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# DEEP

The Light



Vol.: 205

Monthly Newsletter of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

October 2024

### Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

Healing: Life in fullness, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 8:16-17 “And when evening came, many demon-possessed people came to him, and he drove out the spirits with his word and healed all who were afflicted, that the words spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.” He did and carried all the diseases.

The problems of sickness, disease, sin and death are associated with the original fall of man. Although medical science thinks that the cause of sickness and disease is physical or mental, the Bible says the root problem is spiritual.

Life in healing perfection is as elaborate as the original fall in God’s saving arrangement. God has provided forgiveness for sin, eternal life for death, and healing for sickness. Just like, Lord Jesus had three types of ministry during his earthly life 1) He teaches the word of God and the words change the people’s hearts and minds. 2) Blessings of the kingdom of God 3) Healing all kinds of diseases and infirmities, Matthew 4:23-24 verse.

God’s will is revealed in a life of healing perfection in the Holy Bible in four main ways. 1) By God’s declaration (Exodus 15:26,2) Through the serving of Jesus Christ, (Hebrews 1:3. Matthew 4:23-24, John 6:38). 3) Through the atonement of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:4-5) Through the serving of ongoing Church Ministry (Mark 16:15-18, Acts 9:17, James 5:14-16, 1

Corinthians 12: 9). God’s healing power and faith is distributed in three ways in the New Testament church (a) by laying on of hands (Mark 16:15-18, Acts 9:17 b) by anointing



Rev. Sumanta Das  
Diocese of Durgapur  
CNI

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### Mega Youth Festival 2024 “Samarpan”

On 14th to 16th October 2024, the three-day Mega Youth Festival 2024, “Samarpan” Organised by the Durgapur Diocesan Youth Fellowship under the Diocese of Durgapur. 142 youth from different pastorates were concluded with an atmosphere full of energy, enthusiasm and inspiration. The festival was graced by esteemed resource persons, including Our Bishop The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Rev. Dr. Amos Massey, Rev. Dr. Ashish John Archer, Mrs. Teresa Ali Massey, Mrs. Ishma E. Edwards, Their wisdom and motivational speeches inspired attendees to strive for greatness and make a positive impact in their communities.

Rev. Samuel Halder (Diocesan Secretary), Rev. Subhendu Saren (Diocesan Vice President), Mr. Hemant Marandi (Diocesan Treasurer), Rev. Sandipan Sinha, Mr. Kamakhya Biswas, Mr. Charls J. Nyss (Principal St. Michael’s School) and Mr. John Paramata (Principal St. Peter School) also Present. Those days youth spent full time on thrilling biblical sessions, and sports activities with everyone cheering for their favourite team. The evening was a lively celebration of cultural performances, where the participants showcased their talents in music and dance, embodying the spirit of youth and unity.

The final day of the festival began with a Morning Worship that uplifted everyone’s spirits. The highlight of the day was the Bishop’s speech, which left the audience motivated to chase their dreams fearlessly. The Prize Distribution ceremony honored the incredible achievements of the youth, reminding everyone that hard work and dedication truly pay off.

Leaving this amazing three-day event, it was truly instructive to reflect on the lessons learned by our youth and as a means to continue spreading love, positivity and empowerment in our communities. ■





## Bishop's Meditation

### Healing: Life in Fullness

In the Bible, healing is more than physical restoration; it signifies holistic renewal-body, mind, and spirit. From the Old Testament to the New, God's healing reflects His nature as Jehovah Rapha, the Lord who heals. Jesus' ministry was marked by acts of healing, which symbolized not only the cure of physical ailments but the restoration of individuals to fullness in relationship with God (Matthew 9:35). His miracles of curing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons reflect His power over sin and brokenness, which are consequences of the Fall (Genesis 3). Healing in Scripture points to the ultimate restoration of all things in Christ. Healing in a theological sense points to redemption and reconciliation, as Christ's atonement on the cross addresses the ultimate source of brokenness and sin. Healing is closely tied to salvation. The Greek word "Sozo" means both "to save" and "to heal," showing the interconnectedness of physical and spiritual well-being. Jesus' death and resurrection paved the way for believers to experience life in fullness "zoe" a quality of

life marked by peace, joy, and communion with God (John 10:10). The fullness of life is not merely the absence of disease but living in harmony with God's purpose. While complete healing will be realized in the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:4), believers are called to experience a foretaste of that fullness today through faith, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop, Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

## Youth Seminar at Bankura Pastorate



On 21st September 2024, Bankura Youth Fellowship organized a one-day youth seminar at Central Church, Bankura pastorate under the Diocese of Durgapur. The theme was "Rise Up in Christ"

based on 1 Timothy 4:12. 100 youth from five zonal pastorates i.e. Barikul, Bishnupur, Raniganj and Sarenga Church participated. The Bishop of Durgapur Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Sameer Isaac Khimla was present and gave an enlightening message on how the youth should conduct themselves as per the instructions of the Bible. The seminar inspired and encouraged the youth with interesting activities like singing, dancing, beautiful sports and Bible quiz. The main attraction was the awarding of prizes to the winners. Rev. Sumanta Naru, Rev. Avijit Mahata, the vice-president of Durgapur Diocese, Rev. Suvendu Saren, Treasurer of the Diocese of Durgapur, Mr. Hemant Marandi, youth director Rev. Sandeepan Sinha, DDYF's security and vice president, and members of the pastorate Committee were present. Members of the Church organized a lunch fellowship for the participants, the youths present enriched themselves through the seminar and made new friends.

One day of the youth seminar was a beautiful moment for the presented youths, they received their aim for their future lives. They enjoyed and learned about God's word and His blessings and for successfully concluded the seminar in an orderly and joyful manner. ■ (Abhijit Mahata)

## A Sacramental Baptism at Durgapur United Church

On September 22, 2024, A sacramental Baptism was held in DUC in the presence of Rev. Pankaj Pande, Ord. Babul Sardar and other members. Together, we witnessed the power of God in their lives as 10 members accepted Jesus Christ as their saviour. After many years of studying God's word and coming to the church in search of spiritual life and finding fulfilment in it, they freely accepted the Lord Jesus' baptism. May God guide them as they start journeying faithfully, and may their faith continue to flourish for a deep connection with God.. ■



## Couples Retreat at Durgapur Diocese



St. Michael's & All Angels Cathedral, Diocese of Durgapur organized 'Couples' Retreat Rekindle the Spark' on 14th September 2024 at Diocesan Conference Hall, Durgapur with participating Couples from St. Michael's Church, Central Church, Bankura and Durgapur United Church along with the Cathedral. A total of 35 Couples were aggregated to form the Retreat. Our resource person for the day was the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop, Diocese of Durgapur & Mrs. Sarika Gracy Khimla. The retreat was divided into sessions, interactions, questionnaires etc. The main focus of the retreat was to improve communication, enhanced intimacy, stress reduction, and knowing & commitment toward each other.

It's easy for couples to grow apart as the years pass. While trying to balance busy careers, family obligations, and some form of social life, some couples may only end up, spending a few minutes of quality time together every week. Factor in daily stressors and a handful of disagreements, and you may begin to feel more distant than ever. Luckily, rekindling your romance doesn't need to be a complicated process. Whether you're looking to resolve conflicts, deepen your connection, or simply have a great time together, you might want to consider going on a Couples' Retreat. Indeed it was the time to rekindle the spark of vows of marriage, re-commitment toward each other, passion to be joined as one by God, and to continue to be faith-full in relation and as one true Christian family. ■

### Women's Conference Held at St. John Church, Baldahura

The Kochpara Pastorate, Diocese of Durgapur, hosted a one-day Pastorate Women's Conference on October 2, 2024, at St. John Church, Baldahura. With the theme "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). This conference was successfully arranged and facilitated by Kochpara Pastorate and led by Rev. Sudhur Hembram. The Conference brought together around 90 women from different congregations to foster spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. The day began with a feet-washing ceremony, symbolizing humility and service, followed by a welcome led by the women of St. Thomas Church, Kochpara, and the hostel girls. Rev. Saswati Roy led the morning devotion with the theme "Power of Prayer," setting a reflective tone for the sessions ahead. The first session, led by Mrs. Sarika G. Khimla of the DOD, focused on practical ways to bear each other's burdens through acts of love and prayer. After a short tea break, the gathering was uplifted by praise and worship from the hostel girls, leading into a second session by Rev. Saswati Roy, who emphasized fellowship and mutual support.



Lunch provided a time for further fellowship, followed by additional sessions led by Miss Nilmoni Ruth Mardi, Principal of STC (Santhal Theological Collage), Maharo Mission. Her teachings focused on spiritual growth and the importance of supporting one another in the Christian faith. The conference concluded with a cultural program, including traditional music and dance, adding a joyful note to the spiritual focus of the day. The event highlighted the strength of community and faith in action. ■

### Social Action

#### CDP Enhances Rural Livestock Health and Community Support

In the rural areas, almost every household is engaged in livestock farming. It is not only a source of income generation but also provides solutions in times of immediate aid such as during social festivities, medical or financial emergencies, etc. Despite of that, the people fail to take proper care of these domestic animals due to lack of knowledge and financial stability. These animals don't get vaccinated and suffer various seasonal diseases which often lead to death. So CDP has taken the initiative in collaboration with Ranibandh Livestock Health & Disease Control Dept. to provide medical aid to these domestic animals (till now 146 goats have been treated through the CDP-organized livestock treatment & vaccination camp) to prevent them from getting disease-affected and continue to support the livelihoods of the rural communities. ■



### Fasting Prayer at Barnabas Church, Purulia



On Friday, September 27, 2024, the Women's Fellowship organized a special "Fasting Prayer" at Purulia St. Barnabas Church, Omanpur. Acting Priest Rev. Swapan Darman

started the meeting with words of prayer. Church Secretary Mr. Dilip Kumar Sarkar and church members were present, and the meeting was conducted through worship. Rev. Swapan Darman has clearly explained the importance and necessity of "Fasting Prayer" through the words of God. They stated prayer for various prayer points after reaching the stage of sanctity through confession of sins. Indeed, this "Fasting prayer" is a holy and powerful path. David said in Psalm 51:3, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." Prayers were offered after confession, for congregations, dioceses, state health systems, the elderly, drug-addicted youth, flood-affected people, and diocese-run youth conferences and women's conferences. The program ends with everyone praying and singing in spirit and truth, leaving with satisfaction and faith that God has answered their prayers. ■ (Mrs. Pushpa)

### SWACHH BHARAT

Slogan: Clean hands are safe hands. Swachh Bharat was launched on 02 October to honour Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a "Clean India." We, the congregation of St. Paul's Church Asansol, observed this auspicious day with the tiny tots, the young ones, and, of course, the church elders, who put in all their hard work to make this day a grand success, with great enthusiasm and pomp to make our sacred place of prayer and worship shine for His Glory. Our act brought unity, witness and service, love and togetherness, leaving behind all ill feelings for each other. It also made people aware of the importance of cleanliness around us, bringing a sense of responsibility and respect towards the environment and society. The main motto and purpose of this was to promote social interaction and build a stronger sense of belonging, which is our CNI Church's objective and purpose. ■



### Celebrates 60th Founder's Day at St. Michael's Church, Durgapur

On September 29, 2024, St. Michael's Church joyfully commemorated its 60th Founder's Day. The event began with a poignant service led by Rev. R. N. Ray and Rev. Dn. Krishnapada Das, highlighting the church's history and community impact by releasing the church history booklets. A vibrant cultural program followed, featuring music, dance, Sunday school, youth and women's fellowship and tributes to past presbyters. A display board honouring presbyters since 1964 was unveiled. The celebration concluded with a communal meal, fostering unity and gratitude among parishioners. This milestone marked a significant moment in St. Michael's journey of faith, service, and community. ■



Editorial

**Healing: Life in Fullness**

Healing is an object of our daily lives. When we live in this materialistic world, we need to heal every aspect of our wealth and health. At the same time, one of the most important healings is Spiritual rather than Physical. If our body, mind, and soul are affected by such immoral things, then our whole life becomes spoiled.

When we, as a Christian community and the world, need to live life in fullness, the Bible portrays Jesus Christ as a healer not only physically but also spiritually.

Body loss nothing loss

Mind loss something loss

But soul loss everything loss

It means our heart, which is created by almighty God. Healing ministry was one of the unique aspects of Jesus's life. The 23 physical healings in the Bible show us that Jesus is a great healer. John 12:40 manifests that not only physical blindness makes life in trouble but hard and with her makes life more in trouble. But Jesus says, "I would heal them", so we, as children of God, need to focus more on healing our hearts. ■



Rev. Pankaj Pande  
The Diocese of  
Durgapur (CNI)

**Theme :** *Continued from page 1*

with oil and prayer of faith by the elders, (James 5:14-16). c) By exercising the grace of healing given to the church (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Finally, the steps you need to take to live a life of constant fulfillment 1) Seek the presence of Jesus in your life. 2) Fill your life with God's Word. 3) Stay with God even if you are not healed and try to understand what changes God wants to make in your life. 4) Rejoice all the time when you either heal or not heal. 5) Believe that God will never leave and forget you (Isaiah 41:15-16). ■

him. This abundant life that Jesus died to give us causes us to want to share the good news with others. So we want to talk "Jesus" to those who will listen. This change of lifestyle is made possible by the activity of the Holy Spirit, who gives us a new spirit which is in tune with God's purpose for us.

The "abundant life" is not about religion. It's not about church. It's not about how much scripture you read, or if you are a church member or no. It's about grace greater than our sin. It's about sanctified, holy living. It's about the deep-down assurance that you belong to the Risen Savior. It's about a desire to tell your brother and sister about this new life. "Life to the Fullest" is God's gift to us, free and unconditional. So how are we doing in our desire to live a "full" life? And is Christ at the centre of our efforts? ■

**Women's Voice**

**Healing: Life in Fullness**

For women, healing often extends beyond physical restoration to emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. In the journey of life, women often find themselves navigating through many roles and responsibilities. From nurturing families to pursuing careers, the demands can be overwhelming. Yet, amidst these challenges, the theme of "Healing: Life in Fullness" offers a profound message of hope and restoration. In the Bible, women like the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34) and the bent-over woman (Luke 13:10-13) experienced Jesus' compassionate healing, which not only restored their health but also their dignity and sense of worth. These stories show that Jesus values women's holistic well-being, bringing them into the fullness of life. In a world where women often face unique challenges stress, societal pressure, and emotional wounds God's healing is an invitation to wholeness. It empowers women to live out their God-given identity with confidence and joy. Healing, from a woman's perspective, is not just physical recovery but freedom from shame, emotional burdens, and inner struggles. God desires for every woman to experience life in fullness healed, restored, and thriving in all aspects of her being, reflecting the beauty and strength He created her to embody. ■

**Healing Hand**

On 27th September, the Good Shepherd Eye Hospital conducted an eye screening camp at St. Michael's School in Raniganj and the Christian Brethren Church in Amdanga Mejia, Bankura. The event demonstrated their constant dedication to community health, as they delivered free eye exams to many people in need. The dedication of the team was truly inspiring, as they worked tirelessly to help others see the world more clearly. Additionally, the organizers extended their efforts by conducting an Anti-Human Trafficking program, highlighting their holistic approach to community service. This initiative showcased the profound impact that one organization can have on improving lives and fostering a safer, healthier community. ■



**Youth Beacon**

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full".

What is "abundant life, life to the fullest" that Jesus talks about? Could it be a life with plenty to eat, good health, all the money we want and few troubles to bother us? Life in lush, green pastures? Did he come to give us the kind of abundant life that is comfortable and convenient? We should be reminded that life is not always green pastures and quiet, peaceful scenes. Sin has caused a traumatic disruption to the life that God originally planned for us. But Jesus knows all about the sin and evil of this life. He warns us that we will suffer, but he has sent the Comforter, his Holy Spirit, to help us through the darkness. When Jesus looked at the Palestinian countryside, he saw the hunger, oppression and sin and each person's personal rebellion against him, as well as the peaceful sheep and the green pastures. And in the middle of all this Jesus spoke of the abundant life, a life lived to the fullest.

What did he mean? I believe Jesus meant that to have this "full" life, this abundant life, is to live so close to him that we become one with

**Bible Quiz 146**

1. Who said to whom 'The day you see my face you will die?'
2. Who calls Jesus a deceiver?
3. Who is the Apostle as well as the High Priest?

**Answer of Bible Quiz 145**

- 1) Hagar (Genesis 16 : 7-8)
- 2) He who hears the word of the word (Math. 7:24)
- 3) James (Acts 12:1-2)

Name of those who submitted the Correct Answer

**Brajendra Sanial**

Please send answer of Bible Quiz in this no. -9064863735

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