler | 11. Mrs. V. Massey | 12. Wg. Cdr. A. S. A. Michigan |

Late Mr. Anil Santram was elected Secretary and Mr. Rohit David, the Treasurer. Both were always with me when we went to meet the relevant Noida Authorities and officials to expedite allotment of land for Church building. It took almost a year and good number of visits to get the allotment to come to fruition. Their role was and remains significant.

The role of the following also requires recognition:

Cdr. NA Mullerworth... Despite his age then around 70 years of age already, he was very active in Church. During my tenure he used to speak almost every 3rd Sunday while he was present in Noida.

Brig (Then Col) S Rajan and Col PD Shah both deserve recognition. Brig Rajan supervised the Enlargement of the then temporary structure which was the first Church structure on the lands currently, the Sunday School and Parsonage and Col PD Shah the Main Church Building as it exists now.

Brig RE Williams, I am not sure of the exact date when he joined CCN on his posting to Delhi. I think he joined in the early 90's and has been extremely active in Church activities since then until today.

Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, she has always been pro-active in all Church activities, her most significant contribution has been the responsibility she assumed happily; that of the time consuming and tedious task of compiling and putting together right up to printing of the first brochure of the Church Fete. During my entire tenure, this was her responsibility. Something that has become a tradition in the Church today and which I understand she continues to deliver on.

With good wishes.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Col. L. Massey

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th Nov 1988

(15)

at the residence of Anil Santiam, 486, Sector 37, NOIDA

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Rev. L. Massey.

Rev. Massey informed the gathering about the Bishop M. Cole's visit to NOIDA on 13th Nov 1988 at the Communion Service and the Bishop's suggestions for forming a Church in NOIDA. Bishop Sahab had also advised for the setup of an Ad Hoc Pastorate Committee to persuade the NOIDA authorities for allotment of land for the Church building.

Mr. Alex John read out Bishop Cole's letter requesting Rev. Massey to conduct services in NOIDA as an honorary Presbyter. The Bishop's letter was well received and the congregation recorded thanks to Bishop Sahab for his support.

About 21 names were recorded in the meeting. An Ad Hoc committee was elected.

1. Mr. C.M. Dinanath

Proposed by Mrs. Massey

Seconded by Mr. Alex John

2. Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth

Proposed by Mr. Alex John

Seconded by Mr. P. Bhalla.

3. Mrs. Sheila Bhalla

Proposed by Mrs. Dinanath

Seconded by Mr. John A. Peters

4. Mr. Anil Santiam

Proposed by Mr. John A. Peters

Seconded by Cdr. Mullerworth.

5. Mrs. Rohit David

Proposed by Mr. B.K. Minz

Seconded by Cdr. Mullerworth

6. Mrs. Shumila Santiam (Sunday School)

Proposed by Mrs. Rena Peters

Seconded by Mrs. Trevelan.

7. Mr. Massey

Proposed by Mr. Dinanath

Seconded by Mr. R. David.

Mr. Alex John has been asked to stay on the Committee in case any member has to withdraw. Mr. Alex John asked the congregation to dedicate themselves for the building of the church in body and building and total commitment of each member.

It was also decided to open an account in the bank in the name of C.N.I. Church, NOIDA. It would be an operating account. The signatories would be two.

Signatories — 1. Rev. L. Massey
2. Mr. Rahul David (as Treasurer)
3. Cdr. Mullerworth.

It was also decided that the Committee with the blessing of the Bishop would approach NOIDA authorities for procurement of land for building the church. Cdr. Mullerworth said that he would lease with Mr. Z.S. Peters same.

It was also decided to purchase 20 hymn books (Golden Bells) and each family would pay for one.

The Constitution of C.N.I. would be photo copied and the copies would be available with Rev. Massey for reference by any member.

It was also called on to purchase 20 prayer book of the C.N.I. liturgy. Also a set of Holy Communion utensils to be purchased and if not available, then an order to be placed.

The meeting closed with a word of prayer led by Cdr. Mullerworth.

N.B. A cheque for Rs. 1000/- was given by Col. J.T.S. Singh (visiting from Lucknow) for the church building.

Signed:-

(ANIL SAWHAN)

Massey

Rev. L. MASSEY

THE FIRSTS STORY

It was on 13 November 1988 that Christ Church Noida came into being and was at that time called CNI CHURCH Noida

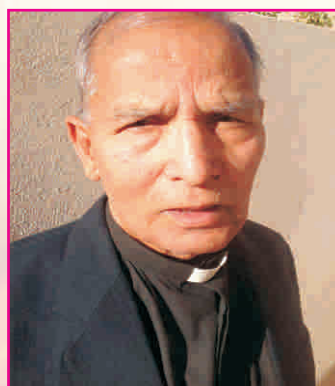
- ◆ In the year 1988 the First Holy Communion Worship Service was held in the home of Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey.
- ◆ The first Ad hoc Pastorate Committee was formed on 20 November 1988 and comprised of Mr. Chander Mohan Dinanath, Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth, Mrs. Shiela Bhalla, Mr. Anil Santram, Mr. Rohit David and Mrs. Khurshid Massey.
- ◆ The first elections were held in the home of late Mr. Anil Santram.
- ◆ First Secretary - Mr. Anil Santram,
- ◆ First Treasurer - Mr. Rohit David.
- ◆ First Sunday School Teacher - Mrs. Shunila Santram
- ◆ The first Christmas celebration was held in the home of late Mr. C.M. Dinanath and the Christmas dinner was cooked by the ladies under the guidance of late Mr. Anil Santram's mother, Ruby Santram.
- ◆ The First Diocesan EKTA UTSAV participated in was on 3rd December 1989 with Cakes and Brownies a tradition that continues to this day. The proceeds of this EKTA UTSAV was earmarked for Noida Church. Stall holders were Cowasjees, Harrisons, Alex Johns and Santrams.
- ◆ During one of the initial services held in the home of Rev. Col. Massey, the then Bishop of Delhi Diocese Bishop Caleb, sanctioned a cheque of Rs. 1 Lakh towards the acquiring of the church land. This gave the impetus to acquire the present land and get it registered under CNI property. The plot measured 1446 sq meters and physical possession was taken in February 1990. Special mention goes to Mr. Rohit David who left no stone unturned to make this possible.
- ◆ The responsibility of the construction of the First Temporary structure built on the plot of land acquired for the church was given to Col. S. Rajan and Col. Parvez David Shah supervised the construction of the present edifice.
- ◆ Special mention is made of Alex John who played a pivotal role in all events and activities of the church, be it Construction, Fete or anything else.
- ◆ Wg. Cdr. Dennis Harrison and his family spent their evenings in developing and maintaining a beautiful lawn in the church premises.
- ◆ The First Sunday school began functioning under Mrs. Shunila Santram and then Helen Harrison and her daughters. There were only 6 children to start with and two more were added when Captain John Peters and his family joined in.

- ◆ The First Women Fellowship started in 1991. Office bearers were Mrs. Georgina Kerr, Mrs. Usha Shukla, Secretary, Mrs. Rosalyn Nair, Treasurer for a short period. This were followed later by Mrs. Reeta David.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosalyn was the first office assistant appointed to help with accounts three times in a week.
- ◆ The First Easter Vigil was held in Nandan Kanan Park (Opp Sector 15) & thereafter for many years. This was followed by Easter Breakfast of boiled eggs and buns.
- ◆ The First elected members of the Pastorate Committee at the AGM in 1990 were --- Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth, Mrs. H. Harison, Mr. Alex John, Capt J. A. Peters, Col. P. Dyes, Mr. Anil Santram
- ◆ The First Lay Leader was Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth
- ◆ The First Service in the new Chapel (Temporary Construction) was held on 30 May 1991
- ◆ The First Choir was started by Col. Victor Duraiswamy as also the First Carol rounds.
- ◆ The First Hindi service was started on 12 January 1992 and Rt. Rev Bishop P.B. Santram, then Bishop of Delhi, graced the occasion.
- ◆ CNI Church Noida was rechristened CHRIST CHURCH Noida on 13 November 1994.
- ◆ The First Service in the present edifice held on 7 December 1997. Rt. Rev. Bishop Karam Masih dedicated the church to the Glory of God.

**Joint inputs of
Mrs. Reeta David, Rev. Col. L. Massey & Mrs. M. Lukose**



Mrs. Reeta David



Rev. Col. L. Massey



Mrs. M. Lukose

In the Beginning
Excerpts from MEMORIES of
Some Founder Members

HELEN HARRISON



Dear Kamna,

Its unbelievable that Christ Church Noida is celebrating its 25years!! It seems but yesterday when Col Massey met us and told us that we few Christian families of the CNI Church could start worship with Holy Communion because he was a B.D and had the bishop's permission.

We were a handful, like the early christians of Biblical times. We started worship in each other's homes. The first worship was in Col Massey's home. Then we took turns to host the service. There were the Cowasjees, Cdr. Mullerworth, the Alex Johns, Egberts, Diols, Shunila and Anil Santram and we the Harrisons.

Then one day I met Mrs Lukose and the boys on one of the roads in Noida. We had known each other since we were girls in Agra. We had both got married in the same church in Agra. They too joined our group of worshipers.

We worshiped like this for more than a year and then one fine day Col Massey told us that we had a plot to build a church !!!! The plot was triangular near a huge drain. It was full of stones and boulders, very bad indeed, but for us it was a prized possession. Dennis took it on himself and the youth to clear the land. The youth were Lukose boys, Dyes' boys, Harrison girls, Alex's little fellow and others. Many hours of Labour of love had our plot clean with trees along the boundary and a lawn!

Many more families pitched in; the Dyes, the Shahs and the Peters. Everyone contributed time, money and labour. We knew such joy; the first Carol rounds, the first Christmas tree, the first make shift shed on the plot! The plans, the Architect, the meetings, then after two temporary structures we finally had the church as it stands today!

May God bless the beautiful little church which has a part of us in its soil, its trees and its bricks!

CONGRATULATIONS CHRIST CHURCH Noida.

Love

Helen Harrison
Gurgaon



Lt. GEN. E. G. KERR

A handful of us landed up at the plot and after a little orientation of the blue print, identified the location. I am sure each one of us present were very disappointed to see that the plot was sandwiched between two roads, framing an apex and a Noida drain (a crude water overflow channel) on one side, with the remaining portion a dump ground of building material on which a group of labourers had built their make-shift hutments. -----



With limited finances and support, it was decided that a barrack-type construction was all we could afford!----- With our enthusiastic efforts, this single brick-walled asbestos-roofed barrack with minimum add-ons, was up in about a month. I think we even put up a sign-board at the apex of the two roads proudly displaying “CNI Church”

Our worldly possessions at this juncture were about 8 folding steel chairs, 2 wooden benches, a few repaired stools and a coffee sized table which we raised on an elevated platform and used as an Altar for Rev. Col. L. Massey to undertake service. The space was so restricted that Rev. Massey had to come to each of us wherever we sat or stood and administer Holy Sacraments.

Soon the barracks could not accommodate the growing number of worshippers. Using the far wall of the barrack type shed this serving Engineer Col. S. Rajan drew up a blue-print for a hall approximately 30' x 40' in size. We were still very short of funds so I think it was decided to go in for the same type of construction with asbestos roofing, a slightly raised platform for an Altar and a small vestry for the priest.

One evening on a visit to Col. Parvez David Shah's place I noticed some old tree trunks lying in his compound. A friendly Sikh saw-mill owner, beautifully trimmed the wood and gave me about six good well-shaped beams. A few weeks later after shaping the pieces and employing a carpenter, we were ready to install an Altar. (Same we have today) What a beautiful grain that wood possessed with a lovely light brown shade. We were proud of this addition and now approached the Altar to receive communion.

Lt. Gen. Eric Kerr
Dehradun



Cdr. N.A. MULLERWORTH

The words of the prophet were never more apparent than when during construction, a violent squall caused the collapse of the rear wall. The new wall is strong for that. Yes, it has been an humbling experience. The human tendency is to plan on a scale that we feel does honour to God. But God does not look at the outside, He looks at the heart. Such plans take time to execute. Our two years to start construction was running out. We would have to seek extension. To convince the local authorities, the important thing was to utilise the plot of land for the purpose for which it was acquired. So with slender resources, a temporary shed was built.



On any Saturday you would find families taking it in turn to sweep and clean the place, arrange the furniture and spread the durrie that covers one-third of the floor. Sunday morning and you will find it transformed. Spotless white Linen covered the table, the lights shone bright and the wide doors are flung open to welcome worshippers.

On the 30th June 1991, we held our first worship service in this simple shed. Our homes had their limitations and not in size alone. You may open the doors to invite worshippers in, but however much you try, human factors enter in. We pray that such factors do not prevail in the future.

There is vision for the future. The plans for the new building is likely to be finished and submitted, after approval by the Diocesan building committee, to the local authorities. With costs rising all the time, we shall certainly need to “go up to the mountains and bring down timber and build the house.....” with Gods help.

(Excerpt from a piece written in August 1991)

By

Cdr. N.A. Mullerworth
Sector-21, Noida

IN ONE PITCH

In the army we generally get posted out to new places every 2-3yrs .Every time we went to a new place, our first endeavour was to find a church preferably with English as the medium of service. Most of my posting had been in the hills, from Srinagar in J&K to Tenga valley in Arunachal Pradesh. In some places of posting, there were no churches. In others we had to travel 15-60 miles to attend a service. So when I was posted as Advisor in Military Music at Army Headquarters New Delhi, I came with great expectation of being part of a “settled” civilization. This was August 1991.

I was allotted a government accommodation in Noida sector 37. As habit would have it, the first place we looked for was the local church. Following the direction given by some local inhabitants we reached an open vacant plot with a small rectangular structure to a side. This small structure with a capacity to accommodate 20-30 people had a small cross painted on one side. It came nowhere near to my imagination of a big church with Gothic structure normally seen in all big cities. But we eagerly waited for Sunday to come so we could attend service at this church.

Sunday came and we reached the church premises at 7.30am not knowing what time the service started. Slowly few people trickled in and we exchanged preliminaries. When the service started at 8am, the total strength of the congregation was around 30 and remained the same till the end. The service was in English, and followed the CNI pattern. So we felt comfortable from the first moment.

It was a regular service. But the aspect that drew my attention in this homely, motely congregation was their enthusiasm for singing. Everyone sang with gusto. There was no music at that time. So anyone or everyone would start singing the hymn in a pitch of their choosing. It was a “First Come First Serve” situation to start singing. Those who were late strained their vocal chords to sing in that pitch, high or low. Some who did not fancy high pitch chose to sing in a lower pitch of their choosing. In short every hymn was being sung at different pitch by different people at the same time. For an outsider like me it sounded like a cacophony. But I'm sure it must have been pleasing in the sight of God since their heart was in the right place.

General Kher, who was a member of the church, asked me to play an instrument to bring some order to the cacophony. I hesitated, since a guitar would have sounded too soft and I had never played a keyboard before. But knowing that something was better than nothing, I started playing the keyboard. Initially I played one finger at a time. Slowly my proficiency improved and many new hymns were introduced into the repertoire of the congregation. The congregation now sang with gusto in one pitch and their joy knew no bounds. The congregation grew, the church was extended and finally the present church building came about to accommodate the increased congregation. But the gusto and joy of singing; never did it fade.

We had no choir in the “Choir” sense. A few enthusiastic families joined together to sing special songs on occasions. During Christmas we had bigger gathering for special songs. But it was the carol service and

carolling that brought in a joyful vociferous group, both young and old.

Time has passed. It is nearly 14yrs since we left Noida. But I am sure that the spirit of 'That little gathering', at 'That Little rectangular structure', will continue to grow in the years to come.

Cynthia, Terence, Bonita, Rahul and Myra join me in wishing The Pastor and all members of Christ Church Noida all the best on this memorable Silver Jubilee celebration.

Col. Victor Duraisami (Retd.)

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OUR FAMILY PICTURE



Terence, Cynthia, Bonita and Victor

RECALLING MY EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT



Conducted, during 23-27 October, 2008, the family camp at Torch Bearers, Dehradun, was one of the vibrant events of Christ Church Noida which I have attended. After the prayers, we boarded the bus with our bags and baggage. Our journey began sharp at 6'o clock on 23rd October 2008 as we couldn't wait any further to travel towards the heart-tugging campsite. The one and only one who missed the bus had later narrated his adventurous trip to reach the Torch Bearers. We sang all the way to Dehradun praising God for His faithfulness and for leading us hitherto in a marvelous way.

Surrounded by the beautiful Himalayan ranges with its varied and rich flora and fauna, the camp site was indeed a place of simplicity, relaxation, fun and freedom and an epitome of natural beauty. Hot sumptuous lunch awaited us on our arrival.

Designed specifically and implemented meticulously, the Family Camp played a significant role in nurturing each of us physically and spiritually. The structure and setting of the camp also provided opportunities to be alone with God and anchor one's life in Him. The Speakers, while sharing God's love through Bible exploration and devotions, they were also serving as role models thereby inculcating Christian principles helping to develop strong leaders for the Church.

The methodology of the camp comprised of plenary sessions, group discussions, case study method, audio visual documentaries, and individual meditation. Praise and worship was an undeniable part of the camp scenario. Those were the exciting days away from the distractions of the world and to advance in the knowledge of the Lord with inspirational preaching on various themes. Children were engrossed in different activities. The intermittent praise and worship sessions were inspirational with a wide repertoire of traditional and contemporary chorus and hymns. The eves of camp days always ended with Compline asking for forgiveness and seeking God's protection and blessing.

The age group of the members of the congregation who participated in the camp ranged from 3 years to over 80 years, from young believers, willing to know more about Christ, to older Christians, able to share their stories of God's continued grace and steadfast love. The camp was a time of active learning. The messages enlightened us as to what it means to walk as Christ did and how to live with the mind of Christ in our place of work and the sermons on the beatitude also enabled us to understand better that we are blessed and the importance of applying them in our lives as Christians. Reflecting and

contemplating on the messages of Christian faith not only kept our interest high in each of the session but also developed a deep interest to have a lasting ability to apply Christian faith to real-life situations.

Our trip to Musoorie on the 4th Day enjoying the breathtakingly beautiful and picturesque scenery of the lush undulating ranges, spring-fed trout streams and pine trees and panoramic vista unfolding stunning viewpoints. We could also get a clear view of the cliff where there was a recent landslide. Inspiring the creativity and imagination that our Creator has given each of us, Campfire provided ample opportunity for individual testimonies, narration of story and singing by children, multi-lingual group songs and skits.

Some of us who went for the morning walk everyday were greeted by the local doggies with the gesture of wagging their tails, delighting them with their endless interest in escorting them throughout the morning walk reminding of the human-animal bond which goes back into the mist of time. They were waiting every morning as the team got out for walk. These intelligent loving animals surely have missed us when we left the camp site on 27th October 2008.

Singing of some of the elders on our journey back to Noida was a magnificent obsession which has inspired all of us and reminded us of our childhood days. Ogling and scanning the country side on the way resulted in locating the jaggery (*Gud*) makers. Children stunned by the sight of boiling sugarcane juice in large gleaming brass vessels placed at the ground level. It felt like a miracle to have been able to see the entire process of *gud*-making. Suddenly *gud*-makers market became thriving with beaming visitors wanting to handpick hot fresh *gud* to carry back home.

The days of camp have become emblematic for looking forward to the next camp praising God for all the gifts of nature that He has to offer, all the happy time spent in Christian fellowship.

Dr. Helen Sekar





Churches in the area, which gladly opened their hearts and doors to us. In 2011, we participated in a wedding that was solemnized at the open-air chapel at Saat-tal! We did not know the bride or the groom at all, but we were graciously invited to share in the festivities, mingle with the guests and bless the newly-weds.

In 2012, Bishop PB Santram and Pastor Kamal Mall celebrated the Lord's Supper at the historic Church of St John in the Wilderness at McLeodganj. This Church is nestled among ancient, stately Deodars, and is a popular tourist destination. However, the families which worship here are unable to meet very often because of the distances across which they are spread. One of the members told us that during that year, sometimes they did not even have a regular pastor. Against this backdrop, their Church was happy to welcome us. They received the preached message with great gladness, and were very touched to receive a set of Holy Communion vessels as a token of our love and solidarity with them. One of the members said with great simplicity, "Sometimes we feel isolated as a small congregation and loneliness creeps in along with the cold weather, but because of this time spent in worship with you all, we are reminded that we are one Church in Christ."

During our worship, many tourists peeked in, curious to see what was going on. When the Lord's Supper started, one couple sat at the pew by the door, held by an awareness of something special and wanting to join the line leading to the altar, but not quite sure of their welcome. As is our custom, I told them that if they wanted to, they could come and the Pastor would pray for them. They went with great reverence, and when Bishop sa'ab put his hand on their head to pray, the lady started crying obviously touched by the love human and Divine, that she experienced.

When we left Palampur this year, we gifted to each of the staff, including the owner, a copy of the New Testament in Hindi. Surely the Word of the Lord will work mightily in each of their lives!

At every retreat, a profound, personal lesson that has been reinforced is that a Christian can be a true Christian only as a part of the community. As we travel to different places and interact with people of our own faith, as well as others in the society, God gives us the opportunity to salt the area with His grace and to tell of His wondrous love, not by words alone, but our entire demeanour.

In conclusion, I want to thank this Christ Church Noida for mandating and making it possible for this Annual Retreat to be held year after year. I want to bless the resource persons who laboured in the fields of harvest, to thank the people who didn't go, but who, by their generous donations, made it possible for others to go, and lastly to thank all who participated and enriched each one of us greatly.

God bless our Church and may He continue to pour out His Grace upon Grace over us!

Stella Miller



FAMILY RETREAT 2013
GOPALPUR
HIMACHAL PRADESH



SUNDAY SCHOOL TESTIMONIES

Annette George:

"I became a part of this Sunday school 2 years ago. Since then it has been an enriching and nourishing experience for me here. It is really wonderful to come to the Sunday school every Sunday as we learn a number of songs and new things about God and our world.



Every Sunday we children begin the session by each one of us saying a prayer and then we sing songs. The best part of the Sunday school that I like is the praise and worship session where we learn many new songs and also sing some old ones. I want to thank God that he brought me to this wonderful Sunday school. I also want to thank all my elders who have made this Sunday school so wonderful.

There are a number of things that makes this Sunday school so wonderful and special for me and that is to live and grow together as children in Christ".

Kunal Levi:

"The Lord my God has done great things in my life". "I have started believing in the power of prayer, thanks to my Sunday School. I will now share my testimony with you".



" I have not been very happy in the past due to disturbing thoughts. My academics were suffering. I missed prayers in our family until one day God answered my prayers and we all as family started praying together. I missed going to Church and prayed God would change our hearts AND IT WAS SO.

God's ways are mysterious. He answers prayers but not always in the way we want them to be answered. I am regular going to Church and Sunday school now. I am at peace. My grandparents dote on me and my family cares for me. God has taken away my burdens upon himself and has given me the greatest gift of family. God has been kind and my Studies are beginning to take a new shape. I am doing well at school. My Sunday School has gifted me with a good friend, Samson.

I thank the Lord for all the great things He has done in my life and thank you Sunday School for showing me the power in prayer and holding on.....

Suzanna Rabindran:



There's a very nice place
Bright and full of the Sun's bright rays,
Where we learn about the BIBLE
And Jesus and HIS disciples.
There are three groups, 5-7
Then the next group is called 8-10,
Then 11 and above.
You must have guessed the place I am talking about,
Its called 'Sunday School', and I'm sitting there now!
S-its really Splendid
U- it's Unique in Noida
N-it's the Nicest place to be in
D-Sunday is the best Day
A-it tells us about our Awesome God.
Y-You should come to Sunday School too!



THE HEALING PRAYERS



Zubin, our second son diagnosed as Down's syndrome has multiple medical complications. Being a borderline case of mental disability, Zubin as a young boy attended special schools wherever possible, as we moved on transfer from one location to another. He coped up well and did manage to read and write, do simple maths sums, draw and paint, and of course play the drums.

Christ Church, Noida, offered to confirm him into their fold with blessings from Rt. Rev. Bishop Pritam Santram and Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey. As an anxious mother, I posed my worry to the Bishop, about Zubin's knowledge of the Bible and of the Christian faith. Bishop's answer turned my worry into a challenge, as he said, "Maybe Zubin knows and understands much more than what you and I can fathom. He will be confirmed on your faith". As parents, we were reassured and the Bishop's reply will remain a beacon of hope and strength always.

Zubin's teenage years started showing a downward trend in his overall health. All the changes going on in his body were turning out to be serious maladies. But, Our Lord Jesus was with us at every step as we drew strength from the Bible.

Our older son Kanishka, who in the meantime was studying medicine at CMC Ludhiana, was a great support for us. We had to fall back on him from time to time for medical advice and also for emotional strength.

Due to failing health, Zubin off and on had to be rushed to hospitals. There was a time when he had much pain in both his legs and could not walk. The process of all kinds of tests started and we had to get a wheel chair for Zubin. It was heart breaking to see him in that condition as he learnt to be mobile in the chair and could manoeuvre it well. The tests also could not throw up any diagnosis and that left us depressed and sad. Our last hope was with Orthopaedic Surgeon.

But prayers continued to give us strength and our faith remained firm. A small group of the Women's Fellowship of Christ Church NOIDA, continued their weekly ritual of prayer and fasting. They asked us if they could visit Zubin at home and pray. For us they were more than welcome and we were happy to invite them at a time convenient to them. It was on a Friday evening that this group came and prayed for Zubin and the prayers gave us hope and courage to face the Specialist the next day as we took him to the Orthopaedic Surgeon. The doctor saw all his test reports, examined him thoroughly and concluded that all his tests were more or less normal and recommended that we start giving him Calcium tablets. This was the answer to the "Prayers of the Faithful", as the medical advice was a turning point and within a week Zubin was back on his feet. By the grace of God, Zubin walked again and regained his confidence. Although he cannot walk fast or cover much distance because of his other medical problems, yet he is no more on the wheel chair and does not have pain in his limbs since.

The challenges continued and after a few years, Zubin had to undergo a process called phlebotomy. For this procedure every six months, Zubin had to be admitted to 'Escorts Heart Institute and Referral Centre', Okhla. One day I requested Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and his brother, who was visiting Paul to come home and pray for Zubin as they were conducting healing prayer meetings. They prayed over Zubin and I must confess that the Lord worked wonders on him as from that day to date, Zubin has never gone back to the hospital for Phlebotomy procedure.

There have been numerous occasions when prayers for Zubin have been answered and through this brief write up, we as a family would like to thank all our church family members, for praying continuously for Zubin. Prayers have given us the courage, strength and perseverance to deal with all challenges diligently with complete faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would at this time like to remember all the dear ladies of the Women's Fellowship, who have passed on into glory. They were fine examples of faith, service and hope.

Mrs. Lata Santram (w/o Bishop Santram)

Mrs. Khurshid Massey (w/o Col. Lawrence Massey)

Mrs. Mildred Clark

Mrs. Georgina Kerr

Mrs. Usha Shukla

Mrs. Rosalyn Nair

Mrs. Massey (mother of Mr Ajit Massey)

Mrs. Shiela Solomon

Mrs. Radhika Judd

I would also like to make a special mention of our other ladies who were members of our Church and have since left our congregation.

Mrs. Ruby Santram (m/o Late Mr Anil Santram)

Mrs. Shunila Santram

Mrs. Jaya Santram

Mrs. Asha Peters

Mrs. Helen Harrison

Mrs. Cynthia Doraiswamy

Mrs. Premila Lal

Mrs. Nirmala Murch

Mrs. Kiran John

I may have inadvertently missed out some names, nevertheless their exemplary lives and work, only reminds us members of the Women's Fellowship to remain dedicated in all our efforts.

We thank God for Zubin and for His abundance of love and forgiveness, as also for giving us the strength to help Zubin grow in His love.

Mrs. Vineeta Williams

Testimony of Indrajit Frank Agarwal



During my 71 years, I must confess that though I believed in Christ, I never pondered seriously about the miracles our Savoir Jesus Christ performed during his life time or had performed even in my own. The most striking of all the Miracles that Jesus performed on me was this February, which I gladly share through this testimony.

I had been suffering with Osteoarthritis in my Left Hip for the past seven years. Osteoporosis had set in after a couple of falls I had. Although I was advised THR (Total Hip Replacement) by every Orthopaedic Surgeon, the fear of going under the knife for a major surgery at my age prevented me from taking a decision. But finally the burning sensation and severe pain in my hip, became unbearable and I decided, I had no choice, but to go in for a surgery.

It was at this stage to my own surprise, I could feel a spiritual power backing me to get myself operated. Psalm 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff shall comfort me.” gave me great courage and I prayed to Jesus to perform his miracle on me through the doctors who would operate on me.

Once I had put myself in his hands things started getting easier. Psalm 18:2. “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower”

At my age there was no question of a second chance. I prayed to Jesus to show me the way and direct me to the Surgeon who would perform this miracle of a successful THR. My wife, daughter and son-in law were not in favour, as they had heard of bad experiences of people undergoing hip and knee transplants. Only my son and daughter in law backed me and gave me the confidence to go ahead.

My friend took me to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to be examined by Dy Head of Orthopaedic Dr S.K. Rastogi. He was very positive and said THR was one of the most successful operations and asked me to prepare for the operation. After meeting him I knew that Jesus had directed me to Dr Rastogi.

On 18th Feb 2013, I was admitted in a private ward. My son came down from Pune to stand by my side; by now I had the full support of my wife, daughter and son-in-law..

On 26th of February, I was taken to the Operation Theatre (OT) at 8 am. Before being taken from my Room, my family prayed to Jesus to be with me and help me. Till then I had mixed feelings of fear and anxiety.

As I entered the Operation Theatre, I committed myself fully to Jesus and I felt a calm coming into me, I could feel the omnipotent presence of Christ. The operations theatre had four doctors, all wearing green aprons and headgear. On the table were laid out instruments to be used, i.e. Electrical saw, drill, half a dozen drill bits and other paraphernalia. All of this would have been enough to frighten anybody, but I could feel the presence of Jesus's reassurance; all what I saw did not bother me. I was under anaesthesia for 2.5 hours. While I was aware of what was happening to me, I was not worried as I knew Jesus was performing his miracle through the surgeon operating on me. It was then that I truly understood that Jesus lives and Jesus Heals. Praise be to the Lord.

The rest is history. Jesus guided me through a quick recovery process. Today, by His Grace, I am able to walk freely and thank Jesus wholeheartedly for giving me the courage to go in for the surgery.



Sunday School Children Celebrating - Mothers Day 2013

क्राइस्ट चर्च, नोएडा



गिरजाघर सिर्फ एक भवन नहीं है अपितु परमेश्वर ने इसे अपने लोगों के लिए चुना है। पवित्र बाइबल (1 कुरिंथियों 3:11) हमें बताती है, “जो नीव डाल दी गई है, उसके अतिरिक्त अर्थात् यीशु मसीह के अतिरिक्त अन्य कोई नीव नहीं डाल सकता। (भजन संहिता 127:1) यदि कोई घर को प्रभु न बनाए तो उसे बनाने वाले व्यक्ति व्यर्थ परिश्रम करते हैं।

इन सब से स्पष्ट है की प्रभु परमेश्वर न सिर्फ गिरजाघरों को बढ़ाने में मदद करता है बल्कि वह अगुवाई, एकता व धन भी प्रदान करता है।

बाइबल हमें यह भी बतलाती है की हमें चर्च क्यों जाना चाहिए। इबरांनी 10:25 में लिखा है, “हम अपनी धर्मसभाओं में एकत्र होना न छोड़ें जैसा की कुछ लोग करते हैं – क्योंकि वह दिन निकट आ गया है, इसलिए हम यह कार्य और अधिक करें।

जब मैं अपने व्यक्तिगत जीवन के बारे में सोचता हूँ तो पाता हूँ की पारिवारिक जीवन में गिरजाघर की भूमिका अहम है। चूंकि मेरा कार्यक्षेत्र औरंभ (1985) से महाविशाल विधुत परियोजनाओं में रहा है लिहाजा मेरी पोस्टिंग शहर से सैंकड़ों मील दूर अत्यंत वीरान स्थानों पर होती रही। इस वजह से कई वर्षों तक (लगभग 17 सालों तक हम रविवारीय आराधनाओं से दूर रहे।

लेकिन परमेश्वर के मार्ग अदभूत हैं और उसने हर एक के लिए कुछ न कुछ सोच रखा है। वर्ष 2003 में कुछ ऐसा ही हमारे साथ हुआ। हमें अप्रैल माह में नोएडा (सैंक्टर 17) में अपनी कंपनी के टाउनशिप में रहने का मौका मिला। हमने पता करना प्रारम्भ किया की सबसे नजदीकी चर्च कौन सा है? मुझे अब भी याद है की वह शुभ दिन शुक्रवार का था जब हम सपरिवार ने क्राइस्ट चर्च नोएडा में पहली बार आराधना की।

फिर हमें लगा कि नोएडा में ही रहना है तो क्यों न अपने आशियाने में रहें? उसी साल (2003 दिसम्बर) में हमने अपने लिए एक मकान बुक करवाया। लेकिन यह भी भ्रम हो रहा था कि मकान के लिए आखिर पैसे कहाँ से आएंगे? लेकिन मुझे परमेश्वर पर पूरा विश्वास था (जैसा कि यहना 14: 13-14 में लिखा है, “जो कुछ मेरे नाम से मांगोगे मैं उसे पूरा करूंगा जिससे मुझे पिता की मेहिमा प्रकट हो। यदि तुम मेरे नाम से कुछ भी मांगोगे तो मैं उसे पूरा करूंगा”)। सिरम्यह 29:11-12, “मैं प्रभु यह कहता हूँ कि मैंने तुम्हारी भलाई के लिए योजनाएँ बनाई हैं, बुराई के लिए नहीं ; और इन योजनाओं को अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ। मैंने तुम्हारे लिए सुखद भविष्य की योजना बनाई है। मैं तुम्हें एक आशामय भविष्य दूंगा। तब तुम मेरे नाम से आराधना करोगे और मैं तुम्हारी प्रार्थना सुनूंगा”।

इस विश्वास से मकान बुक कराने से पहले हम क्राइस्ट चर्च आए और रेवेंट कर्नल लॉरेंस मसीह ने हमारे लिए प्रार्थना की कि मकान में आनेवाली सारी बाधाएँ दूर हों। और परमेश्वर ने हमारी प्रार्थना सुन ली। फ़रवरी 2006 में बिना किसी मूल्य बढ़ोतरी के, बिना किसी संकट अथवा परेशानी के हमें मकान का कब्जा मिल गया।

उधर 2004 में हमने क्राइस्ट चर्च की सदस्यता ले ली। उसी वर्ष पादरी रेवेंट पॉल स्वरूप पधारे। उन्होंने नए जोश से कलीसिया की अगुवाई प्रारम्भ की। धीरे धीरे चर्च की आराधना में भीड़ बढ़ने लगी। अब तो स्थिती यह है कि विलंभ से आने पर अंदर जगह ही नहीं मिलती।

वर्ष 2011 में वर्तमान पादरी रेवेंट कमल मल आए। क्राइस्ट चर्च में बहुत सारे नए कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ हुए और इस वर्ष क्राइस्ट चर्च की हम रजत जयंती माना रहे हैं।

अंत में क्राइस्ट चर्च नोएडा के लिए मैं यही कहता हूँ कि

“करुणा मलाई मेरे, जीवन भर साथ रहेगी, प्रभु के भवन में सदा, स्तुति की ध्वनि रहेगी”।

आर. एम. डी. भुइया

ई - 301, शुभकामना अपार्टमेंट,

प्लॉट नंबर. एफ 31,

सैंक्टर - 50, नोएडा - 201301

Miracle of the towering inferno



On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Christ Church Noida, I want to share the secret of eternal happiness!

It may sound *clichéd* to you, as you might have heard this a million times, but the secret to true happiness is “Making God the Master of Your Destiny, Life and Soul.” Trust in Him explicitly and cast all your worries on Him, and see how He makes your life a beautiful experience for all times to come.

I am saying this through experience. Let me share a miracle that happened in the life of my family in April 2012.

We were living in Dubai at that time. We had just returned home after a great evening out when we smelt something burning.

We tried to trace the source of the smell but found nothing amiss, so we retired for the night. It was 1.50 am.

However, as the acrid smell grew stronger, my husband Akash decided to check again. As he peeped out of the balcony door, he realized to his horror that our building was on fire!

The flames had already reached the 4th floor and we knew that it was just a matter of time before they reached our apartment. The heat was already intense and we knew it was time to get out of the house.

We told our 14-year-old son Ashmit, to run down the fire escape and while Akash went after our cat Tigger, I went to the safe to retrieve our passports, valuables and documents. As I punched in the code with trembling hands it took all my courage to accomplish this simple task as the screaming fire alarm and the red flames that I could see from the window filled me with pure terror.

Living on the ninth floor, which in reality was the 15th floor as we had six floors of parking below us, I had always feared earthquakes and fires. Now that fear had turned into a living nightmare.

We had to leave Tigger behind as she had gone into hiding and we were endangering our lives by staying in the burning building.

Going down the fire escape at a considerable speed I was scared that one of us would fall. As we reached the 5th floor the lights in the stairwell went out and we had to descend the remaining stairs by the light of a cellphone.

By God's grace, we all made it down in one piece and ran to the side of the building to assess the situation.

We were appalled to see the entire side of the building on fire and the blaze was spreading rapidly.

As we watched the fire my son started crying. I hugged him and told him that it was fine because we were all safe and that was all that mattered right now.

My husband, who has always been a pillar of strength, was now in a daze. As the heat grew more intense and the glass and air conditioners started to blow up, it took all our strength to pull him away from the building as he was just standing there immobile, helplessly watching what we called our home, burn.

As we watched the fire inch closer to our apartment we held each others' hands and began praying to God that he would spare our home. My husband called our Pastor in Sharjah and asked him to pray. It was 3 am but the Pastor woke up the church prayer cell and asked them to pray for the safety of our house.

I called my sister who also lives in Dubai and our own prayer group and asked them to pray to God to spare our home from the fire.

Then for the next four hours as we watched the fire blaze in our next door neighbours' house, the house above us and two floors below us, we realized that our house was surrounded by fire from three sides and only a miracle of God could save it. We sang Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" and prayed silently for the next four hours to God to spare our home.

In all this my son Ashmit kept on telling me "ma, nothing will happen to our house as we have prayed to God."

And I prayed to God to uphold my child's faith in Him.

Then at around 9 am as my sister bundled us into her car to take us to her house we took a last look at the still blazing building and realized that overnight we had become refugees in a foreign land.

After four long days we were allowed by the police to enter the building.

We went back to the apartment and were amazed to see that even though huge burning tiles from the building fell into our living room balcony and a part of the living room curtain also caught fire the fire did not spread beyond that. It was almost as if the Hand of God stopped the fire from spreading to the whole house. Even the stuff kept in our son's bedroom balcony did not catch fire even though the melting plastic coating of the building cladding fell on it all. I am convinced that it was the result of those combined prayers that saved our home. There is no other explanation for how our house got spared. I do believe that we have had the privilege of witnessing a modern day miracle of God. We even found our cat unharmed.

What I am trying to say fellow Christians is, that If you allow Christ to rule your life, it will not become trouble free, but when we are in trouble, God will be there with us holding our hand and making it easier to go through that troubled time.

Praise the Lord.

Reena Amos Dyes

***“I have planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the increase”.***
(1 Cor.3:6)



This is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. One sows, another waters, but it is God who gives the growth. All praise and glory to Him The God who guides and directs our paths.

We were members of Green Park Free Church (GPFC). One day in the service it was announced that some of its members have shifted to Noida. The Church prayed for them. After some months it was announced in GPFC that a land for the church in Noida had been bought.

My husband Mr. K.B. Lal was working in DTC and he was transferred as Deputy General Manager to East Delhi and was allotted an official accommodation in Sector-27. So we shifted to Noida from Hauz Khas in May 1990. At that time it was like a village, with not much of a development. It was nothing in comparison to Hauz Khas-a posh colony in South Delhi.

Although here we got a very spacious house but other amenities such as a good market, places of entertainment, or an established church were not available. We discovered that there was one Methodist Hindi speaking congregation, another was the Assembly of God, where a couple of people that could be counted on fingers attended service. And the CNI church where a few members met and were having prayer meetings in the houses.

While we as a family missed the Green Park Free Church, God spoke to me that it was His will that we come to Noida. It was at this time that the founding pastor Rev. Col. Laurence Massey and Commander Mullerworth came to our residence and talked to us about joining the

church as associate members, since we still kept going to Green Park Free Church. Thus God inspired us and we made up our minds to join this congregation.

At this time some members were engaged in making the building plans of the church, while some were collecting funds for the same. The progress was slow but steady on both the fronts. A suggestion was given to worship on the site itself, even in a tent. So, with whatever meager amount we collected we put up a small room and started Sunday worship in it.

It took a lot of time in drafting the building plan and getting it passed through the Noida Authority. The other problem that we faced was a scarcity of funds. The building could not be constructed in the stipulated time period and we were required to pay the penalty. People were trying to contribute every month.

During this time the fund raising Committee had been formed and many people went out to raise funds and to ask for donations. My husband Kunj went to Jodhpur and Jaipur where he had spent most of his life before coming to Delhi. He collected a little less than Rs. 50,000/- from his family and friends. Finally the present structure was constructed.

While Rev. Col. Laurence Massey and Commander Mullerworth looked after the English Speaking people, my husband Kunj looked after the Hindi speaking people. He started conducting Hindi services in the evening and also taking cottage meetings for the Hindi speaking congregation. He continued as lay

leader and a member of the pastorate committee till his health allowed him to. I continued with our ladies prayer group till I went abroad. Even abroad I kept on praying for the church.

My humble request to all my fellow people is to keep on praying for the church, especially for God's anointing upon our presbyter-in-charge and for the youth, the future of the church. God wants quality, sincerity and truthfulness and undivided individual commitment to Him. We should not feel happy by the number of people attending the service but our lives should show to the world outside that Christ is in our daily life, all seven days a week. A good friendship needs meeting with each other and supporting

each other in everything we do. In like manner a good fellowship with God requires us to daily seek His grace and we should walk a closer walk with Him. He is waiting to be our friend. Are we ready to be His friend? Our lives are the only gospel which some people may ever read. Let us all grow in faith and love for Jesus. Our spiritual growth depends upon how much time we spend alone with Him.

Thanks and praise to our Father and God Almighty who hears our prayers and answers it in His time.

Mrs. Premila Lal





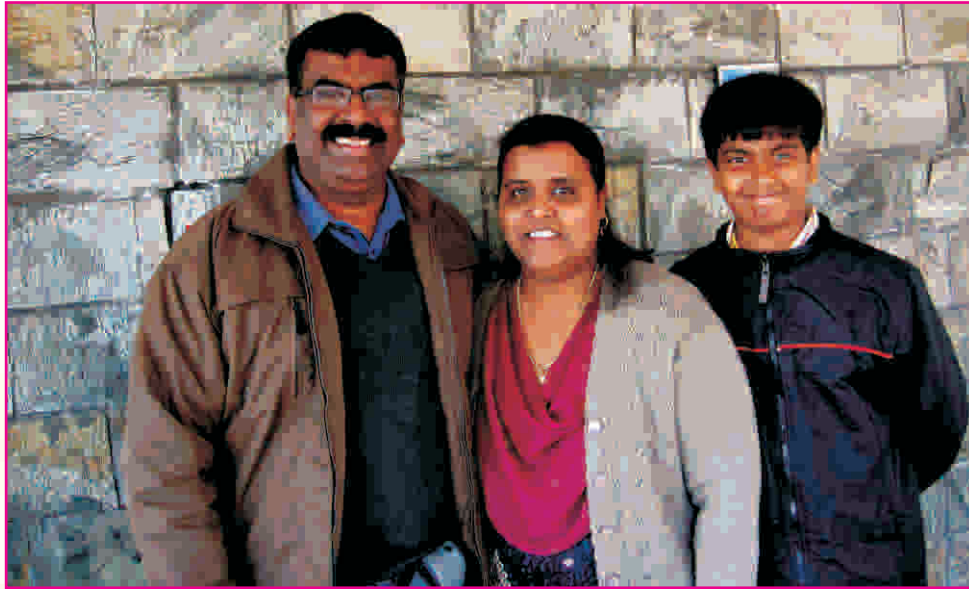
Lost AND Found

A mystery filled childhood was followed by a tumultuous teenage; an anxiety filled adulthood culminated into a disillusioned married life. What a roller-coaster ride before she stepped into her middle-age. But a worthy ride it was, with enough experiences to draw her closer to God. So close that her naïve prayers changed into fervent extensive conversations with God.

He listened to her like never before, making her feel His presence around her all the time. He responded to her by ushering into her life a new dawn of wisdom. This was followed by mystical experiences and myriads of miracles along with moments of self-healing. All this stilled her turbulence resulting from a perpetual war between the head and the heart. Pangs of guilt began to thaw with a compassionate understanding of its very source.

God saw it all. He had forgiven her and pronounced her "not guilty". Amazing Grace that found a sheep lost in Life's wilderness!!

Vinita Caswell



FRANKLIN'S TESTIMONY

Our family, KFC, Kevin, Franklin, Christy, moved to Noida in the year 2002 and we started worshipping in CNI Christ Church Noida from 2003 onwards. During our initial days in the Church, we used to see very limited families and we were ALIENS in the church those days.

We decided to attend Church worship service without fail every Sunday. We had to face severe hardship in Noida as my family, totally cut off from our family at Tamilnadu, had various problems with no knowledge of Hindi, no transport facility, no friends, and so many more.

But we had belief & faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and we started attending Wednesday Family Prayers in our Church under the guidance of our beloved Pastor, Rev. D. S. Paul Swarup and we could see the change in our life.

The Lord lifted us high and poured immense Blessings on us. As the Bible verse carved on our Church wall says "Surely God is in this Place" - Gen 28:16, we are filled with God's presence every moment when we step into Christ Church Noida and we can feel His Holy Spirit in the church. God has blessed us with new career opportunities and lifted us to higher positions in life. We made lifted ourselves committed to Church activities on our own as taught by our parents and involved ourselves in various activities. After every activity that is completed by us in our Church, God multiplies his blessings on us. We saw PLENTY in every aspect of life and we are so happy to be part of this Church fellowship filled with lot of Friends, Well Wishers, Uncles & Aunties, Brothers and sisters.

ALL PRAISE and GLORY TO OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Amen.

By

Er. Victor Franklin.

**Testimony
of
Lilly Abraham**



**When I walked through the Valley of the shadow of Death
My Lord carried me in his arms.**

I was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer one year after my retirement on July 8th 2010. It was my daughter in law- Dr. Vinita Mani Daniel, who found it out at a stage where it could be treated. I remember on the day I was diagnosed with Cancer, only she was able to pray to the Lord and ask Him to make it possible for me to touch His cloak so that I could be healed.

When the news of my having Cancer was broken to my family, they were devastated. My children wept alongwith my husband .I was the one who did not cry. God gave me the strength that I did not know I possessed to pacify my family. My grandson Rohan, who was in Class 1 at that time told his catechism teacher in school that the teacher should pray for his Ammachi (grandmother). All the little ones closed their eyes and prayed for me alongwith their teacher.

We started worship at Christ Church Noida in the year 2000. The fellowship that we found was warm and loving. As the years passed and Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup and his wonderful family came in, we became more and more involved in the church.

I got an opportunity to serve the Lord as President of the Women's Fellowship in the year 2008 till the time that I was diagnosed with cancer. I remember with great fondness the comforting words of advice and prayer support that I received from Rev. Paul and his wife Nina. The pink Bible that he has gifted me remains one of my treasured possessions.

The entire church has kept me in their prayers my friends and even people I did not know. As a teacher in St. Xavier's School Delhi, I have taught children Mathematics for 38 years but the fight against this disease has been beyond all calculations. It has been a journey of faith. Over the last three and a half years I have undergone 20 chemotherapies and 2 major surgeries, but the power of prayer has made it sure that not only can I pray but I can drive to church for Sunday worship and do all that I had been doing all along.

If the Lord has given me an adversity, then he has also made sure that I have had the resources to overcome it. The loving doctors of our church Dr. Deepti Cecil, Dr. Lucky Chandekar have always been just a phone call away. The prayer groups and pastors right from Rev. Col. Massey to Rev. Kamal Mall have been guiding lights. My friends from the WFCS, especially Shirley Ramsey who always called me after my chemotherapies, Mrs. Manorama Lukose, Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, Late Mrs. Radhika Judd and Mrs. Ruth Nath among others reminded me that I was not alone. Every single church member has always asked about me whenever I have been away for my treatment.

The journey has not been easy. The physical pain of recovering from surgery, of ordinary blood tests that for normal people take only a minute took 20 minutes and multiple pokes as veins could not be found. Loss of hair and hope, moments of asking why me.

But through it all I found the strength to go on, my faith remains my anchor. Our church is a wonderful place of fellowship and I thank God that I was able to be part of its wonderful journey and hope that in its onward march it touches many more lives like mine.

Mrs. Lilly Abraham.

WHAT *Cancer* CANNOT TAKE AWAY FROM YOU

It cannot take away
Your *faith*, shatter your *hope*
Or lessen your *love*.
It cannot destroy true *friendship*,
Invade the soul or take away *eternal life*
It cannot conquer your *spirit*.

WALK IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY

By Christy Franklin



Who is worthy to live with GOD - PSALM 15

1. Examine our **Walk** - V2 *He whose **Walk** is blameless*
2. Examine our **Work** - V2 *And who **does** what is **righteous**,*
3. Examine our **Words** - V2 ***who speaks** the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue'. Psalm 15:2*
4. Examine our **Wealth** - V4 - V5 *'Who **despises** a vile man
But honours those who fear the Lord
Who keeps his oath even when it hurts
Who **lends his money without usury**
And does not accept a bribe against the Innocent.'
Psalm 15:4, 5*

Simple way to memorize Scripture

1. Read it
2. Write it
3. Hear it
4. Recite it

St. Paul was the most successful Christian and a successful Missionary that ever lived:

Four Secrets for his success:

1. In whatever state I am, I am content **Phil. 4:11**
'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances' Philippians 4:11
2. I am crucified with Christ **Gal 2: 20**
'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body. I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' Galatians 2:20
3. I am the least of the Apostle, **Eph 3:8**
'Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.' Ephesians 2:8
4. I am pressing on. **Phil 3:14**
'Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus' Philippians 3:14

Contentment - Cross Humility Forward be like Paul.

MY LORD, MY SAVIOUR

**My Lord, my saviour
You make me believe
That I'm not a failure.
You love everyone same
The priest or the sinner
Whoever walks with you,
is destined to be a winner
I trust and obey
I believe in what you say
For you are the light
You are the way
With you, I do what is right
Be it night, or be it day
Your name makes evil tremble
Your word makes the vain humble
In you, the blind shall see
All troubles will flee
The deaf will hear
And live with no fear
My Lord, my saviour
Make your presence known
Tell the world, that you are now here.**

-Ashmit Dyes



FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH AND SCRIPTURES



J Solomon

All of us here in India live in a society where a majority of our friends, neighbors and associates are non-Christians. Some of them could be non-religious but quite a large section are devout Hindus who are proud of their Faith and are not shy of validating their Faith before us, Christians. Sometimes they could be derisive of our Faith and of Christians. In fact my friend and car pool mate stated that all Christians he had met so far have been duds and that he regards Christianity as a dud religion. Sometimes he would pick up some aspect of Christian belief and try to trivialize or deride it as for example the idea of "Sin". It is times like these that present us opportunities to respond and explain our Faith in a manner that makes sense to them, without hurting their feelings or deriding their religion in return. These responses lay the foundation before our non-Christian friends before they can begin to really understand the meaning of what John 3:16 says and the Theology of the Christian Faith. Hence this article tries to bring out the aspects of our Faith and Scriptures that are unique and constitute its strength in the face of other Faiths.

1) THE BIBLE-AUTHORSHIP AND RELIABILITY OF ITS TEXTS.

The Bible has been written by human beings and as we believe it, is divinely inspired. Not one Author had coordinated its creation. It has been written by about 40 different authors over a span of 1500 years, who for the most part did not know each other in person. Authors were from different social and occupational backgrounds and circumstances. ***it germinated from a collective human experience which in combination makes it divine-Just like various body parts of a human body which in isolation constitutes merely cells of various types, but in combination, make up human life and spirit.*** Thus the Bible is unique and varied in its Authorship, yet it is a Book of marvelous organic. The Bible is testified by the largest number of manuscripts for any Ancient book (20,000). The entire New Testament was within 50-60 years from the crucifixion and resurrection, the earliest parts being completed within 30 years. The Biography of Mohammed who in the Quran lived from 570 AD to 632 AD was not written till 767 AD. The records of Hindu scriptures are steeped in mythology that make it difficult to establish their authenticity or their historicity. The Bible is bereft of Hype and Make Believe and makes very tall claims. Because of its claims, the Bible has become a book that has been the most widely researched upon, so minutely scrutinized, the most virulently attacked and successfully defended, so enormously written about, the most widely translated and circulated in the history and geography of man. There has been no book that has affected the life of man on this earth, as much the Bible.

2) ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Biblical Archaeology began in the late 1860s and many excavations have been done since. Though Archaeological finds cannot be the final proof of historical events, nor be complete, ***to the extent archaeology could explore excavations in the Middle East, the finds immensely support the historical references made in the Bible.*** John Garstang and W.F. Albright accomplished Biblical explorers have this to say ***"Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details of the Bible as a source of history"***.

3) SECULAR HISTORIANS AND THE BIBLE.

Charles Templeton and Billy Graham began their evangelical ministries at around the same time. Both co-founded the Youth for Christ International. However, Templeton soon became an Atheist because he felt among other reasons that church bases its claims totally on the teachings of an obscure Jew with messianic pretensions and there is no reference to him in any secular writing whatsoever. But according to Edwin Yamauchi a leading Historian, Linguist and Philosopher, Templeton's history is simply mistaken. Edwin Yamauchi has spent more than 40 years studying ancient history and archeology. He cites Josephus, Tacitus and Pliny as Non-Biblical writers/rulers who refer to "Jesus" in one way or the other, apart from references to Jesus in the Jewish TALMIUD.

4) PROPHECIES AND THE BIBLE

Prophecies are a bold and unique aspect of the Bible. The Bible has 1189 chapters. Prophecies are embedded in many of these chapters. It has been estimated that there are around 2500 prophecies, 2000 of them fulfilled already including the birth of the Messiah and the history of Israel to modern times. This is a unique feature of the bible as futuristic prophecies are conspicuously absent from other scriptures.

5) WORLD VIEWS AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SCIENCE-CHRISTAIN FOUNDATIONS

Essentially the Christian world view differentiates the Creator from the created, unlike most pagan world views. It regards God as a lover of Truth and Justice who has placed the dominion of the created world under the lordship of man (Gen 9:1-7) and has endowed man with Free Will to make his own decisions, while remaining accountable to Him for those decisions. Under this scheme of things man is encouraged to undertake the pursuit of Truth in line with God's nature (John 4:24, John 8:32) in the process of which are born these three elements, namely the desire for Freedom, the Spirit of Enquiry and Pursuit Truth. In the natural world this led to the birth of modern science, unlike Islamic societies where the freedom of the individual is largely restricted and in Paganism, Truth is largely regarded as relative and specific to cultures. Thus, **It is no accident that modern Science was born in pre-dominantly Christian societies that constituted the western world. 25% of Nobel Prizes have gone to people of Jewish origin whose cultural background is greatly influenced by the God of the Bible. Many a scientist had acknowledged the inspiration of the scriptures, that provided the basis, motivation and inspiration for his study and observations, most of whom were Christians.**

6) EARLY CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

Starting from **Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)**, Astronomy; **GalelioGalilei (1564-1642)**, founder of modern mechanics and experimental physics, including **Issac Newton (1642-1727)** who discovered the laws of gravity, there is an almost endless list which includes many recent scientists as well. However with the advent of Darwinism, many scientists had turned to Atheism. Yet, since 1970, Atheism has begun to loose ground and scientists are beginning to once again appreciate the validity of the Bible.

7) SCIENCE MIRACLES AND THE BIBLE.

There are many skeptics including scientists who believe that miracles do not exist, and dismiss the credibility of the Bible as it deals with a great number of miracles. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent even to scientists that complex life forms cannot emerge and live without

the aid or opportunity provided by an intelligent and powerful creator. Believing scientists call the process of event that led to the formation of the Universe and Life Forms as Fine Tuned Universe. Hugh Norman Ross, a Canadian born astronomer and a Christian apologist estimates the degree of precision under which our Universe, Galaxies, Stars, Planets and our Solar system function, under the operation of fundamental physical forces, considering of 77 parameters, as being 10^{23} . This implies that for a chance happening (luck as some would like to call it), the odds are 1/10 followed by 23 zeros strongly suggesting there is a creator responsible for creation, making miracles a part of our every day life.

8) EVIDENCE FOR THE CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Accepting now that miracles are a part of our existence, we shall briefly explore the cumulative evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus. There are various distracting theories that keep appearing now and then in Novels, Newspapers, Magazines, Articles and Books claiming to shake the foundations of the Christian Faith with scholarly pretense, but many of them with a view to make a quick buck in the market or to discredit the Faith. Some claim that Jesus never died on the cross but managed to somehow escape from it, with a look alike taking his place. Others claim that Jesus never resurrected but that it is simply a 3rd century Christian legend. Between the two theories, there many variations afloat. We must keep in mind that our non-Christian friends simply go by these theories and don't hesitate to provide us insights on these.

We need to only apply our mind that from the time Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane to the time He was crucified, died on the cross and was buried in a tomb, the custody of Jesus was in the hands of Roman and Jewish Authorities and a host of hostile witnesses, leaving no room for imposters or look-alikes to take Jesus' place. As it happened, the disciples began to believe his resurrection from the third day on and to report the same publicly at the cost of their own lives, if they had lied. In any case, It was also open to both the Jewish leadership and the Roman authorities to simply chip open the tomb and produce the decaying body of Jesus to defeat the lie of the disciples, if all they did so. But this did not happen. Then there were the Appearances of Jesus for a broad spectrum of people of different persuasions. They were not merely visions but entailed physical participation of those involved. Like eating together, walking together and talking together, involving dramatic changes in the lives of those who encountered these appearances. All these events directionally making the cumulative case for the Resurrection compulsive, without which the birth of the Christian Faith would not have taken place.

Thus it was that the Christian Faith was born. Then, there is another strain of evidence that is experiential. It is in the transformation that has occurred in the lives of millions of people all across the globe over the ages since Christianity was born, people from varied societies, cultures, economic status, educational levels, the initiated and those not, skeptics and proponents, the emotional and the rational alike, who would testify that the Resurrection was the reason for a very fundamental change in their lives. ***Resurrection therefore, remains to this day the single most significant event that changed the course of human history.***

J Solomon



ACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

FANCY DRESS AT MAHASANGITI

NGWA CHILDREN'S FEST

PRAISE & WORSHIP MAHASANGITI

QAWWALI BY R.K. PURAN CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH MEHRAULI

SUZANNA RABINDRAN 2ND PRIZE BIBLE QUIZ

THROW BALL

VOLLEY BALL DASHING DANIELS GIVING THEIR BEST

SILVER JUBILEE COMMITTEE THE INSIDE STORY



It was a chilly winter evening on the 28th of February when the first meeting of the Silver Jubilee Committee was organized in the Sunday School premises. We were an eclectic bunch of varying ages and skill sets. A pastor and ordinand, an outreach project coordinator, a senior faculty of a research institute, a legally inclined businessman, a student and an orthopedician.

Our convenor and guide Rev. Kamal Mall briefed us on the task ahead; to design and execute activities to celebrate the establishment of our church and its journey over the last 25 years.

The need for a logo, a theme and a bible verse to appropriately depict the journey of our church was identified. After several rounds of prayer and brain storming; the theme was chosen from the book of Nehemiah 2 :18 - “ Arise and Build “. The verse from Colossians 2:7 “ Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness “ was identified as the one which not only brought out the journey of this church from a makeshift structure with a corrugated roof to the magnificent edifice that stands today; but also that it was the faith of those who started the journey and of those that followed that made all this possible.

The journey of the SJC had by now started gathering momentum; the logo competition was announced and entries started pouring in. Each entry astounded us with its detail and grandeur. The next few rounds of meetings were spent in listing various activities that could be executed every month. As a group we started to come together and the pieces of the jigsaw were falling into place. We also discovered our affinity to the concept of food for thought with special inclination to the humble samosa.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations started in right earnest with the tree plantation right after the Easter Service. The focus and planning then moved onto the Health Camp .

On successive Sundays the members of the SJC addressed the congregation with a call for volunteers. Our faith was truly tested as after the first few calls six volunteers turned up. We started to feel like Simon in our own right ;” for we toiled all night but caught nothing “ - Luke 5 :11 . But the power of prayer at the SJC review meet worked wonders a final call was made to the congregation and the number of volunteers grew to more than 60 ! “And then they caught so many that their nets were breaking “ - Luke 5 : 6 . This volunteer group database was put in place for all future events.

Our prayers were also answered as we welcomed on board a fellow traveller our own computer ji Vinay Ralph who with the health camp joined us in the SJC in our onward march.

The events as you will read in the pages ahead followed one after the other with break neck speed and regularity. As soon as one was over we were down to preparing for the next. The experiences have been wonderful and will last us a life time. Seeing our volunteers distributing



Tree Plantation Easter 2013

the health camp pamphlets at Metro stations, moving into villages while hanging out of auto rickshaws with announcers in tow; of our men & women ; young and old calling and co ordinating for weeks with their respective groups from other churches for their retreats; of the four church teams who responded magnificently to all the events especially the Mahasangati and sports. The children who came in their hundreds for VBS and the NCWA childrens fest and sang and danced for the Lord reassured us that the promise of a greater tomorrow holds true.

A special word for the wonderful captains and vice captains who made calls, updated their databases and chased down the members for their teams. The Daniels were dashing, the Peters truly rocked, the John's thundered, we marveled at the efficient Marks.

Our attempt has been in keeping with our theme that of arising as a congregation and building our fellowship. Our events have ensured that across the Diocese and around the city of NOIDA there is an awareness of our church and its Silver Jubilee celebration.

This journey of the last 10 months has been an eye opener. The future beckons our church with great promise and it is upto us as a congregation to utilize this opportunity. Can we sustain this momentum and build it up so that our journey of the next 25 years is as fruitful as the one gone by ? We look towards the churches worldwide and see dipping attendance and closing establishments. We must continue to create church and bible centered activities to keep our youth and children - the *Gen Next* within our churches.

Based on our experiences the Silver Jubilee Committee has submitted proposals for area prayer groups and a men's fellowship to the honorable pastorate committee and these proposals have been accepted in principal.

We as a group have felt and experienced the joys of coming together for our church and our lord. The months gone by have been moments of great fellowship. Each of us were blessed with different fruits of the spirit but in coming together we were able to create some memorable moments .

We thank our pastor and convener Rev. Kamal Mall who has been guide, counselor, volunteer all rolled in one and the singular “*go to*” person all along. Without his leadership these events would not even have gotten off the drawing board. We also thank the entire congregation who tithed their time to Christ and without whose whole hearted participation these celebrations would have remained muted. We express our gratitude to the Hon pastorate committee both past and present for their unstinting support.

Most of all we thank our Lord for his blessings on the little committee which came together in his name and for his greater glory.

In gratitude

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee

Sachin Daniel Abraham.

The Silver Jubilee Committee of Christ Church Noida



Rev. Kamal Mall
Convenor
The Pastor



Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee
Member
The Outreach Co-ordinator



Dr. Mrs. Helen Sekar
Member
The Senior Faculty



Dr. Kanishka Williams
Member
The Orthopedician



Ms. Margret Meshy
Member
The Student



Mr. Sachin Daniel
Member
The legally inclined businessman



Mr. Vinay Ralph
Member
The Computer Ji



Ord. Varun Alfred
Member
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Events & Activities organized by the Silver Jubilee Committee

Tree Plantation - March

Health Camp - April

VBS - June

Women's Retreat - July

Mahasangati - August

Men's Retreat - September

Children's Fest - October

Sports Fest - September /October / November.

Grand Finale - November.

Report on the Health and Wellness Camp.
Organised by
St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi
and
Christ Church Noida.



Date : 28/4/2013

Venue : Christ Church, Noida

On the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations it was decided to organize a health and wellness camp on 28th of April 2013. St Stephen's Hospital Delhi kindly consented to partner us in this noble endeavor. The doctors and medical staff arrived for the health camp during the Sunday morning service. They were given a warm welcome and were introduced to all the members of the church during the service. Once the church service ended the registration counters were opened. The registration counters were crowded with patients and volunteers at these counters made prescription slips to guide them to various consultation areas.

The medical teams were divided in three areas. The medical specialists and ECG technicians were sitting in the Sunday school room. This room also housed the medical staff doing the sugar test. The orthopaedicians, the physiotherapists and persons doing bone densitometry were housed in a tent towards the eastern end of the church. The parish hall turned into a makeshift clinic for the gynecologists, dentists and the dietician. This room also saw our specialists from oncology and paediatrics rendering their services to the patients.

The formal inauguration of the camp was done by our local MLA Dr. Mahesh Sharma. In his address to the parish he acknowledged the role played by Christians in the health and social sector. After the inauguration he visited the doctors and wished them luck.

It was a blessing to see the number of patients turning up for the camp. The numbers kept growing throughout the day. By the end of the day there were close to 800 patients. These patients had wide spectrum of diseases. This camp was distinct as it picked a close to 50 new diabetics, which in any setting is a high pick up rate.

Members of NCWA and local orphanages benefited from the camp. They visited in large numbers and made use of the opportunity to take expert advice from the medical professionals.

The volunteers in the camp played a pivotal role on the day of the health camp. Not only were they seen helping patients to reach the doctors but also played a crucial part in maintaining discipline and controlling crowds. Although the weather was very hot, they managed the registration area professionally and diligently. The Women's fellowship put up a stall which served cold water, soft drinks and light snacks throughout the day to the doctors, medical staff, volunteers and patients. Their role was critical during the camp.

The camp concluded with a small ceremony presided over by Ex Naval Chief, Admiral Sushil Kumar. His words of inspiration were instrumental in bringing a smile to each member present. Members of the health camp were given a certificate and memento and their contribution was acknowledged.

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee, I express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of our church to have helped in making this camp a resounding success. Even though there were many challenges, we did manage to be of assistance to a large number of patients. It showed that all members can get together and work for a common cause which is beneficial to the society in general. I hope that this initiative can be replicated in the future.

Kanishka Williams



Health and Wellness Camp








Christ Church NOIDA **Women's Retreat**

13 July 2013 Time 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
No. of Participants 170 from 20 Churches

1. Retreat began with a prayer by Rev. Kamal Mall, Presbyterian-in-charge Christ Church NOIDA.
2. This was followed by Devotional songs by Mrs. Neeta Mall, Michelle & Minhael Mall,
3. On behalf of the Women's Fellowship, Christ Church, President Mrs. Shannon Mukha, warmly welcomed Mrs. Sherylyn Hitter, the resource person for the day. Wife of Rev. Mohit Hitter of St. James Church, Mrs. Hitter is a BD in her own right and headed a Project on AIDS at Mumbai. She is associated with the Evangelical Hospital Association, and Faith Academy School where she imparts Biblical Education. She was invited to take the first session on Prayer & Devotion.

Session I - Prayer & Devotion




 Topics Covered ---

-  Importance of Building Relationships within the Family - with Parents, siblings, children, and in-laws.
-  Relationships should be Christ centred e.g. Naomi & Ruth
-  Relationships with friends e.g. David & Jonathon
-  Relationships built on LOVE
-  Relationships within the Church Community built on love and faith. References Samuel 15 and Acts 15:
-  Building Society - Service in love Reference Acts 9: 36, e.g. Tabitha and in modern times Mother Teresa. Quest :- Do people see Christ in us?
-  If we are one in Spirit, we are one in the Lord

The session was closed with a prayer.

4. Chief Guest Mrs. Vineeta Shaw arrived and was acknowledged and welcomed by Mrs. Neeta Mall
5. Mrs. Manorama Lukose was invited to give a brief history of Women's Fellowship in NOIDA
6. This was followed by distribution of slips for an Ice-breaker ---- Groups formed were of Flowers, Vegetables, Food, Animals, Birds, Languages, Nations, Transports, Sports, Rivers, Hill Stations,

Session II Roll of Women in Society

7. The Guest Speaker, Mrs. Vineeta Shaw was introduced by Dr. Mrs. Helen Sekar and warmly welcomed by the President WFCS NOIDA Mrs. Shannon Mukha.
 -  Mrs. Shaw is a journalist by profession, former CEO of Trans World Radio India, with 20 years experience in Radio and print, and has authored two books.
 -  She is currently the CEO of Disha Foundation, a non-profit organization.
 -  Wife of Rev. Timothy Shaw, she serves on the International Council of World Evangelical Alliance and Evangelical Fellowship of India and is a strong advocate of rights of women and children.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2013



**SINGING PRAISES
UNTO THE LORD!**



**FELICITATING THE RESOURCE
PERSON MRS. VINITA SHAWN**




**SHANTI NIWAS CHURCH
FARIDABAD
REJOICE IN THE
LORD ALWAYS!**




**WOMEN'S RETREAT
CONVENOR
MRS. NEETA MALL**

Mrs. Shaw opened with a prayer and began her session was an audio-visual presentation. Questions Posed ---

- A. What is the purpose of this gathering?
- B. What does it mean to be a Christian?
- C. What does Christ want from us?
- D. Who is a Christian?

 Are we here as Conference Hoppers, or is the purpose to get away from home and its responsibilities for a day. Christian women need to see themselves as a 'Power Group' capable of much action. They are a Select Action Group which can achieve much with proper direction.

 The state of women, children, youth are dependant on how we view ourselves; whether as the down-trodden tribe, or those who strengthen Christian beliefs in children ---- signs of the times place of the girl-child in society, acid throwing youth, inter-faith marriages, rebellion women must be able to guide children through all this.

 Women need to be more assertive when it comes to status of women in society; not just accept the culturally allotted roll but Christian perspective.

 Just being born in a Christian family does not make us Christian but our commitment and relationship with Christ.

 Women can wield a positive influence as biblically shown by Mary, Esther, Lydia

 Or negative influence like Eve, Rebekah, Sarah

 Jesus put women in the spot-light as depicted by influential women of the Bible

- a) Man and woman made in the image of God
- b) Man and woman meant to complement each other not compete with each other
- c) Male and female have different attributes to be used in complementary manner
- d) The risen Christ appeared first to the women

She closed with a few quotes by Anne Frank, Roosevelt, Wolfgang.

Question to ask ourselves what influence we can make on others and in what field?

Questions raised for group discussion ---

 How can we influence our Family?

 How can we influence our Church?

 How can we influence our Society?

This was followed by Group Discussions and Presentations by 11 groups and some individuals.

8. This was followed by a break for lunch

9. Post lunch there was a Quiz where participants re-grouped Church-wise. Theme was 'Women of the New Testament'. Twelve Churches participated. The quiz was prepared and conducted by Mrs. Rita David with the aid of audio-visual. There were 5 rounds with 20 points for each question; marks on 100.

10. Score were as follows:

i)	Aashirwad Church (MayurVihar)	40	
ii)	Faith Academy (School)	80	2 nd
iii)	Bethel Methodist (NOIDA)	60	
iv)	St. Stephen's (Old Delhi)	80	3 rd

v)	Shantinivas Church (Faridabad)	60	
vi)	St.John's(Mehrauli)	60	
vii)	Christ Church NOIDA	60	
viii)	Free Church (Parliament St.)	100	1 st
ix)	Calvery Church	60	
x)	St.Mary's church (NOIDA)	60	
xi)	Epiphany Church (Gurgaon)	40	
xii)	United Church (RK Puram)	80	

11. Barring Epiphany and St. Mary's Church all participated in the group singing competition which was mostly in hindi.
12. Winners were ---
- | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| i) | Faith Academy | 1 st |
| ii) | St. John's (Mehrauli) | 2 nd |
| iii) | United Church (R.K. Puram) | 3 rd |
13. Prize Distribution followed with Mrs. Lily Abraham and Kamna Cowasjee giving away the prizes.
14. Session closed with vote of thanks by Mrs. Mukha and prayer by Pastor Kamal Mall.
15. Each participant was presented with amemento in the form of a magnetic sticker (6"x4") of Christ Church NOIDA as a token of appreciation.
16. This was followed by refreshments.

Compiled by WFCS, CCN

**Mahasangati
organized at Christ Church Noida
on 15th August 2013.**



*Make a joyful noise to the lord, all the lands. Serve the lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing (Psalm 100 : 1-2)*

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations the Christ Church Mahasangati was organized and held at the parish hall of our church on the 15th of August 2013.

The customary tradition for the August 15th Independence Day celebration at CCN entailed the parishioners gathering for prayer, followed by Flag hoisting, singing of the national anthem and distribution of ladoos.

This August 15th things were a bit different this was the year when we were celebrating 25 years of our Church's establishment. In the run up to the event the entire congregation was divided on the basis on the Lenten prayer groups into four houses Dashing Daniels, Marveling Marks, Rocking Peters and Thundering John's. The months and weeks preceding had been filled with evening practices of songs and bible quiz by the house teams.

The day started with everyone congregating at the Church gate for a prayer. The National Flag was hoisted by our pastor Rev.Kamal Mall and ladoos were distributed among the assembled parishnors. The congregation then moved up to the parish hall and post registration were seated in their respective houses.

The Mahasangati commenced with a praise and worship session led by Mr. Ronald Das. Ord. Varun Alfred then spoke on Jeremiah 24:12.

A fancy dress competition for children up to the age group of 10 yrs was organized based on the theme of "Unity in Diversity States of India ". Dressed in different state attires our children reminded us that our church is a mirror of India people from different states coming together to worship the lord as one body in Christ.

The competitions then commenced with the Quick bible reading, teams of 6 members per house saw each of the enthusiastic participants display their skills. This was followed by the bible quiz wherein each team comprising 4 members each participated the quiz was based on the book of Nehemiah & the Acts of the Apostles. There were a total of 4 rounds per book of which one round was the visual round.



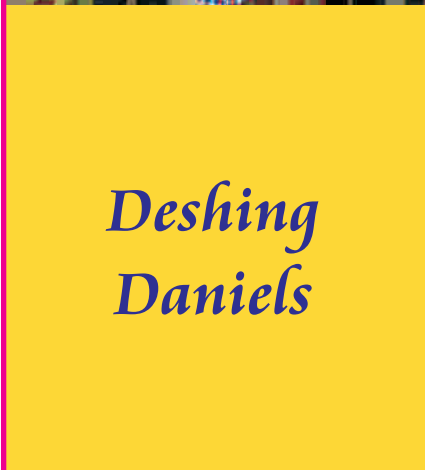
*Marvelling
Marks*



*Rocking
Peters*



*Thundering
Johns*



*Deshing
Daniels*



In keeping with saving the best for the last the singers entered and each house took turns at what can only be described as an eye opener in terms of the sheer talents that exist in the congregation. Bishop , pastor and laity , deaf fellowship - all took part enthusiastically making this a wonderful occasion.

While the judges tabulated the results the deaf fellowship put up a skit which had the audience spellbound. A full bible quiz for the entire congregation on a questionnaire format rounded up the last leg of the competetions. The results were tabulated and declared and the Mahasangati brought to a close with the closing prayer and benediction by Bishop Santram.

The congregation then disbursed for lunch. On final tabulation the entire participation for the Mahasangati was recorded at more than 315 parishioners.

The lingering images of the Mahasangati are many; be it our children depicting the unity in diversity not only of India but also our church which is a cornucopia and melting pot of the languages and cultures of India. The deaf fellowship taking part in the group songs by sign language; offering a glimpse into their world one filled with love and positivity. The participants of the quick bible reading resembling jumping jacks with their enthusiasm to score first. The quiz team members running to touch and point out the correct location in the maps instead of using their laser pointers!

Or was it the judge's comments of having been amazed to see the Pastor and Ordinand taking part in the group song for Rocking Peter and then even more so when the bishop joined the Thundering John's and stood and sang as only he could from the heart.

But as a Silver Jubilee Committee the abiding image is not from the day of the Mahasangati but the evening previous when all the houses turned up for one final on stage practice and while each performed the others not only sat patiently but after the rendition of the song applauded the effort of the team on stage. Showing truly that our fellowship is strong and our future bright.

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee

Sachin Daniel Abraham.

Report on Men's Retreat celebrated on Saturday, 14 September, 2013



The Men's Retreat was held on Saturday 14 September, 2013.

The event was held in the Parish Hall of Christ Church Noida from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The speaker for the day was Rev. Mohit Hitter, Presbyter in Charge of St. James Church, Delhi.

The theme for the day was: "Arise & Build The Role of a Christian Man in Building the Family and the Society."

Preparation for the Event: Silver Jubilee Committee

The Silver Jubilee Committee started preparations for the day almost two months prior to the event. Specific responsibilities were earmarked and distributed among the members to facilitate in making the day successful. Most important was to ensure participation of as many Men from Churches in Delhi and the NCR region. For this some of us were given the responsibility of speaking to Pastors of various churches to ensure participation of their Church in the Retreat and make announcements of the event in their churches. Thanks to this systematic planning and follow-up mobilisation for the event was possible.

Participation

About 60 men from various churches participated in the Men's Retreat.

They were:

1. United Church, RK Puram
2. Aashirwad Church, Mayur Vihar
3. St. James Church, Old Delhi
4. Bethel Methodist Church, NOIDA
5. Shanti Niwas Church, Faridabad
6. Marthoma Church, NOIDA
7. Assembly of God, NOIDA
8. Christ Church, NOIDA

Opening Prayer & Praise & Worship :

The program started with an Opening Prayer for the Men's Retreat by Rev. Kamal Mall.

This was followed by Praise & Worship led by Mr. Ronald Das and accompanied by Ord. Varun on the Drums and some of the participants from our Church. Some old and some new songs were sung and everyone joined in.

Anchor for the Event:

The anchor of the Men's Retreat was Mr. Prateek Jaswant who conducted the order of the day with grace and depth. He welcomed the guests and also introduced the speaker for the day Rev. Mohit Hitter. After every event, he recapped and then introduced the next agendas / programs of the day in a way that was helpful to the audience to attend to the deeper message and significance.

Ice Breaker: Getting to know each other

After the Praise & Worship, an Ice Breaker was conducted by Mr. Vicky Tuck and Mr. Luke Chandekar. They invited and encouraged each participant to share what gifts God has blessed them with.

After the Ice Breaker Mr. Prateek Jaswant invited Rev. Mohit Hitter to share the Word.

Key Message: The Model of Eli bringing up his sons

Rev. Mohit Hitter beautifully helped us to understand the concept of raising Godly children and the Gold standard of upbringing, rooted in the Bible by giving two examples that of Eli and Jacob.

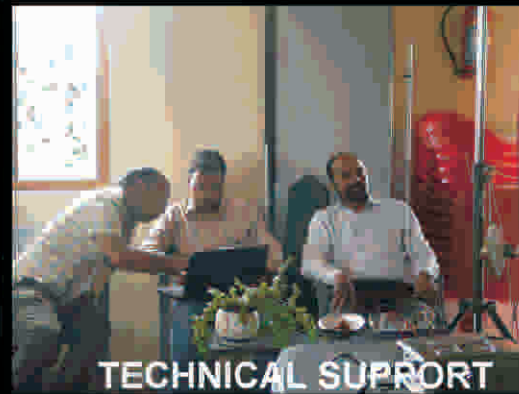
He introduced his key message with the illustration of how families initially used to feel proud about their young children's achievements on joining well paid call centre jobs. However very soon the same families regretted this decision as their young children would start to go astray with their new found wealth and lose their ability to correct children once they start earning.

The Biblical parallel to this was drawn from the family life of Eli, the Priest and his ineffectiveness in dealing with his boys. He could not stop his young sons from grabbing the best portion of the sacrifice from the cauldron, before it was presented to the Lord. The same sacrifice was recycled back in the Synagogue market run by the mafia of his sons.

Rev. Mohit Hitter examined on why the father Eli, a respected priest himself who knew right from wrong like no one else, became ineffective in admonishing his sons and stopping them in their wrong habits.

- What makes us to stop from speaking out the obvious, especially in a home situation and with loved ones?
- What is the role of the Church (as a community) and the family in making sure that we remain faithful to the Lord and speak up before it is too late?

MEN'S RETREAT 2013



From here he helped the audience to examine what would make the Church more effective and contemporary in dealing with present day issues. What is the role of those in leadership positions in the Church.

He shared his message through a very well made power point presentation. The entire message lasted for about 90 minutes.

After the Key message, the Fellowship broke for lunch.

Lunch: Chinese for a Change!

Immediately after the talk and presentation the team broke for lunch.

For a change, lunch was Chinese very delicious Chicken Manchurian, Rice and Noodles.

The Group discussion was based upon the two questions:

1. What are the reasons for the differences between the members of the church and how to resolve them?
2. What is expected to make the Church leaders contemporary and connected to the Lord

The Men' Retreat was distributed into 5 groups to facilitate good discussion in groups with the questions divided between them and a powerful recap in plenary.

In the plenary each group leader presented in a meaningful way the key discussion points and what the group felt was the key takeaway.

The last two program items of the day were the Song Competition and Bible Quiz.

Song Competition:

RK Puram Church presented beautiful kawalis with matka, chimta and harmonium accompaniment. A couple of original compositions were presented. They were awarded the first prize in the competition.

Ashirwad Church and Christ Church Noida also presented group songs.

Bible Quiz:

A very interesting quiz was conducted on the Book of Acts by Wg. Cdr. Reginald Mukha. He conducted the quiz with energy and humour ensuring very good participation. The quiz was open to all participants and was not conducted church wise.

Solo Singing:

While the quiz scores were being tabulated individuals from the Fellowship came forward and presented solo songs.

- Mr. Rajiv Dayal from the Faridabad Church presented a beautiful song.
- There was a heart touching performance of Amazing Grace by Mr. Vijay Russel.
- Our own Mr. Edwin Levi sang his signature Hindi Bhajan Khuljayengi Kitabe which was much appreciated by everyone.

The program closed with a prayer and vote of thanks. The vote of thanks was presented by Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay. Very special mention was made of the Silver Jubilee Committee members especially the ladies Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, Dr. Helen Sekar and Margaret who spent the entire day along with Mr. Vinay Ralph and Ord. Varun Alfred in order to ensure that things went off well. Mr. Sachin Daniel and Dr. Kanishka Williams were remembered in absentia for their contributions.

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Rev. Kamal Mall thanked everyone present and thanked the Lord for making the day meaningful.

MR. LUKE CHANDEKAR

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ! CHRIST CHURCH, NOIDA, HOSTS INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHILDREN'S FEST-2013

Noida Christian Welfare Association is a body consisting of five major churches of Noida with its registered office at A-71/A sector 34, NOIDA - 201301, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP.

The five churches are Christ Church, Immanuel Marthoma Church, St Mary's Catholic Church, Bethel Methodist Church and Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church.



John G. Mathew, President, **Rev. Sam Mishik** Vice-President, **Fr. Joseph**, Secretary, **Mr. Y. Rajan**, Treasurer, **Mr. K. C. Mathews**, Joint Treasurer, **Mr. Francis Walter**, PRO

NCWA is a Bible-centered, organization composed of believers whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God and establish them in a Bible believing church for Christian living.

NCWA believes in bringing the love of Jesus Christ to children in and around Noida. The Word of God puts a high priority on children. They are near to God's heart and we believe that He is uniquely concerned about their spiritual welfare. Without the foundation of a relationship with God and training in Biblical principles for life they are unequipped to face what life will throw at them.

We are convinced that there is no work that is more pertinent or effective. Perhaps God is leading us to become more involved in the lives of children, for His kingdom's sake.

NCWA has been active over the years with Christ Church playing an active role over the past two years. The children have been participating enthusiastically in the Inter Denominational Children's Fest since 2012.

This year Christ Church, Noida hosted the programme, with a gathering of nearly two hundred children from nine churches across Noida participating enthusiastically in all activities.

This year's theme rang out loud and clear-**STAND UP FOR JESUS!**

Children were divided into three four age groups, 5-7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years and 14-16 years.



Programme commenced with children from different Churches lining up for registration even before 8 am. Registration began at 8.30 am with the team of Christ Church, Noida impressively at their counters.



A total of 9 Churches participated from the vicinity with details as follows:

S. NO.	NAME OF CHURCH	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	CNI – DELHI (CNI-D)	1
2	AMAZING GRACE (AG)	2
3	YOUTH FOR CHRIST (YFC)	2
4	ST. ALPHONSA (St. A)	3
5	ORTHODOX (ORTH)	11
6	EMMANUEL MARTHOMA (MAR)	15
7	CHRIST CHURCH (CCN)	33
8	BETHEL METHODIST (BMC)	40
9	ST. MARY’S (St.MARY)	98 (Actuals) (122) on paper

Children enjoyed praising and worshipping with the Youth for Christ Team led by Joseph Emmanuel.

Children enjoyed participating in different activities such as slogan writing, Bible quiz, Memory Verse competition, putting up short skits on Biblical Themes given and much more.



Children, elders, helpers, volunteers could be seen all over and around the Church happy and contented to be part of the programme . It was awesome!

It was an enriching experience during which there was much learning from the Scripture all adding to taking a closer walk with Jesus.

The objective of the programme was achieved with thirst for more.....

We pray that our children with be able to focus on the vision of this mission!

Roma Das

CHRIST CHURCH NOIDA REPORT OF SPORTS FEST



Citus, Altius , Fortius Swifter, Higher, Stronger the words of the Olympic motto rang out in the portals of Christ Church Noida all through the months of October to November 2013.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the first ever SPORTS FEST of Christ Church Noida was organized. The essence of all the Silver Jubilee activities had been to increase the fellowship among the congregation, giving them an opportunity to know each other outside of the customary Sunday meet and greet sessions after church services.

Sports entailed practice, practice entailed people getting together on a regular basis. The dutiful captains and vice captains got down to the job with rounding up their various teams.

The Silver Jubilee Committee had listed out various sports activities - Badminton, Throwball, Volleyball, Tug of War, for the outdoors and Chess, Sudoku, Carom, Arm Wrestling as indoor games.

These games were played on an inter house basis with the four competing houses of Marveling Marks, Rocking Peters, Thundering Johns and Dashing Daniels. The matches were organized on a knock out basis starting with the two qualifiers on Thursday and Friday, the third place playoff on Saturday and the finals after church service on Sunday. Outdoor matches were played in the Church lawn and Indoor matches were played in the Parish hall of the Church.

The teams were seen practicing in the run up to the events which led to some eye popping; jaw dropping performances which could have given seasoned athletes a run for their money.

Parishioners who had last played decades ago once again picked up rackets and put on the track suits brought back the sports men and women in them. It was a pleasant surprise to see the turn out and enthusiasm of not only the younger generations but also of the not so young. A special mention needs to be made of Mr. Cecil who played the badminton match at the age of 82 after a span of 40 year, the all time and the full time referee, Mr. Suhail Titus and our help in marking the line for the courts, Ramesh & Monu. Kudos to all!

The deaf fellowship took an active part and combined flawlessly with their team mates to produce memorable moments.

Our church is a base for people who come from all over the world into this township. After two months of sports activities the objective of getting people to know each other better, override linguistic and territorial barriers has been largely met. It should be our endeavor to organize similar activities in the future so that our church can become stronger.

Ord. Varun Savio Alfred



Throw Ball



Volley Ball



Throw Ball



Badminton





Rev. Kamal Mall with Challer and Office Staff



ADMINISTRATOR
Christy Franklin



SUPPORT STAFF
Daniel, Ramesh, Monu

Annual Family Retreats : A perspective



One of the distinguishing features of Christ Church Noida has been its system of annual Family Retreats. Every year, a small group comprising of interested members of the congregation, have taken a break from their busy life and travelled to a secluded spot in the hills to spend time meditating on the word of God. Each retreat has been purposive - with lessons taught and remembered, some lessons forgotten only to surface again when least expected, others never far from our thoughts.

Pastor Paul Swarup introduced this blessing to our Church in 2005, and I can never bless him enough for that. Since then, we have travelled to Kuthalgate (2005-2010), Saattal (2011) and Palampur (2012 - 2013) He, and every Pastor and resource person after him, has put in tremendous hard work to ensure that every Bible-study session is meticulously planned, and every spare moment structured to remind us that we are all living parts of One Body. Each retreat has required, and I am sure, honed, wonderful organizational ability. As Bishop Santram puts it, these retreats are like the Discovery channel!

Our long journeys to our chosen retreat centres and back, have always been filled with non-stop praise and worship. How rare it is, in our busy schedules which seldom intersect with others' equally busy schedules, to sing continually of our Lord's beauty and glory and grace. But these journeys, sometimes interspersed with traffic jams, have provided just the right opportunity to rediscover the joys of being part of a singing and praising community. Be glorified, O Lord, in us!

During these retreats we have seen hectic times of praise, worship and Bible-study. Yet, there have been spaces available for the members of our Church family to open up and draw closer to each other. We have been touched by the love and fellowship that each member exhibited towards the other, and the grace and concern that we, as a Church, have received from others. We have seen the hand of God at work, saving us. In 2007, Kevin Franklin hurt himself playing. It was Diwali and there were no doctors around. But we were able to find one doctor, who by God's astonishing grace, turned out to be a plastic surgeon. He was assisted by Leila Caleb, and if today you were to carefully search, you would find no scars to tell of Kevin's adventure!

In the towering mountains, in the carefully chosen meditations, to the amazing love and grace that our Lord has poured upon us - truly the word of Christ and the divine presence of our Lord has dwelt richly amongst us.

In recent years, our retreats have not been limited to the Christ Church congregation alone. During the past two years at least, we have celebrated the Holy Communion service at other



Churches in the area, which gladly opened their hearts and doors to us. In 2011, we participated in a wedding that was solemnized at the open-air chapel at Saat-tal! We did not know the bride or the groom at all, but we were graciously invited to share in the festivities, mingle with the guests and bless the newly-weds.

In 2012, Bishop PB Santram and Pastor Kamal Mall celebrated the Lord's Supper at the historic Church of St John in the Wilderness at McLeodganj. This Church is nestled among ancient, stately Deodars, and is a popular tourist destination. However, the families which worship here are unable to meet very often because of the distances across which they are spread. One of the members told us that during that year, sometimes they did not even have a regular pastor. Against this backdrop, their Church was happy to welcome us. They received the preached message with great gladness, and were very touched to receive a set of Holy Communion vessels as a token of our love and solidarity with them. One of the members said with great simplicity, "Sometimes we feel isolated as a small congregation and loneliness creeps in along with the cold weather, but because of this time spent in worship with you all, we are reminded that we are one Church in Christ."

During our worship, many tourists peeked in, curious to see what was going on. When the Lord's Supper started, one couple sat at the pew by the door, held by an awareness of something special and wanting to join the line leading to the altar, but not quite sure of their welcome. As is our custom, I told them that if they wanted to, they could come and the Pastor would pray for them. They went with great reverence, and when Bishop sa'ab put his hand on their head to pray, the lady started crying obviously touched by the love human and Divine, that she experienced.

When we left Palampur this year, we gifted to each of the staff, including the owner, a copy of the New Testament in Hindi. Surely the Word of the Lord will work mightily in each of their lives!

At every retreat, a profound, personal lesson that has been reinforced is that a Christian can be a true Christian only as a part of the community. As we travel to different places and interact with people of our own faith, as well as others in the society, God gives us the opportunity to salt the area with His grace and to tell of His wondrous love, not by words alone, but our entire demeanour.

In conclusion, I want to thank this Christ Church Noida for mandating and making it possible for this Annual Retreat to be held year after year. I want to bless the resource persons who laboured in the fields of harvest, to thank the people who didn't go, but who, by their generous donations, made it possible for others to go, and lastly to thank all who participated and enriched each one of us greatly.

God bless our Church and may He continue to pour out His Grace upon Grace over us!

Stella Miller



FAMILY RETREAT 2013
GOPALPUR
HIMACHAL PRADESH



SUNDAY SCHOOL TESTIMONIES

Annette George:

"I became a part of this Sunday school 2 years ago. Since then it has been an enriching and nourishing experience for me here. It is really wonderful to come to the Sunday school every Sunday as we learn a number of songs and new things about God and our world.



Every Sunday we children begin the session by each one of us saying a prayer and then we sing songs. The best part of the Sunday school that I like is the praise and worship session where we learn many new songs and also sing some old ones. I want to thank God that he brought me to this wonderful Sunday school. I also want to thank all my elders who have made this Sunday school so wonderful.

There are a number of things that makes this Sunday school so wonderful and special for me and that is to live and grow together as children in Christ".

Kunal Levi:

"The Lord my God has done great things in my life". "I have started believing in the power of prayer, thanks to my Sunday School. I will now share my testimony with you".



" I have not been very happy in the past due to disturbing thoughts. My academics were suffering. I missed prayers in our family until one day God answered my prayers and we all as family started praying together. I missed going to Church and prayed God would change our hearts AND IT WAS SO.

God's ways are mysterious. He answers prayers but not always in the way we want them to be answered. I am regular going to Church and Sunday school now. I am at peace. My grandparents dote on me and my family cares for me. God has taken away my burdens upon himself and has given me the greatest gift of family. God has been kind and my Studies are beginning to take a new shape. I am doing well at school. My Sunday School has gifted me with a good friend, Samson.

I thank the Lord for all the great things He has done in my life and thank you Sunday School for showing me the power in prayer and holding on.....

Suzanna Rabindran:



There's a very nice place
Bright and full of the Sun's bright rays,
Where we learn about the BIBLE
And Jesus and HIS disciples.
There are three groups, 5-7
Then the next group is called 8-10,
Then 11 and above.
You must have guessed the place I am talking about,
Its called 'Sunday School', and I'm sitting there now!
S-its really Splendid
U- it's Unique in Noida
N-it's the Nicest place to be in
D-Sunday is the best Day
A-it tells us about our Awesome God.
Y-You should come to Sunday School too!



THE HEALING PRAYERS



Zubin, our second son diagnosed as Down's syndrome has multiple medical complications. Being a borderline case of mental disability, Zubin as a young boy attended special schools wherever possible, as we moved on transfer from one location to another. He coped up well and did manage to read and write, do simple maths sums, draw and paint, and of course play the drums.

Christ Church, Noida, offered to confirm him into their fold with blessings from Rt. Rev. Bishop Pritam Santram and Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey. As an anxious mother, I posed my worry to the Bishop, about Zubin's knowledge of the Bible and of the Christian faith. Bishop's answer turned my worry into a challenge, as he said, "Maybe Zubin knows and understands much more than what you and I can fathom. He will be confirmed on your faith". As parents, we were reassured and the Bishop's reply will remain a beacon of hope and strength always.

Zubin's teenage years started showing a downward trend in his overall health. All the changes going on in his body were turning out to be serious maladies. But, Our Lord Jesus was with us at every step as we drew strength from the Bible.

Our older son Kanishka, who in the meantime was studying medicine at CMC Ludhiana, was a great support for us. We had to fall back on him from time to time for medical advice and also for emotional strength.

Due to failing health, Zubin off and on had to be rushed to hospitals. There was a time when he had much pain in both his legs and could not walk. The process of all kinds of tests started and we had to get a wheel chair for Zubin. It was heart breaking to see him in that condition as he learnt to be mobile in the chair and could manoeuvre it well. The tests also could not throw up any diagnosis and that left us depressed and sad. Our last hope was with Orthopaedic Surgeon.

But prayers continued to give us strength and our faith remained firm. A small group of the Women's Fellowship of Christ Church NOIDA, continued their weekly ritual of prayer and fasting. They asked us if they could visit Zubin at home and pray. For us they were more than welcome and we were happy to invite them at a time convenient to them. It was on a Friday evening that this group came and prayed for Zubin and the prayers gave us hope and courage to face the Specialist the next day as we took him to the Orthopaedic Surgeon. The doctor saw all his test reports, examined him thoroughly and concluded that all his tests were more or less normal and recommended that we start giving him Calcium tablets. This was the answer to the "Prayers of the Faithful", as the medical advice was a turning point and within a week Zubin was back on his feet. By the grace of God, Zubin walked again and regained his confidence. Although he cannot walk fast or cover much distance because of his other medical problems, yet he is no more on the wheel chair and does not have pain in his limbs since.

The challenges continued and after a few years, Zubin had to undergo a process called phlebotomy. For this procedure every six months, Zubin had to be admitted to 'Escorts Heart Institute and Referral Centre', Okhla. One day I requested Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and his brother, who was visiting Paul to come home and pray for Zubin as they were conducting healing prayer meetings. They prayed over Zubin and I must confess that the Lord worked wonders on him as from that day to date, Zubin has never gone back to the hospital for Phlebotomy procedure.

There have been numerous occasions when prayers for Zubin have been answered and through this brief write up, we as a family would like to thank all our church family members, for praying continuously for Zubin. Prayers have given us the courage, strength and perseverance to deal with all challenges diligently with complete faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would at this time like to remember all the dear ladies of the Women's Fellowship, who have passed on into glory. They were fine examples of faith, service and hope.

Mrs. Lata Santram (w/o Bishop Santram)

Mrs. Khurshid Massey (w/o Col. Lawrence Massey)

Mrs. Mildred Clark

Mrs. Georgina Kerr

Mrs. Usha Shukla

Mrs. Rosalyn Nair

Mrs. Massey (mother of Mr Ajit Massey)

Mrs. Shiela Solomon

Mrs. Radhika Judd

I would also like to make a special mention of our other ladies who were members of our Church and have since left our congregation.

Mrs. Ruby Santram (m/o Late Mr Anil Santram)

Mrs. Shunila Santram

Mrs. Jaya Santram

Mrs. Asha Peters

Mrs. Helen Harrison

Mrs. Cynthia Doraiswamy

Mrs. Premila Lal

Mrs. Nirmala Murch

Mrs. Kiran John

I may have inadvertently missed out some names, nevertheless their exemplary lives and work, only reminds us members of the Women's Fellowship to remain dedicated in all our efforts.

We thank God for Zubin and for His abundance of love and forgiveness, as also for giving us the strength to help Zubin grow in His love.

Mrs. Vineeta Williams

Testimony of Indrajit Frank Agarwal



During my 71 years, I must confess that though I believed in Christ, I never pondered seriously about the miracles our Savoir Jesus Christ performed during his life time or had performed even in my own. The most striking of all the Miracles that Jesus performed on me was this February, which I gladly share through this testimony.

I had been suffering with Osteoarthritis in my Left Hip for the past seven years. Osteoporosis had set in after a couple of falls I had. Although I was advised THR (Total Hip Replacement) by every Orthopaedic Surgeon, the fear of going under the knife for a major surgery at my age prevented me from taking a decision. But finally the burning sensation and severe pain in my hip, became unbearable and I decided, I had no choice, but to go in for a surgery.

It was at this stage to my own surprise, I could feel a spiritual power backing me to get myself operated. Psalm 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff shall comfort me.” gave me great courage and I prayed to Jesus to perform his miracle on me through the doctors who would operate on me.

Once I had put myself in his hands things started getting easier. Psalm 18:2. “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower”

At my age there was no question of a second chance. I prayed to Jesus to show me the way and direct me to the Surgeon who would perform this miracle of a successful THR. My wife, daughter and son-in law were not in favour, as they had heard of bad experiences of people undergoing hip and knee transplants. Only my son and daughter in law backed me and gave me the confidence to go ahead.

My friend took me to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to be examined by Dy Head of Orthopaedic Dr S.K. Rastogi. He was very positive and said THR was one of the most successful operations and asked me to prepare for the operation. After meeting him I knew that Jesus had directed me to Dr Rastogi.

On 18th Feb 2013, I was admitted in a private ward. My son came down from Pune to stand by my side; by now I had the full support of my wife, daughter and son-in-law..

On 26th of February, I was taken to the Operation Theatre (OT) at 8 am. Before being taken from my Room, my family prayed to Jesus to be with me and help me. Till then I had mixed feelings of fear and anxiety.

As I entered the Operation Theatre, I committed myself fully to Jesus and I felt a calm coming into me, I could feel the omnipotent presence of Christ. The operations theatre had four doctors, all wearing green aprons and headgear. On the table were laid out instruments to be used, i.e. Electrical saw, drill, half a dozen drill bits and other paraphernalia. All of this would have been enough to frighten anybody, but I could feel the presence of Jesus's reassurance; all what I saw did not bother me. I was under anaesthesia for 2.5 hours. While I was aware of what was happening to me, I was not worried as I knew Jesus was performing his miracle through the surgeon operating on me. It was then that I truly understood that Jesus lives and Jesus Heals. Praise be to the Lord.

The rest is history. Jesus guided me through a quick recovery process. Today, by His Grace, I am able to walk freely and thank Jesus wholeheartedly for giving me the courage to go in for the surgery.



Sunday School Children Celebrating - Mothers Day 2013

क्राइस्ट चर्च, नोएडा



गिरजाघर सिर्फ एक भवन नहीं है अपितु परमेश्वर ने इसे अपने लोगों के लिए चुना है। पवित्र बाइबल (1 कुरिंथियों 3:11) हमें बताती है, “जो नीव डाल दी गई है, उसके अतिरिक्त अर्थात् यीशु मसीह के अतिरिक्त अन्य कोई नीव नहीं डाल सकता। (भजन संहिता 127:1) यदि कोई घर को प्रभु ने बनाए तो उसे बनाने वाले व्यक्ति व्यर्थ परिश्रम करते हैं।

इन सब से स्पष्ट है की प्रभु परमेश्वर न सिर्फ गिरजाघरों को बढ़ाने में मदद करता है बल्कि वह अगुवाई, एकता व धन भी प्रदान करता है।

बाइबल हमें यह भी बतलाती है की हमें चर्च क्यों जाना चाहिए। इबरांनी 10:25 में लिखा है, “हम अपनी धर्मसभाओं में एकत्र होना न छोड़ें जैसा की कुछ लोग करते हैं – क्योंकि वह दिन निकट आ गया है, इसलिए हम यह कार्य और अधिक करें।

जब मैं अपने व्यक्तिगत जीवन के बारे में सोचता हूँ तो पाता हूँ की पारिवारिक जीवन में गिरजाघर की भूमिका अहम है। चूंकि मेरा कार्यक्षेत्र औरंभ (1985) से महाविशाल विधुयुत परियोजनाओं में रहा है लिहाजा मेरी पोस्टिंग शहर से सैंकड़ों मील दूर अत्यंत वीरान स्थानों पर होती रही। इस वजह से कई वर्षों तक (लगभग 17 सालों तक हम रविवारीय आराधनाओं से दूर रहे।

लेकिन परमेश्वर के मार्ग अदभूत हैं और उसने हर एक के लिए कुछ न कुछ सोच रखा है। वर्ष 2003 में कुछ ऐसा ही हमारे साथ हुआ। हमें अप्रैल माह में नोएडा (सैंक्टर 17) में अपनी कंपनी के टाउनशिप में रहने का मौका मिला। हमने पता करना प्रारम्भ किया की सबसे नजदीकी चर्च कौन सा है? मुझे अब भी याद है की वह शुभ दिन शुक्रवार का था जब हम सपरिवार ने क्राइस्ट चर्च नोएडा में पहली बार आराधना की।

फिर हमें लगा कि नोएडा में ही रहना है तो क्यों न अपने आशियाने में रहें? उसी साल (2003 दिसम्बर) में हमने अपने लिए एक मकान बुक करवाया। लेकिन यह भी भ्रम हो रहा था कि मकान के लिए आखिर पैसे कहाँ से आएंगे? लेकिन मुझे परमेश्वर पर पूरा विश्वास था (जैसा कि यहना 14: 13-14 में लिखा है, “जो कुछ मेरे नाम से मांगोगे मैं उसे पूरा करूंगा जिससे मुझे पिता की महिमा प्रकट हो। यदि तुम मेरे नाम से कुछ भी मांगोगे तो मैं उसे पूरा करूंगा”)। सिरम्यह 29:11-12, “मैं प्रभु यह कहता हूँ कि मैंने तुम्हारी भलाई के लिए योजनाएँ बनाई हैं, बुराई के लिए नहीं ; और इन योजनाओं को अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ। मैंने तुम्हारे लिए सुखद भविष्य की योजना बनाई है। मैं तुम्हें एक आशामय भविष्य दूंगा। तब तुम मेरे नाम से आराधना करोगे और मैं तुम्हारी प्रार्थना सुनूंगा”।

इस विश्वास से मकान बुक कराने से पहले हम क्राइस्ट चर्च आए और रेवेंट कर्नल लॉरेंस मसीह ने हमारे लिए प्रार्थना की कि मकान में आनेवाली सारी बाधाएँ दूर हों। और परमेश्वर ने हमारी प्रार्थना सुन ली। फ़रवरी 2006 में बिना किसी मूल्य बढ़ोतरी के, बिना किसी संकट अथवा परेशानी के हमें मकान का कब्जा मिल गया।

उधर 2004 में हमने क्राइस्ट चर्च की सदस्यता ले ली। उसी वर्ष पादरी रेवेंट पॉल स्वरूप पधारे। उन्होंने नए जोश से कलीसिया की अगुवाई प्रारम्भ की। धीरे धीरे चर्च की आराधना में भीड़ बढ़ने लगी। अब तो स्थिती यह है कि विलंभ से आने पर अंदर जगह ही नहीं मिलती।

वर्ष 2011 में वर्तमान पादरी रेवेंट कमल मल आए। क्राइस्ट चर्च में बहुत सारे नए कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ हुए और इस वर्ष क्राइस्ट चर्च की हम रजत जयंती माना रहे हैं।

अंत में क्राइस्ट चर्च नोएडा के लिए मैं यही कहता हूँ कि

“करुणा मलाई मेरे, जीवन भर साथ रहेगी, प्रभु के भवन में सदा, स्तुति की ध्वनि रहेगी”।

आर. एम. डी. भुइया

ई - 301, शुभकामना अपार्टमेंट,

प्लॉट नंबर. एफ 31,

सैंक्टर - 50, नोएडा - 201301

Miracle of the towering inferno



On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Christ Church Noida, I want to share the secret of eternal happiness!

It may sound *clichéd* to you, as you might have heard this a million times, but the secret to true happiness is “Making God the Master of Your Destiny, Life and Soul.” Trust in Him explicitly and cast all your worries on Him, and see how He makes your life a beautiful experience for all times to come.

I am saying this through experience. Let me share a miracle that happened in the life of my family in April 2012.

We were living in Dubai at that time. We had just returned home after a great evening out when we smelt something burning.

We tried to trace the source of the smell but found nothing amiss, so we retired for the night. It was 1.50 am.

However, as the acrid smell grew stronger, my husband Akash decided to check again. As he peeped out of the balcony door, he realized to his horror that our building was on fire!

The flames had already reached the 4th floor and we knew that it was just a matter of time before they reached our apartment. The heat was already intense and we knew it was time to get out of the house.

We told our 14-year-old son Ashmit, to run down the fire escape and while Akash went after our cat Tigger, I went to the safe to retrieve our passports, valuables and documents. As I punched in the code with trembling hands it took all my courage to accomplish this simple task as the screaming fire alarm and the red flames that I could see from the window filled me with pure terror.

Living on the ninth floor, which in reality was the 15th floor as we had six floors of parking below us, I had always feared earthquakes and fires. Now that fear had turned into a living nightmare.

We had to leave Tigger behind as she had gone into hiding and we were endangering our lives by staying in the burning building.

Going down the fire escape at a considerable speed I was scared that one of us would fall. As we reached the 5th floor the lights in the stairwell went out and we had to descend the remaining stairs by the light of a cellphone.

By God's grace, we all made it down in one piece and ran to the side of the building to assess the situation.

We were appalled to see the entire side of the building on fire and the blaze was spreading rapidly.

As we watched the fire my son started crying. I hugged him and told him that it was fine because we were all safe and that was all that mattered right now.

My husband, who has always been a pillar of strength, was now in a daze. As the heat grew more intense and the glass and air conditioners started to blow up, it took all our strength to pull him away from the building as he was just standing there immobile, helplessly watching what we called our home, burn.

As we watched the fire inch closer to our apartment we held each others' hands and began praying to God that he would spare our home. My husband called our Pastor in Sharjah and asked him to pray. It was 3 am but the Pastor woke up the church prayer cell and asked them to pray for the safety of our house.

I called my sister who also lives in Dubai and our own prayer group and asked them to pray to God to spare our home from the fire.

Then for the next four hours as we watched the fire blaze in our next door neighbours' house, the house above us and two floors below us, we realized that our house was surrounded by fire from three sides and only a miracle of God could save it. We sang Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" and prayed silently for the next four hours to God to spare our home.

In all this my son Ashmit kept on telling me "ma, nothing will happen to our house as we have prayed to God."

And I prayed to God to uphold my child's faith in Him.

Then at around 9 am as my sister bundled us into her car to take us to her house we took a last look at the still blazing building and realized that overnight we had become refugees in a foreign land.

After four long days we were allowed by the police to enter the building.

We went back to the apartment and were amazed to see that even though huge burning tiles from the building fell into our living room balcony and a part of the living room curtain also caught fire the fire did not spread beyond that. It was almost as if the Hand of God stopped the fire from spreading to the whole house. Even the stuff kept in our son's bedroom balcony did not catch fire even though the melting plastic coating of the building cladding fell on it all. I am convinced that it was the result of those combined prayers that saved our home. There is no other explanation for how our house got spared. I do believe that we have had the privilege of witnessing a modern day miracle of God. We even found our cat unharmed.

What I am trying to say fellow Christians is, that If you allow Christ to rule your life, it will not become trouble free, but when we are in trouble, God will be there with us holding our hand and making it easier to go through that troubled time.

Praise the Lord.

Reena Amos Dyes

***“I have planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the increase”.***
(1 Cor.3:6)



This is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. One sows, another waters, but it is God who gives the growth. All praise and glory to Him The God who guides and directs our paths.

We were members of Green Park Free Church (GPFC). One day in the service it was announced that some of its members have shifted to Noida. The Church prayed for them. After some months it was announced in GPFC that a land for the church in Noida had been bought.

My husband Mr. K.B. Lal was working in DTC and he was transferred as Deputy General Manager to East Delhi and was allotted an official accommodation in Sector-27. So we shifted to Noida from Hauz Khas in May 1990. At that time it was like a village, with not much of a development. It was nothing in comparison to Hauz Khas-a posh colony in South Delhi.

Although here we got a very spacious house but other amenities such as a good market, places of entertainment, or an established church were not available. We discovered that there was one Methodist Hindi speaking congregation, another was the Assembly of God, where a couple of people that could be counted on fingers attended service. And the CNI church where a few members met and were having prayer meetings in the houses.

While we as a family missed the Green Park Free Church, God spoke to me that it was His will that we come to Noida. It was at this time that the founding pastor Rev. Col. Laurence Massey and Commander Mullerworth came to our residence and talked to us about joining the

church as associate members, since we still kept going to Green Park Free Church. Thus God inspired us and we made up our minds to join this congregation.

At this time some members were engaged in making the building plans of the church, while some were collecting funds for the same. The progress was slow but steady on both the fronts. A suggestion was given to worship on the site itself, even in a tent. So, with whatever meager amount we collected we put up a small room and started Sunday worship in it.

It took a lot of time in drafting the building plan and getting it passed through the Noida Authority. The other problem that we faced was a scarcity of funds. The building could not be constructed in the stipulated time period and we were required to pay the penalty. People were trying to contribute every month.

During this time the fund raising Committee had been formed and many people went out to raise funds and to ask for donations. My husband Kunj went to Jodhpur and Jaipur where he had spent most of his life before coming to Delhi. He collected a little less than Rs. 50,000/- from his family and friends. Finally the present structure was constructed.

While Rev. Col. Laurence Massey and Commander Mullerworth looked after the English Speaking people, my husband Kunj looked after the Hindi speaking people. He started conducting Hindi services in the evening and also taking cottage meetings for the Hindi speaking congregation. He continued as lay

leader and a member of the pastorate committee till his health allowed him to. I continued with our ladies prayer group till I went abroad. Even abroad I kept on praying for the church.

My humble request to all my fellow people is to keep on praying for the church, especially for God's anointing upon our presbyter-in-charge and for the youth, the future of the church. God wants quality, sincerity and truthfulness and undivided individual commitment to Him. We should not feel happy by the number of people attending the service but our lives should show to the world outside that Christ is in our daily life, all seven days a week. A good friendship needs meeting with each other and supporting

each other in everything we do. In like manner a good fellowship with God requires us to daily seek His grace and we should walk a closer walk with Him. He is waiting to be our friend. Are we ready to be His friend? Our lives are the only gospel which some people may ever read. Let us all grow in faith and love for Jesus. Our spiritual growth depends upon how much time we spend alone with Him.

Thanks and praise to our Father and God Almighty who hears our prayers and answers it in His time.

Mrs. Premila Lal





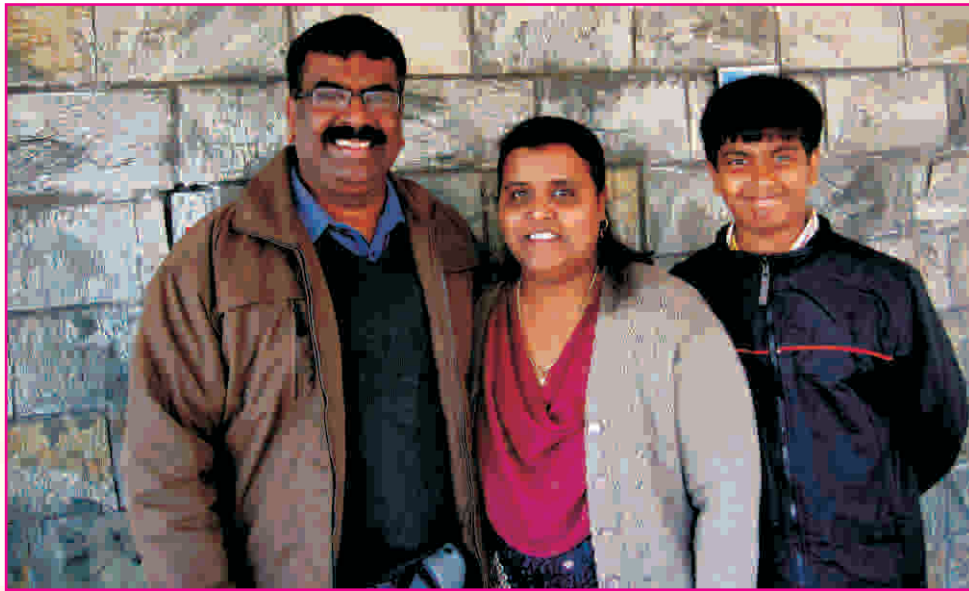
Lost AND Found

A mystery filled childhood was followed by a tumultuous teenage; an anxiety filled adulthood culminated into a disillusioned married life. What a roller-coaster ride before she stepped into her middle-age. But a worthy ride it was, with enough experiences to draw her closer to God. So close that her naïve prayers changed into fervent extensive conversations with God.

He listened to her like never before, making her feel His presence around her all the time. He responded to her by ushering into her life a new dawn of wisdom. This was followed by mystical experiences and myriads of miracles along with moments of self-healing. All this stilled her turbulence resulting from a perpetual war between the head and the heart. Pangs of guilt began to thaw with a compassionate understanding of its very source.

God saw it all. He had forgiven her and pronounced her "not guilty". Amazing Grace that found a sheep lost in Life's wilderness!!

Vinita Caswell



FRANKLIN'S TESTIMONY

Our family, KFC, Kevin, Franklin, Christy, moved to Noida in the year 2002 and we started worshipping in CNI Christ Church Noida from 2003 onwards. During our initial days in the Church, we used to see very limited families and we were ALIENS in the church those days.

We decided to attend Church worship service without fail every Sunday. We had to face severe hardship in Noida as my family, totally cut off from our family at Tamilnadu, had various problems with no knowledge of Hindi, no transport facility, no friends, and so many more.

But we had belief & faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and we started attending Wednesday Family Prayers in our Church under the guidance of our beloved Pastor, Rev. D. S. Paul Swarup and we could see the change in our life.

The Lord lifted us high and poured immense Blessings on us. As the Bible verse carved on our Church wall says "Surely God is in this Place" - Gen 28:16, we are filled with God's presence every moment when we step into Christ Church Noida and we can feel His Holy Spirit in the church. God has blessed us with new career opportunities and lifted us to higher positions in life. We made lifted ourselves committed to Church activities on our own as taught by our parents and involved ourselves in various activities. After every activity that is completed by us in our Church, God multiplies his blessings on us. We saw PLENTY in every aspect of life and we are so happy to be part of this Church fellowship filled with lot of Friends, Well Wishers, Uncles & Aunties, Brothers and sisters.

ALL PRAISE and GLORY TO OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Amen.

By

Er. Victor Franklin.

**Testimony
of
Lilly Abraham**



**When I walked through the Valley of the shadow of Death
My Lord carried me in his arms.**

I was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer one year after my retirement on July 8th 2010. It was my daughter in law- Dr. Vinita Mani Daniel, who found it out at a stage where it could be treated. I remember on the day I was diagnosed with Cancer, only she was able to pray to the Lord and ask Him to make it possible for me to touch His cloak so that I could be healed.

When the news of my having Cancer was broken to my family, they were devastated. My children wept alongwith my husband .I was the one who did not cry. God gave me the strength that I did not know I possessed to pacify my family. My grandson Rohan, who was in Class 1 at that time told his catechism teacher in school that the teacher should pray for his Ammachi (grandmother). All the little ones closed their eyes and prayed for me alongwith their teacher.

We started worship at Christ Church Noida in the year 2000. The fellowship that we found was warm and loving. As the years passed and Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup and his wonderful family came in, we became more and more involved in the church.

I got an opportunity to serve the Lord as President of the Women's Fellowship in the year 2008 till the time that I was diagnosed with cancer. I remember with great fondness the comforting words of advice and prayer support that I received from Rev. Paul and his wife Nina. The pink Bible that he has gifted me remains one of my treasured possessions.

The entire church has kept me in their prayers my friends and even people I did not know. As a teacher in St. Xavier's School Delhi, I have taught children Mathematics for 38 years but the fight against this disease has been beyond all calculations. It has been a journey of faith. Over the last three and a half years I have undergone 20 chemotherapies and 2 major surgeries, but the power of prayer has made it sure that not only can I pray but I can drive to church for Sunday worship and do all that I had been doing all along.

If the Lord has given me an adversity, then he has also made sure that I have had the resources to overcome it. The loving doctors of our church Dr. Deepti Cecil, Dr. Lucky Chandekar have always been just a phone call away. The prayer groups and pastors right from Rev. Col. Massey to Rev. Kamal Mall have been guiding lights. My friends from the WFCS, especially Shirley Ramsey who always called me after my chemotherapies, Mrs. Manorama Lukose, Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, Late Mrs. Radhika Judd and Mrs. Ruth Nath among others reminded me that I was not alone. Every single church member has always asked about me whenever I have been away for my treatment.

The journey has not been easy. The physical pain of recovering from surgery, of ordinary blood tests that for normal people take only a minute took 20 minutes and multiple pokes as veins could not be found. Loss of hair and hope, moments of asking why me.

But through it all I found the strength to go on, my faith remains my anchor. Our church is a wonderful place of fellowship and I thank God that I was able to be part of its wonderful journey and hope that in its onward march it touches many more lives like mine.

Mrs. Lilly Abraham.

WHAT *Cancer* CANNOT TAKE AWAY FROM YOU

It cannot take away
Your *faith*, shatter your *hope*
Or lessen your *love*.
It cannot destroy true *friendship*,
Invade the soul or take away *eternal life*
It cannot conquer your *spirit*.

WALK IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY

By Christy Franklin



Who is worthy to live with GOD - PSALM 15

1. Examine our **Walk** - V2 *He whose **Walk** is blameless*
2. Examine our **Work** - V2 *And who **does** what is **righteous**,*
3. Examine our **Words** - V2 ***who speaks** the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue'. Psalm 15:2*
4. Examine our **Wealth** - V4 - V5 *'Who **despises** a vile man
But honours those who fear the Lord
Who keeps his oath even when it hurts
Who **lends his money without usury**
And does not accept a bribe against the Innocent.'
Psalm 15:4, 5*

Simple way to memorize Scripture

1. Read it
2. Write it
3. Hear it
4. Recite it

St. Paul was the most successful Christian and a successful Missionary that ever lived:

Four Secrets for his success:

1. In whatever state I am, I am content **Phil. 4:11**
'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances' Philippians 4:11
2. I am crucified with Christ **Gal 2: 20**
'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body. I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' Galatians 2:20
3. I am the least of the Apostle, **Eph 3:8**
'Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.' Ephesians 2:8
4. I am pressing on. **Phil 3:14**
'Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus' Philippians 3:14

Contentment - Cross Humility Forward be like Paul.

MY LORD, MY SAVIOUR

My Lord, my saviour
You make me believe
That I'm not a failure.
You love everyone same
The priest or the sinner
Whoever walks with you,
is destined to be a winner
I trust and obey
I believe in what you say
For you are the light
You are the way
With you, I do what is right
Be it night, or be it day
Your name makes evil tremble
Your word makes the vain humble
In you, the blind shall see
All troubles will flee
The deaf will hear
And live with no fear
My Lord, my saviour
Make your presence known
Tell the world, that you are now here.

-Ashmit Dyes



FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH AND SCRIPTURES



J Solomon

All of us here in India live in a society where a majority of our friends, neighbors and associates are non-Christians. Some of them could be non-religious but quite a large section are devout Hindus who are proud of their Faith and are not shy of validating their Faith before us, Christians. Sometimes they could be derisive of our Faith and of Christians. In fact my friend and car pool mate stated that all Christians he had met so far have been duds and that he regards Christianity as a dud religion. Sometimes he would pick up some aspect of Christian belief and try to trivialize or deride it as for example the idea of "Sin". It is times like these that present us opportunities to respond and explain our Faith in a manner that makes sense to them, without hurting their feelings or deriding their religion in return. These responses lay the foundation before our non-Christian friends before they can begin to really understand the meaning of what John 3:16 says and the Theology of the Christian Faith. Hence this article tries to bring out the aspects of our Faith and Scriptures that are unique and constitute its strength in the face of other Faiths.

1) THE BIBLE-AUTHORSHIP AND RELIABILITY OF ITS TEXTS.

The Bible has been written by human beings and as we believe it, is divinely inspired. Not one Author had coordinated its creation. It has been written by about 40 different authors over a span of 1500 years, who for the most part did not know each other in person. Authors were from different social and occupational backgrounds and circumstances. ***it germinated from a collective human experience which in combination makes it divine-Just like various body parts of a human body which in isolation constitutes merely cells of various types, but in combination, make up human life and spirit.*** Thus the Bible is unique and varied in its Authorship, yet it is a Book of marvelous organic. The Bible is testified by the largest number of manuscripts for any Ancient book (20,000). The entire New Testament was within 50-60 years from the crucifixion and resurrection, the earliest parts being completed within 30 years. The Biography of Mohammed who in the Quran lived from 570 AD to 632 AD was not written till 767 AD. The records of Hindu scriptures are steeped in mythology that make it difficult to establish their authenticity or their historicity. The Bible is bereft of Hype and Make Believe and makes very tall claims. Because of its claims, the Bible has become a book that has been the most widely researched upon, so minutely scrutinized, the most virulently attacked and successfully defended, so enormously written about, the most widely translated and circulated in the history and geography of man. There has been no book that has affected the life of man on this earth, as much the Bible.

2) ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Biblical Archaeology began in the late 1860s and many excavations have been done since. Though Archaeological finds cannot be the final proof of historical events, nor be complete, ***to the extent archaeology could explore excavations in the Middle East, the finds immensely support the historical references made in the Bible.*** John Garstang and W.F. Albright accomplished Biblical explorers have this to say ***"Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details of the Bible as a source of history"***.

3) SECULAR HISTORIANS AND THE BIBLE.

Charles Templeton and Billy Graham began their evangelical ministries at around the same time. Both co-founded the Youth for Christ International. However, Templeton soon became an Atheist because he felt among other reasons that church bases its claims totally on the teachings of an obscure Jew with messianic pretensions and there is no reference to him in any secular writing whatsoever. But according to Edwin Yamauchi a leading Historian, Linguist and Philosopher, Templeton's history is simply mistaken. Edwin Yamauchi has spent more than 40 years studying ancient history and archeology. He cites Josephus, Tacitus and Pliny as Non-Biblical writers/rulers who refer to "Jesus" in one way or the other, apart from references to Jesus in the Jewish TALMIUD.

4) PROPHECIES AND THE BIBLE

Prophecies are a bold and unique aspect of the Bible. The Bible has 1189 chapters. Prophecies are embedded in many of these chapters. It has been estimated that there are around 2500 prophecies, 2000 of them fulfilled already including the birth of the Messiah and the history of Israel to modern times. This is a unique feature of the bible as futuristic prophecies are conspicuously absent from other scriptures.

5) WORLD VIEWS AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SCIENCE-CHRISTAIN FOUNDATIONS

Essentially the Christian world view differentiates the Creator from the created, unlike most pagan world views. It regards God as a lover of Truth and Justice who has placed the dominion of the created world under the lordship of man (Gen 9:1-7) and has endowed man with Free Will to make his own decisions, while remaining accountable to Him for those decisions. Under this scheme of things man is encouraged to undertake the pursuit of Truth in line with God's nature (John 4:24, John 8:32) in the process of which are born these three elements, namely the desire for Freedom, the Spirit of Enquiry and Pursuit Truth. In the natural world this led to the birth of modern science, unlike Islamic societies where the freedom of the individual is largely restricted and in Paganism, Truth is largely regarded as relative and specific to cultures. Thus, **It is no accident that modern Science was born in pre-dominantly Christian societies that constituted the western world. 25% of Nobel Prizes have gone to people of Jewish origin whose cultural background is greatly influenced by the God of the Bible. Many a scientist had acknowledged the inspiration of the scriptures, that provided the basis, motivation and inspiration for his study and observations, most of whom were Christians.**

6) EARLY CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

Starting from **Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)**, Astronomy; **GalelioGalilei (1564-1642)**, founder of modern mechanics and experimental physics, including **Issac Newton (1642-1727)** who discovered the laws of gravity, there is an almost endless list which includes many recent scientists as well. However with the advent of Darwinism, many scientists had turned to Atheism. Yet, since 1970, Atheism has begun to loose ground and scientists are beginning to once again appreciate the validity of the Bible.

7) SCIENCE MIRACLES AND THE BIBLE.

There are many skeptics including scientists who believe that miracles do not exist, and dismiss the credibility of the Bible as it deals with a great number of miracles. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent even to scientists that complex life forms cannot emerge and live without

the aid or opportunity provided by an intelligent and powerful creator. Believing scientists call the process of event that led to the formation of the Universe and Life Forms as Fine Tuned Universe. Hugh Norman Ross, a Canadian born astronomer and a Christian apologist estimates the degree of precision under which our Universe, Galaxies, Stars, Planets and our Solar system function, under the operation of fundamental physical forces, considering of 77 parameters, as being 10^{23} . This implies that for a chance happening (luck as some would like to call it), the odds are 1/10 followed by 23 zeros strongly suggesting there is a creator responsible for creation, making miracles a part of our every day life.

8) EVIDENCE FOR THE CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Accepting now that miracles are a part of our existence, we shall briefly explore the cumulative evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus. There are various distracting theories that keep appearing now and then in Novels, Newspapers, Magazines, Articles and Books claiming to shake the foundations of the Christian Faith with scholarly pretense, but many of them with a view to make a quick buck in the market or to discredit the Faith. Some claim that Jesus never died on the cross but managed to somehow escape from it, with a look alike taking his place. Others claim that Jesus never resurrected but that it is simply a 3rd century Christian legend. Between the two theories, there many variations afloat. We must keep in mind that our non-Christian friends simply go by these theories and don't hesitate to provide us insights on these.

We need to only apply our mind that from the time Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane to the time He was crucified, died on the cross and was buried in a tomb, the custody of Jesus was in the hands of Roman and Jewish Authorities and a host of hostile witnesses, leaving no room for imposters or look-alikes to take Jesus' place. As it happened, the disciples began to believe his resurrection from the third day on and to report the same publicly at the cost of their own lives, if they had lied. In any case, It was also open to both the Jewish leadership and the Roman authorities to simply chip open the tomb and produce the decaying body of Jesus to defeat the lie of the disciples, if all they did so. But this did not happen. Then there were the Appearances of Jesus for a broad spectrum of people of different persuasions. They were not merely visions but entailed physical participation of those involved. Like eating together, walking together and talking together, involving dramatic changes in the lives of those who encountered these appearances. All these events directionally making the cumulative case for the Resurrection compulsive, without which the birth of the Christian Faith would not have taken place.

Thus it was that the Christian Faith was born. Then, there is another strain of evidence that is experiential. It is in the transformation that has occurred in the lives of millions of people all across the globe over the ages since Christianity was born, people from varied societies, cultures, economic status, educational levels, the initiated and those not, skeptics and proponents, the emotional and the rational alike, who would testify that the Resurrection was the reason for a very fundamental change in their lives. ***Resurrection therefore, remains to this day the single most significant event that changed the course of human history.***

J Solomon



ACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL

FANCY DRESS AT MAHASANGITI

NGWA CHILDREN'S FEST

PRAISE & WORSHIP MAHASANGITI

QAWWALI BY R.K. PURAN CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH MEHRAULI

SUZANNA RABINDRAN 2ND PRIZE BIBLE QUIZ

THROW BALL

VOLLEY BALL DASHING DANIELS GIVING THEIR BEST

SILVER JUBILEE COMMITTEE THE INSIDE STORY



It was a chilly winter evening on the 28th of February when the first meeting of the Silver Jubilee Committee was organized in the Sunday School premises. We were an eclectic bunch of varying ages and skill sets. A pastor and ordinand, an outreach project coordinator, a senior faculty of a research institute, a legally inclined businessman, a student and an orthopedician.

Our convenor and guide Rev. Kamal Mall briefed us on the task ahead; to design and execute activities to celebrate the establishment of our church and its journey over the last 25 years.

The need for a logo, a theme and a bible verse to appropriately depict the journey of our church was identified. After several rounds of prayer and brain storming; the theme was chosen from the book of Nehemiah 2 :18 - “ Arise and Build “. The verse from Colossians 2:7 “ Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness “ was identified as the one which not only brought out the journey of this church from a makeshift structure with a corrugated roof to the magnificent edifice that stands today; but also that it was the faith of those who started the journey and of those that followed that made all this possible.

The journey of the SJC had by now started gathering momentum; the logo competition was announced and entries started pouring in. Each entry astounded us with its detail and grandeur. The next few rounds of meetings were spent in listing various activities that could be executed every month. As a group we started to come together and the pieces of the jigsaw were falling into place. We also discovered our affinity to the concept of food for thought with special inclination to the humble samosa.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations started in right earnest with the tree plantation right after the Easter Service. The focus and planning then moved onto the Health Camp .

On successive Sundays the members of the SJC addressed the congregation with a call for volunteers. Our faith was truly tested as after the first few calls six volunteers turned up. We started to feel like Simon in our own right ;” for we toiled all night but caught nothing “ - Luke 5 :11 . But the power of prayer at the SJC review meet worked wonders a final call was made to the congregation and the number of volunteers grew to more than 60 ! “And then they caught so many that their nets were breaking “ - Luke 5 : 6 . This volunteer group database was put in place for all future events.

Our prayers were also answered as we welcomed on board a fellow traveller our own computer ji Vinay Ralph who with the health camp joined us in the SJC in our onward march.

The events as you will read in the pages ahead followed one after the other with break neck speed and regularity. As soon as one was over we were down to preparing for the next. The experiences have been wonderful and will last us a life time. Seeing our volunteers distributing



Tree Plantation Easter 2013

the health camp pamphlets at Metro stations, moving into villages while hanging out of auto rickshaws with announcers in tow; of our men & women ; young and old calling and co ordinating for weeks with their respective groups from other churches for their retreats; of the four church teams who responded magnificently to all the events especially the Mahasangati and sports. The children who came in their hundreds for VBS and the NCWA childrens fest and sang and danced for the Lord reassured us that the promise of a greater tomorrow holds true.

A special word for the wonderful captains and vice captains who made calls, updated their databases and chased down the members for their teams. The Daniels were dashing, the Peters truly rocked, the John's thundered, we marveled at the efficient Marks.

Our attempt has been in keeping with our theme that of arising as a congregation and building our fellowship. Our events have ensured that across the Diocese and around the city of NOIDA there is an awareness of our church and its Silver Jubilee celebration.

This journey of the last 10 months has been an eye opener. The future beckons our church with great promise and it is upto us as a congregation to utilize this opportunity. Can we sustain this momentum and build it up so that our journey of the next 25 years is as fruitful as the one gone by ? We look towards the churches worldwide and see dipping attendance and closing establishments. We must continue to create church and bible centered activities to keep our youth and children - the *Gen Next* within our churches.

Based on our experiences the Silver Jubilee Committee has submitted proposals for area prayer groups and a men's fellowship to the honorable pastorate committee and these proposals have been accepted in principal.

We as a group have felt and experienced the joys of coming together for our church and our lord. The months gone by have been moments of great fellowship. Each of us were blessed with different fruits of the spirit but in coming together we were able to create some memorable moments .

We thank our pastor and convener Rev. Kamal Mall who has been guide, counselor, volunteer all rolled in one and the singular “*go to*” person all along. Without his leadership these events would not even have gotten off the drawing board. We also thank the entire congregation who tithed their time to Christ and without whose whole hearted participation these celebrations would have remained muted. We express our gratitude to the Hon pastorate committee both past and present for their unstinting support.

Most of all we thank our Lord for his blessings on the little committee which came together in his name and for his greater glory.

In gratitude

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee

Sachin Daniel Abraham.

The Silver Jubilee Committee of Christ Church Noida



Rev. Kamal Mall
Convenor
The Pastor



Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee
Member
The Outreach Co-ordinator



Dr. Mrs. Helen Sekar
Member
The Senior Faculty



Dr. Kanishka Williams
Member
The Orthopedician



Ms. Margret Meshy
Member
The Student



Mr. Sachin Daniel
Member
The legally inclined businessman



Mr. Vinay Ralph
Member
The Computer Ji



Ord. Varun Alfred
Member
The Ordinand

Events & Activities organized by the Silver Jubilee Committee

Tree Plantation - March

Health Camp - April

VBS - June

Women's Retreat - July

Mahasangati - August

Men's Retreat - September

Children's Fest - October

Sports Fest - September /October / November.

Grand Finale - November.

Report on the Health and Wellness Camp.
Organised by
St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi
and
Christ Church Noida.



Date : 28/4/2013

Venue : Christ Church, Noida

On the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations it was decided to organize a health and wellness camp on 28th of April 2013. St Stephen's Hospital Delhi kindly consented to partner us in this noble endeavor. The doctors and medical staff arrived for the health camp during the Sunday morning service. They were given a warm welcome and were introduced to all the members of the church during the service. Once the church service ended the registration counters were opened. The registration counters were crowded with patients and volunteers at these counters made prescription slips to guide them to various consultation areas.

The medical teams were divided in three areas. The medical specialists and ECG technicians were sitting in the Sunday school room. This room also housed the medical staff doing the sugar test. The orthopaedicians, the physiotherapists and persons doing bone densitometry were housed in a tent towards the eastern end of the church. The parish hall turned into a make shift clinic for the gynecologists, dentists and the dietician. This room also saw our specialists from oncology and paediatrics rendering their services to the patients.

The formal inauguration of the camp was done by our local MLA Dr. Mahesh Sharma. In his address to the parish he acknowledged the role played by Christians in the health and social sector. After the inauguration he visited the doctors and wished them luck.

It was a blessing to see the number of patients turning up for the camp. The numbers kept growing throughout the day. By the end of the day there were close to 800 patients. These patients had wide spectrum of diseases. This camp was distinct as it picked a close to 50 new diabetics, which in any setting is a high pick up rate.

Members of NCWA and local orphanages benefited from the camp. They visited in large numbers and made use of the opportunity to take expert advice from the medical professionals.

The volunteers in the camp played a pivotal role on the day of the health camp. Not only were they seen helping patients to reach the doctors but also played a crucial part in maintaining discipline and controlling crowds. Although the weather was very hot, they managed the registration area professionally and diligently. The Women's fellowship put up a stall which served cold water, soft drinks and light snacks throughout the day to the doctors, medical staff, volunteers and patients. Their role was critical during the camp.

The camp concluded with a small ceremony presided over by Ex Naval Chief, Admiral Sushil Kumar. His words of inspiration were instrumental in bringing a smile to each member present. Members of the health camp were given a certificate and memento and their contribution was acknowledged.

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee, I express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of our church to have helped in making this camp a resounding success. Even though there were many challenges, we did manage to be of assistance to a large number of patients. It showed that all members can get together and work for a common cause which is beneficial to the society in general. I hope that this initiative can be replicated in the future.

Kanishka Williams



Health and Wellness Camp








Christ Church NOIDA **Women's Retreat**

13 July 2013 Time 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
No. of Participants 170 from 20 Churches

1. Retreat began with a prayer by Rev. Kamal Mall, Presbyterian-in-charge Christ Church NOIDA.
2. This was followed by Devotional songs by Mrs. Neeta Mall, Michelle & Minhael Mall,
3. On behalf of the Women's Fellowship, Christ Church, President Mrs. Shannon Mukha, warmly welcomed Mrs. Sherylyn Hitter, the resource person for the day. Wife of Rev. Mohit Hitter of St. James Church, Mrs. Hitter is a BD in her own right and headed a Project on AIDS at Mumbai. She is associated with the Evangelical Hospital Association, and Faith Academy School where she imparts Biblical Education. She was invited to take the first session on Prayer & Devotion.

Session I - Prayer & Devotion




 Topics Covered ---

-  Importance of Building Relationships within the Family - with Parents, siblings, children, and in-laws.
-  Relationships should be Christ centred e.g. Naomi & Ruth
-  Relationships with friends e.g. David & Jonathon
-  Relationships built on LOVE
-  Relationships within the Church Community built on love and faith. References Samuel 15 and Acts 15:
-  Building Society - Service in love Reference Acts 9: 36, e.g. Tabitha and in modern times Mother Teresa. Quest :- Do people see Christ in us?
-  If we are one in Spirit, we are one in the Lord

The session was closed with a prayer.

4. Chief Guest Mrs. Vineeta Shaw arrived and was acknowledged and welcomed by Mrs. Neeta Mall
5. Mrs. Manorama Lukose was invited to give a brief history of Women's Fellowship in NOIDA
6. This was followed by distribution of slips for an Ice-breaker ---- Groups formed were of Flowers, Vegetables, Food, Animals, Birds, Languages, Nations, Transports, Sports, Rivers, Hill Stations,

Session II Roll of Women in Society

7. The Guest Speaker, Mrs. Vineeta Shaw was introduced by Dr. Mrs. Helen Sekar and warmly welcomed by the President WFCS NOIDA Mrs. Shannon Mukha.
 -  Mrs. Shaw is a journalist by profession, former CEO of Trans World Radio India, with 20 years experience in Radio and print, and has authored two books.
 -  She is currently the CEO of Disha Foundation, a non-profit organization.
 -  Wife of Rev. Timothy Shaw, she serves on the International Council of World Evangelical Alliance and Evangelical Fellowship of India and is a strong advocate of rights of women and children.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2013



**SINGING PRAISES
UNTO THE LORD!**



**FELICITATING THE RESOURCE
PERSON MRS. VINITA SHAWN**




**SHANTI NIWAS CHURCH
FARIDABAD
REJOICE IN THE
LORD ALWAYS!**




**WOMEN'S RETREAT
CONVENOR
MRS. NEETA MALL**

Mrs. Shaw opened with a prayer and began her session was an audio-visual presentation. Questions Posed ---

- A. What is the purpose of this gathering?
- B. What does it mean to be a Christian?
- C. What does Christ want from us?
- D. Who is a Christian?

 Are we here as Conference Hoppers, or is the purpose to get away from home and its responsibilities for a day. Christian women need to see themselves as a 'Power Group' capable of much action. They are a Select Action Group which can achieve much with proper direction.

 The state of women, children, youth are dependant on how we view ourselves; whether as the down-trodden tribe, or those who strengthen Christian beliefs in children ---- signs of the times place of the girl-child in society, acid throwing youth, inter-faith marriages, rebellion women must be able to guide children through all this.

 Women need to be more assertive when it comes to status of women in society; not just accept the culturally allotted roll but Christian perspective.

 Just being born in a Christian family does not make us Christian but our commitment and relationship with Christ.

 Women can wield a positive influence as biblically shown by Mary, Esther, Lydia

 Or negative influence like Eve, Rebekah, Sarah

 Jesus put women in the spot-light as depicted by influential women of the Bible

- a) Man and woman made in the image of God
- b) Man and woman meant to complement each other not compete with each other
- c) Male and female have different attributes to be used in complementary manner
- d) The risen Christ appeared first to the women

She closed with a few quotes by Anne Frank, Roosevelt, Wolfgang.

Question to ask ourselves what influence we can make on others and in what field?

Questions raised for group discussion ---

 How can we influence our Family?

 How can we influence our Church?

 How can we influence our Society?

This was followed by Group Discussions and Presentations by 11 groups and some individuals.

8. This was followed by a break for lunch

9. Post lunch there was a Quiz where participants re-grouped Church-wise. Theme was 'Women of the New Testament'. Twelve Churches participated. The quiz was prepared and conducted by Mrs. Rita David with the aid of audio-visual. There were 5 rounds with 20 points for each question; marks on 100.

10. Score were as follows:

i)	Aashirwad Church (MayurVihar)	40	
ii)	Faith Academy (School)	80	2 nd
iii)	Bethel Methodist (NOIDA)	60	
iv)	St. Stephen's (Old Delhi)	80	3 rd

v)	Shantinivas Church (Faridabad)	60	
vi)	St.John's(Mehrauli)	60	
vii)	Christ Church NOIDA	60	
viii)	Free Church (Parliament St.)	100	1 st
ix)	Calvery Church	60	
x)	St.Mary's church (NOIDA)	60	
xi)	Epiphany Church (Gurgaon)	40	
xii)	United Church (RK Puram)	80	

11. Barring Epiphany and St. Mary's Church all participated in the group singing competition which was mostly in hindi.
12. Winners were ---
- | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| i) | Faith Academy | 1 st |
| ii) | St. John's (Mehrauli) | 2 nd |
| iii) | United Church (R.K. Puram) | 3 rd |
13. Prize Distribution followed with Mrs. Lily Abraham and Kamna Cowasjee giving away the prizes.
14. Session closed with vote of thanks by Mrs. Mukha and prayer by Pastor Kamal Mall.
15. Each participant was presented with amemento in the form of a magnetic sticker (6"x4") of Christ Church NOIDA as a token of appreciation.
16. This was followed by refreshments.

Compiled by WFCS, CCN

**Mahasangati
organized at Christ Church Noida
on 15th August 2013.**



*Make a joyful noise to the lord, all the lands. Serve the lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing (Psalm 100 : 1-2)*

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations the Christ Church Mahasangati was organized and held at the parish hall of our church on the 15th of August 2013.

The customary tradition for the August 15th Independence Day celebration at CCN entailed the parishioners gathering for prayer, followed by Flag hoisting, singing of the national anthem and distribution of ladoos.

This August 15th things were a bit different this was the year when we were celebrating 25 years of our Church's establishment. In the run up to the event the entire congregation was divided on the basis on the Lenten prayer groups into four houses Dashing Daniels, Marveling Marks, Rocking Peters and Thundering John's. The months and weeks preceding had been filled with evening practices of songs and bible quiz by the house teams.

The day started with everyone congregating at the Church gate for a prayer. The National Flag was hoisted by our pastor Rev.Kamal Mall and ladoos were distributed among the assembled parishnors. The congregation then moved up to the parish hall and post registration were seated in their respective houses.

The Mahasangati commenced with a praise and worship session led by Mr. Ronald Das. Ord. Varun Alfred then spoke on Jeremiah 24:12.

A fancy dress competition for children up to the age group of 10 yrs was organized based on the theme of "Unity in Diversity States of India ". Dressed in different state attires our children reminded us that our church is a mirror of India people from different states coming together to worship the lord as one body in Christ.

The competitions then commenced with the Quick bible reading, teams of 6 members per house saw each of the enthusiastic participants display their skills. This was followed by the bible quiz wherein each team comprising 4 members each participated the quiz was based on the book of Nehemiah & the Acts of the Apostles. There were a total of 4 rounds per book of which one round was the visual round.



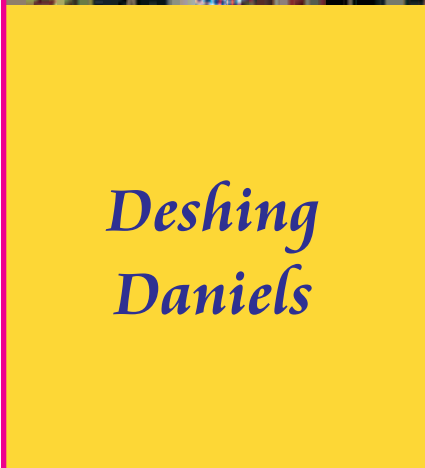
*Marvelling
Marks*



*Rocking
Peters*



*Thundering
Johns*



*Deshing
Daniels*



In keeping with saving the best for the last the singers entered and each house took turns at what can only be described as an eye opener in terms of the sheer talents that exist in the congregation. Bishop , pastor and laity , deaf fellowship - all took part enthusiastically making this a wonderful occasion.

While the judges tabulated the results the deaf fellowship put up a skit which had the audience spellbound. A full bible quiz for the entire congregation on a questionnaire format rounded up the last leg of the competetions. The results were tabulated and declared and the Mahasangati brought to a close with the closing prayer and benediction by Bishop Santram.

The congregation then disbursed for lunch. On final tabulation the entire participation for the Mahasangati was recorded at more than 315 parishioners.

The lingering images of the Mahasangati are many; be it our children depicting the unity in diversity not only of India but also our church which is a cornucopia and melting pot of the languages and cultures of India. The deaf fellowship taking part in the group songs by sign language; offering a glimpse into their world one filled with love and positivity. The participants of the quick bible reading resembling jumping jacks with their enthusiasm to score first. The quiz team members running to touch and point out the correct location in the maps instead of using their laser pointers!

Or was it the judge's comments of having been amazed to see the Pastor and Ordinand taking part in the group song for Rocking Peter and then even more so when the bishop joined the Thundering John's and stood and sang as only he could from the heart.

But as a Silver Jubilee Committee the abiding image is not from the day of the Mahasangati but the evening previous when all the houses turned up for one final on stage practice and while each performed the others not only sat patiently but after the rendition of the song applauded the effort of the team on stage. Showing truly that our fellowship is strong and our future bright.

On behalf of the Silver Jubilee Committee

Sachin Daniel Abraham.

Report on Men's Retreat celebrated on Saturday, 14 September, 2013



The Men's Retreat was held on Saturday 14 September, 2013.

The event was held in the Parish Hall of Christ Church Noida from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The speaker for the day was Rev. Mohit Hitter, Presbyter in Charge of St. James Church, Delhi.

The theme for the day was: "Arise & Build The Role of a Christian Man in Building the Family and the Society."

Preparation for the Event: Silver Jubilee Committee

The Silver Jubilee Committee started preparations for the day almost two months prior to the event. Specific responsibilities were earmarked and distributed among the members to facilitate in making the day successful. Most important was to ensure participation of as many Men from Churches in Delhi and the NCR region. For this some of us were given the responsibility of speaking to Pastors of various churches to ensure participation of their Church in the Retreat and make announcements of the event in their churches. Thanks to this systematic planning and follow-up mobilisation for the event was possible.

Participation

About 60 men from various churches participated in the Men's Retreat.

They were:

1. United Church, RK Puram
2. Aashirwad Church, Mayur Vihar
3. St. James Church, Old Delhi
4. Bethel Methodist Church, NOIDA
5. Shanti Niwas Church, Faridabad
6. Marthoma Church, NOIDA
7. Assembly of God, NOIDA
8. Christ Church, NOIDA

Opening Prayer & Praise & Worship :

The program started with an Opening Prayer for the Men's Retreat by Rev. Kamal Mall.

This was followed by Praise & Worship led by Mr. Ronald Das and accompanied by Ord. Varun on the Drums and some of the participants from our Church. Some old and some new songs were sung and everyone joined in.

Anchor for the Event:

The anchor of the Men's Retreat was Mr. Prateek Jaswant who conducted the order of the day with grace and depth. He welcomed the guests and also introduced the speaker for the day Rev. Mohit Hitter. After every event, he recapped and then introduced the next agendas / programs of the day in a way that was helpful to the audience to attend to the deeper message and significance.

Ice Breaker: Getting to know each other

After the Praise & Worship, an Ice Breaker was conducted by Mr. Vicky Tuck and Mr. Luke Chandekar. They invited and encouraged each participant to share what gifts God has blessed them with.

After the Ice Breaker Mr. Prateek Jaswant invited Rev. Mohit Hitter to share the Word.

Key Message: The Model of Eli bringing up his sons

Rev. Mohit Hitter beautifully helped us to understand the concept of raising Godly children and the Gold standard of upbringing, rooted in the Bible by giving two examples that of Eli and Jacob.

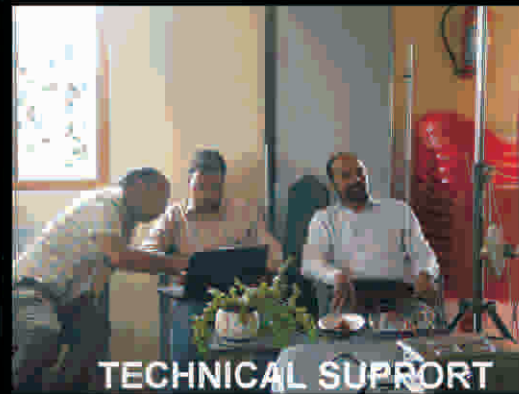
He introduced his key message with the illustration of how families initially used to feel proud about their young children's achievements on joining well paid call centre jobs. However very soon the same families regretted this decision as their young children would start to go astray with their new found wealth and lose their ability to correct children once they start earning.

The Biblical parallel to this was drawn from the family life of Eli, the Priest and his ineffectiveness in dealing with his boys. He could not stop his young sons from grabbing the best portion of the sacrifice from the cauldron, before it was presented to the Lord. The same sacrifice was recycled back in the Synagogue market run by the mafia of his sons.

Rev. Mohit Hitter examined on why the father Eli, a respected priest himself who knew right from wrong like no one else, became ineffective in admonishing his sons and stopping them in their wrong habits.

- What makes us to stop from speaking out the obvious, especially in a home situation and with loved ones?
- What is the role of the Church (as a community) and the family in making sure that we remain faithful to the Lord and speak up before it is too late?

MEN'S RETREAT 2013



From here he helped the audience to examine what would make the Church more effective and contemporary in dealing with present day issues. What is the role of those in leadership positions in the Church.

He shared his message through a very well made power point presentation. The entire message lasted for about 90 minutes.

After the Key message, the Fellowship broke for lunch.

Lunch: Chinese for a Change!

Immediately after the talk and presentation the team broke for lunch.

For a change, lunch was Chinese very delicious Chicken Manchurian, Rice and Noodles.

The Group discussion was based upon the two questions:

1. What are the reasons for the differences between the members of the church and how to resolve them?
2. What is expected to make the Church leaders contemporary and connected to the Lord

The Men' Retreat was distributed into 5 groups to facilitate good discussion in groups with the questions divided between them and a powerful recap in plenary.

In the plenary each group leader presented in a meaningful way the key discussion points and what the group felt was the key takeaway.

The last two program items of the day were the Song Competition and Bible Quiz.

Song Competition:

RK Puram Church presented beautiful kawalis with matka, chimta and harmonium accompaniment. A couple of original compositions were presented. They were awarded the first prize in the competition.

Ashirwad Church and Christ Church Noida also presented group songs.

Bible Quiz:

A very interesting quiz was conducted on the Book of Acts by Wg. Cdr. Reginald Mukha. He conducted the quiz with energy and humour ensuring very good participation. The quiz was open to all participants and was not conducted church wise.

Solo Singing:

While the quiz scores were being tabulated individuals from the Fellowship came forward and presented solo songs.

- Mr. Rajiv Dayal from the Faridabad Church presented a beautiful song.
- There was a heart touching performance of Amazing Grace by Mr. Vijay Russel.
- Our own Mr. Edwin Levi sang his signature Hindi Bhajan Khuljayengi Kitabe which was much appreciated by everyone.

The program closed with a prayer and vote of thanks. The vote of thanks was presented by Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay. Very special mention was made of the Silver Jubilee Committee members especially the ladies Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee, Dr. Helen Sekar and Margaret who spent the entire day along with Mr. Vinay Ralph and Ord. Varun Alfred in order to ensure that things went off well. Mr. Sachin Daniel and Dr. Kanishka Williams were remembered in absentia for their contributions.

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Rev. Kamal Mall thanked everyone present and thanked the Lord for making the day meaningful.

MR. LUKE CHANDEKAR

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ! CHRIST CHURCH, NOIDA, HOSTS INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHILDREN'S FEST-2013

Noida Christian Welfare Association is a body consisting of five major churches of Noida with its registered office at A-71/A sector 34, NOIDA - 201301, District Gautam Budh Nagar, UP.

The five churches are Christ Church, Immanuel Marthoma Church, St Mary's Catholic Church, Bethel Methodist Church and Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church.



John G. Mathew, President, **Rev. Sam Mishik** Vice-President, **Fr. Joseph**, Secretary, **Mr. Y. Rajan**, Treasurer, **Mr. K. C. Mathews**, Joint Treasurer, **Mr. Francis Walter**, PRO

NCWA is a Bible-centered, organization composed of believers whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God and establish them in a Bible believing church for Christian living.

NCWA believes in bringing the love of Jesus Christ to children in and around Noida. The Word of God puts a high priority on children. They are near to God's heart and we believe that He is uniquely concerned about their spiritual welfare. Without the foundation of a relationship with God and training in Biblical principles for life they are unequipped to face what life will throw at them.

We are convinced that there is no work that is more pertinent or effective. Perhaps God is leading us to become more involved in the lives of children, for His kingdom's sake.

NCWA has been active over the years with Christ Church playing an active role over the past two years. The children have been participating enthusiastically in the Inter Denominational Children's Fest since 2012.

This year Christ Church, Noida hosted the programme, with a gathering of nearly two hundred children from nine churches across Noida participating enthusiastically in all activities.

This year's theme rang out loud and clear-**STAND UP FOR JESUS!**

Children were divided into three four age groups, 5-7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years and 14-16 years.



Programme commenced with children from different Churches lining up for registration even before 8 am. Registration began at 8.30 am with the team of Christ Church, Noida impressively at their counters.



A total of 9 Churches participated from the vicinity with details as follows:

S. NO.	NAME OF CHURCH	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	CNI – DELHI (CNI-D)	1
2	AMAZING GRACE (AG)	2
3	YOUTH FOR CHRIST (YFC)	2
4	ST. ALPHONSA (St. A)	3
5	ORTHODOX (ORTH)	11
6	EMMANUEL MARTHOMA (MAR)	15
7	CHRIST CHURCH (CCN)	33
8	BETHEL METHODIST (BMC)	40
9	ST. MARY’S (St.MARY)	98 (Actuals) (122) on paper

Children enjoyed praising and worshipping with the Youth for Christ Team led by Joseph Emmanuel.

Children enjoyed participating in different activities such as slogan writing, Bible quiz, Memory Verse competition, putting up short skits on Biblical Themes given and much more.



Children, elders, helpers, volunteers could be seen all over and around the Church happy and contented to be part of the programme . It was awesome!

It was an enriching experience during which there was much learning from the Scripture all adding to taking a closer walk with Jesus.

The objective of the programme was achieved with thirst for more.....

We pray that our children with be able to focus on the vision of this mission!

Roma Das

CHRIST CHURCH NOIDA REPORT OF SPORTS FEST



Citus, Altius , Fortius Swifter, Higher, Stronger the words of the Olympic motto rang out in the portals of Christ Church Noida all through the months of October to November 2013.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the first ever SPORTS FEST of Christ Church Noida was organized. The essence of all the Silver Jubilee activities had been to increase the fellowship among the congregation, giving them an opportunity to know each other outside of the customary Sunday meet and greet sessions after church services.

Sports entailed practice, practice entailed people getting together on a regular basis. The dutiful captains and vice captains got down to the job with rounding up their various teams.

The Silver Jubilee Committee had listed out various sports activities - Badminton, Throwball, Volleyball, Tug of War, for the outdoors and Chess, Sudoku, Carom, Arm Wrestling as indoor games.

These games were played on an inter house basis with the four competing houses of Marveling Marks, Rocking Peters, Thundering Johns and Dashing Daniels. The matches were organized on a knock out basis starting with the two qualifiers on Thursday and Friday, the third place playoff on Saturday and the finals after church service on Sunday. Outdoor matches were played in the Church lawn and Indoor matches were played in the Parish hall of the Church.

The teams were seen practicing in the run up to the events which led to some eye popping; jaw dropping performances which could have given seasoned athletes a run for their money.

Parishioners who had last played decades ago once again picked up rackets and put on the track suits brought back the sports men and women in them. It was a pleasant surprise to see the turn out and enthusiasm of not only the younger generations but also of the not so young. A special mention needs to be made of Mr. Cecil who played the badminton match at the age of 82 after a span of 40 year, the all time and the full time referee, Mr. Suhail Titus and our help in marking the line for the courts, Ramesh & Monu. Kudos to all!

The deaf fellowship took an active part and combined flawlessly with their team mates to produce memorable moments.

Our church is a base for people who come from all over the world into this township. After two months of sports activities the objective of getting people to know each other better, override linguistic and territorial barriers has been largely met. It should be our endeavor to organize similar activities in the future so that our church can become stronger.

Ord. Varun Savio Alfred



Throw Ball



Volley Ball



Throw Ball



Badminton





Rev. Kamal Mall with Challer and Office Staff



ADMINISTRATOR
Christy Franklin



SUPPORT STAFF
Daniel, Ramesh, Monu