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DEEP
The Light



Vol.: 214

Monthly Newsletter of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

August 2025

Topic : Tribal Ministry

Theme : Preserving Culture while Embracing Christ.

Jesus told his disciples, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew, 28:19) In the same way the gospel is preached to the tribals. Now the tribals also worship Jesus. We know that Jesus came from the Jewish nation, so there is no such thing as Christianity being like the Jews or like the Westerners. Every nation will worship God through its own language and culture as it pleases, this is natural. Sometimes it is heard that people of other religions keep saying that all these tribal cultures are not for you; you should use the culture of the Western countries. But this is wrong. A person will practice his religion as he pleases. they will worship God through the culture of the society in which they grew up. In this, their language will be protected. This is also mentioned in the fundamental rights of the Constitution of India. The tribals will praise God with their own musical instruments, which will preserve their culture. It is not necessary that when praising God, it can be done only with a guitar or a piano. The tribals can praise God with their own musical instruments. There was a time when religious leaders used to say that the devil is in the tribal instruments, so it is not right for Christians to use them. Instead, they should use Western musical instruments. This is absolutely wrong, because if the tribals worship God with their own musical instruments, then it will be worshipping from their hearts. Therefore, now tribal musical instruments are kept and used in the churches of the tribal areas. In this, the culture of the tribals is also maintained, and God is also being worshipped. There is no such thing as only English, or Bengali or Hindi being used to worship God. The



Rev. Ramesh Ch. Kisku
Diocese of Durgapur
(CNI)

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Shanti Forum Reopens with Hope and Harmony

On 25th July 2025, the "Shanti Forum" reopened its doors after undergoing a beautiful makeover. The community gathered to witness the fresh chapter of this meaningful space. The inauguration ceremony was led by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, accompanied by the Diocesan Office Bearers, Presbyters, the head of the Institution, and many dedicated members. The community expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Bishop for envisioning and initiating this significant plan. The "Shanti Forum" is a space for people to come together, share ideas and strengthen community bonds. As the "Shanti Forum" begins this new chapter, we hope that every meeting held here will be conducted in a spirit of peace and cooperation. The vision is for every voice to be heard and for each gathering to contribute towards the collective progress of the community.. ■



Confirmation Service at All Saints' Church, Kharagpur

The Confirmation Service at All Saints Church, Kharagpur, was held on Sunday, 27th July 2025. This service was a celebration of a profound act of faith and spiritual growth. In the presence of the Holy Spirit, two candidates were confirmed by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, with the assistance of Rev. Swagata Das, Presbyter-in-Charge of All Saints Church, Kharagpur. The honorable bishop delivered a sermon based on John Chapter 3, focusing on Nicodemus and the new life in Christ. The message was a powerful reminder to the entire congregation of the importance of spiritual rebirth and living in faith. After that, those two newly confirmed candidates were welcomed into the family of God. Following the service, a fellowship gathering was held, reflecting the unity and love within the community.. ■



Bishop's Meditation

Topic : Tribal Ministry

Theme : Preserving Culture while Embracing Christ.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for every tribe, language, people, and nation (Revelation 7:9). When we embrace Christ, we do not erase our God given cultural identity; rather, He redeems and transforms it for His glory. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). This unity in Christ does not demand uniformity but celebrates diversity rooted in truth and holiness.

Culture is a gift our language, music, art, and traditions reflect the creativity of the Creator. Yet, every culture also carries elements that must be surrendered to Christ, for not all customs honour Him. As Paul did in Athens (Acts 17:22-28), we can affirm what is noble in our heritage while pointing to the fullness of truth in Jesus.

Embracing Christ means letting His Word guide which cultural practices we preserve and which we transform or leave behind. When our traditions align with biblical principles, they become powerful tools for witness and worship. Let us hold fast to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21), so that our culture becomes a vessel of God's glory shining the light of Christ in the unique beauty of our people.



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

Revival Meeting Held at Durgapur United Church

A two-day Revival Meeting was held at Durgapur United Church on June 14 and 15, 2025. Brother Param Bhattacharya from Kolkata was the main speaker. He shared the word of God through songs and his personal testimony, which touched many hearts and helped people feel God's presence. The meeting began with prayers and Bible reading by Priest-in-Charge Revd. Sudhir Hembhram. Brother Param and his team were welcomed with flowers and blessings. Many respected guests attended the meeting, including His Excellency the Rt. Revd. Sameer Isaac Khimla, Bishop of Durgapur Diocese, Mr. Subrata Garai, Treasurer CNI Synod, and Revd. Shuvendu Soren, Vice President of the Diocese, and also present Revd. Rabindranath Roy, Revd. Sandipan Sinha, Revd. Deacon Babul Sardar, and others. The Bishop's speech was deeply engaging, leaving the audience captivated and inspired. The theme of the meeting was based on Jeremiah 3:22, which speaks of returning to God and receiving His healing. Brother Param's message inspired everyone and helped renew their faith. Believers from nearby churches like St. Michael's, St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral, Raniganj, and Bankura joined the gathering, making it a joyful and spiritual event. Revd. Sudhir Hembhram guided the meeting throughout. The secretary, pastorate committee, and kind members of the church helped in many ways to make the event successful. The Revival Meeting brought peace, unity, and spiritual strength to all who attended.

(Itirekha Mandi Tudu)



World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Human trafficking is a serious issue worldwide. To fight this crime, World Day Against Trafficking in Person is observed every year on 30th July. In 2025, the theme was "Human Trafficking is an Organized Crime – End the Exploitation." On this day, the Diocese of Durgapur organized walks in different areas to spread awareness. The places included: Hat kaliaganj Bazar to Gram Panchayat under Mustafanagar Gram Panchayat (Kaliaganj Block), Maheshpur Bazar to Maheshpur High School (Bochadanga Gram Panchayat) Hemtabad Bus Stand to the local Bazar, Balurghat area, Baldahura, Malda area, Sarenga block of Bankura district.

People joined with banners saying "Stop Human Trafficking", "Be Aware, Stay Safe", "Human Trafficking is a Crime", etc. Presbyter In Charge, Police officers, teachers, and AHT workers gave short talks to encourage people to stay aware. Leaflets were handed out, and everyone joined in with energy and strong voices.

Even with fewer volunteers, the walk was successful. Every student who took part received a mango tree sapling to plant and support the environment. This walk was a big step in the fight against human trafficking.



Women's Voice

Topic : Tribal Ministry

Theme : Preserving Culture while Embracing Christ.

The Tribal Ministry plays a vital role in preserving indigenous culture while embracing Christ. God created every tribe, tongue, and nation with unique identity and purpose (Revelation 7:9). Tribal customs, songs, and traditions are gifts from God that reflect His beauty and creativity. Accepting Christ does not mean losing cultural roots, but rather allowing the Gospel to transform and enrich them. The Apostle Paul said, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). Similarly, tribal ministry respects traditions while pointing people to Christ as the fulfilment of every culture's deepest longing. Jesus Himself affirmed, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Thus, the Tribal Ministry seeks to preserve culture as a testimony of identity, while leading communities into the fullness of life in Christ.



Editorial

Topic : Tribal Ministry

Theme : Preserving Culture while Embracing Christ.

There is around 476 millions indigenous people represents 5000 different cultures in the world living across 90 countries. Their way of life characterizes socio-economy, political understanding quite difference from other dominion culture. The indigenous people contribute their unique deep rooted traditions, knowledge systems, languages and spiritual practices. The indigenous people have been struggling with many challenges like threatening to their land, languages, natural resources and cultural practices in the history. The indigenous people who embraced the Christianity are also facing same challenges with the entire indigenous people. As indigenous Christian people have their responsibilities to protect the tradition, culture, land, forest and spiritual values.

Preserving culture means valuing God-given diversity our traditional songs, dances, clothing, and community life while removing elements that contradict biblical principles. Just as the early church embraced believers from different nations without erasing their identities, Christians today can celebrate cultural heritage as a way to glorify God. When culture is surrendered to Christ, it becomes a bridge for sharing the Gospel. Our festivals can include worship, our music can praise the Lord, and our community values can reflect Christ's love. By preserving culture while embracing Christ, we honour the Creator who made every tribe and tongue, uniting our unique heritage with the eternal kingdom of God.



Rev. Subhendu Saren
Diocese of Durgapur
(CNI)

Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Programmes Held in Bankura and Purulia

On August 11th, 2025, the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI) organized impactful Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Programmes in Bankura and Purulia, engaging over 160 participants across both venues. In Bankura, the event at Village Church began with worship led by Rev. Krishnapada Das and Rev. Avijit Mahato. Mr. Raja Moses, Diocesan Coordinator, shared insights on trafficking and the Diocese's 14-year mission across North Bengal and Junglemahal. Guest speaker Mrs. Soma Chakraborty from Vihaan Organisation shared real-life cases, leaving a strong emotional impact. Local leaders, including Mr. Hiralal Chhatraj and Mr. Kamakhya Biswas, pledged support for future outreach. In Purulia, the first-ever awareness seminar at Ascension Church featured worship led by Rev. Swapan Darman and Rev. Manbananand Haldar. Mr. Moses highlighted the Diocese's rescue efforts and future plans. Mrs. Chakraborty addressed trafficking forms, causes, and vulnerable groups. Participants realized the hidden risks in their region and committed to prevention. Both events concluded with prayers and a call for continued collaboration, with plans for rallies and expanded awareness across schools, churches, and communities.



Theme : Tribal Ministry

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indigenous people will read the Bible in their own language, sing in their own language, conduct church in their own language, and bow to each other according to their culture. While bowing, the indigenous people use a word for blessing, which is "Jiya Bapdhan". Now the Christian indigenous people have changed that blessing word to "Jeshu Sahay". In this, the culture of the indigenous people is also being preserved, along with giving respect to Jesus. When the new crop is harvested, the indigenous people thank God and celebrate the "Saharay" festival. The Christian indigenous people also celebrate this "Saharay" festival during Christmas. At that time, they invite their relatives and eat good food and go to church and dance. In this, God is also being thanked for the new crop, and the traditional "Saharay" festival is also being celebrated, and the culture of the indigenous people is also being maintained. When a child is born in a tribal family, after three or five days, "Neem Bhat" (Neem Rice) is made to appease the spirit and to name the child, and it is fed to the people of the village. The Christian tribal people have not forgotten this rule. They dedicate that "Neem Bhat" to God and feed it to the people of the village. Through this, the traditional culture of the tribal people is also maintained, along with which God is also glorified. According to the tribal culture, there is a rule that after the birth of a child, he is purified for 13-14 years. It is called "Chatiyar". If this "Chatiyar" is not done, he cannot be married. The Christian tribal people have not forgotten this "Chatiyar" custom. They observe this "Chatiyar" through Hastaporan. In this, the tribal culture is also maintained, along with the Christian culture. If someone from the tribal people dies, there is a rule that he will be respected. Instead of that, Shraddha, the Christian tribals organize prayer meetings and feed their relatives or neighbors. Through this culture too, Christ is being preached and glorified. According to the culture of the tribals, if a relative comes to the house, his feet are washed and bowed down to. The Christian tribals have also not forgotten this culture of washing feet. We know that Jesus Christ washed the feet of his disciples. Washing feet is a sign of deep love. Therefore, the tribals also wash the feet of their relatives in this way and express their love for them. There are many such cultures that the Christian tribals have not forgotten. It is a matter of joy that our Durgapur Diocese highlights Christ through their own culture and preaches him.

One Day Women's Seminar at Wesleyan Methodist Church

On August 9th, 2025, the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Raniganj hosted a vibrant Zonal Level One-Day Women's Seminar, uniting participants from Bankura Pastorate, St. Michael's Church Durgapur, Durgapur United Church, and St. Paul's Church Asansol. Organized by the Raniganj Women Fellowship under the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI), the event embraced the empowering theme: "Women, You Are Marvelous" inspired by Proverbs 31:29. The



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Youth Beacon

Topic : Tribal Ministry

Theme : Preserving Culture while Embracing Christ.

God created every tribe, language, and culture with intention and beauty. Tribal identity is not something to be erased, but celebrated and redeemed through Christ. The gospel does not call people to abandon their heritage but to surrender all things to Jesus, allowing Him to purify and elevate what reflects His glory. Revelation 7:9 says, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude...from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." This verse shows that tribal identity continues even in eternity. In heaven, tribal cultures will worship Christ—not in uniformity, but in beautiful diversity. In tribal ministry, we must approach communities with respect, humility, and love. We encourage the use of tribal languages in worship, honor traditional values that align with Scripture, and lovingly challenge practices that contradict God's Word. Christ does not erase culture—He redeems it. Tribal believers can be fully rooted in their identity while being fully devoted to Christ. Through this, we see a powerful testimony of unity in diversity, where Christ is exalted through every culture He has created.. ■ (Pradip Baskey)

One Day Youth Seminar at Burdwan Christ Church

On 16th August, 2025 a one day zonal youth seminar, organised by Christ Church Youth Fellowship, was held at Burdwan Christ Church with the title "INFLAME 2.0". The theme of this seminar was "Living with purpose" (Jeremiah 29:11). Reverends and youth members from various churches actively participated in this program. After breakfast and registration the seminar started with an opening prayer by Rev. Sudhir Hembram and a meaningful Bible message by Rev. Sumanta Das followed by an uplifting worship session by the youth members of Christ Church Burdwan. After a short photo session and drinks break the program continued with a thought provoking and insightful session by Rev. Krishnapada Das and a collaborative and interactive workshop by Rev. Deacon Babul Sardar where the youths showed there active participation. After lunch a Badminton and mini volleyball tournament was organised where the youths participated with great energy. The program ended with a closing prayer and benediction by Rev. Samuel Halder. At the end of the day the young delegates parted with not only some gifts but with enlightenment and wisdom. This event brought together the youths from various places to learn about the true purpose they should have in their lives as the children of God.. ■



Tribal and Adivasi Sunday Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Adra

On August 18, 2025, at 8:00 AM, St Bartholomew's Church in Adra hosted a vibrant Tribal and Adivasi Sunday Service, celebrating indigenous faith and culture. The church was filled with worshippers dressed in traditional attire, as the service began with a spirited procession accompanied by folk hymns. A member of the church led the service, delivering a preach on the importance of cultural identity within Christian worship. The event featured performances of Santali dances, and the church campus transformed into a space of joyful community sharing. Youth and elders alike expressed pride in the day's celebration, which has become a cherished annual tradition. The service showed how people from different cultures can come together in faith. It mixed prayer with tribal traditions and reminded everyone that the church respects and values the history of its tribal and Adivasi members.. ■



One Day Women's Seminar



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seminar featured Revd. Soma Bhatkar from The Bible Society of India (Calcutta Auxiliary) as the special guest speaker. Her message encouraged women to embrace their God-given strength and purpose. The day was filled with fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and uplifting conversations, celebrating the remarkable role of women in faith and community. It was a heartfelt tribute to the grace, resilience, and leadership of women who continue to shine in their walk with God. ■

79th Independence Day Celebration

On the 79th Independence Day, the Diocese of Durgapur came alive with joy and pride as children from the Hostel Ministry, AHT Project, and CDP gathered to celebrate at their own venue. The day was full of energy, with colorful dances, patriotic songs, and cheerful performances that honored India's rich heritage. The children's enthusiasm lit up the whole campus and brought smiles to everyone's faces. It wasn't just about fun—there was also learning, laughter, and a deep love for our country. Flags waved high, the national anthem sang loudly, and hearts beat with pride. The event reminded everyone of the strength and spirit of India, and how even the youngest among us can show great patriotism. It was a truly special day—one that will be remembered for a long time! ..



Social Action

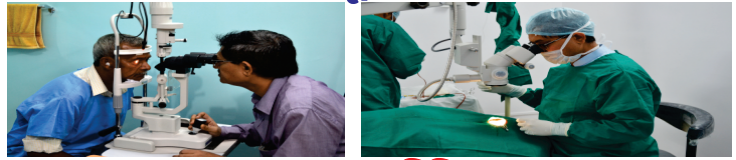
Orientation on the Role of Parents in the academic success of their children-

On 18th August, 2025 an orientation was organized in CDP project office, Sarenga with the guardians (20 participants) of students of extra coaching classes with the objective of equipping the parents with insights into the curriculum, teaching methods and learning goals. Joint BDO, Rakichandra Das, Sarenga Block shared that most parents think that enrolling their children in the school is good enough. However the reality is different and the school alone is not responsible for the all-round development of the kid. Rather the parents should give additional attention to the educational curriculum of their children and frequently visit the school to keep updated about their children's progress. This program was an initiative to help the parents voice their opinions, track their children's academic performance; learn how to use modern technologies/ platforms, etc., ensuring overall growth of their children. The parents were also aware about the bad impacts of electronic devices such as mobile phones which is leading the young generation towards excessive screen addiction and further disrupting the mental health. So it is necessary for the parents to share a good bond with their children and try to optimize the technological benefits while minimizing the risks. The orientation was an opportunity to establish effective communication as well as fostering a sense of partnership between the teachers and parents in supporting the educational journey of the children. . (Debonmita Biswas)



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BIBLE QUIZ 154

- Who is the first author mentioned in the Bible ?
- Who prophesied about the field of Blood ?
- Who meet abraham and blessed him ?

Answer of Bible Quiz 153

- Joab (2 Samuel 18:14)
- Psalm 90
- On the 8th Day (Luke 2:11)

Name of those who submitted the correct Answer

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