



CSI Life

Magazine of Church of South India

December 2023 | Advent Season

Volume XXI | Issue 12 | Rs. 150/Annum



FINDING SPACE FOR THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Artistic Journey with ART Network at CSI Communication Department

Are you an artist, professional or amateur, seeking a vibrant platform to showcase your creativity? Look no further! Join the ART Network at the CSI Communication Department, a unique space bridging the realms of print and new media platforms.



Express Yourself at Thursday's in Black Awareness Campaign!

A stand against gender-based violence.

Your art can be a powerful voice in raising awareness and promoting change.

Beauteous Brushstrokes

Celebrating Art,
Acknowledging Artists!

Embark on a journey with "Beauteous Brushstrokes," a dedicated platform to cherish art in all its forms. Whether you're an established artist or an aspiring one, we invite you to share your masterpieces and be recognized for your talent.

Cover page Art at CSI Life Monthly Magazine

Here's your chance to showcase your talent on the cover of CSI Life Monthly Magazine.

csisynodcommunications@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



EDITORIAL »

Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Season's Greetings from the Church of South India Synod Secretariat.

As we approach the joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord, I extend warm Christmas greetings to each one of you. In the spirit of the season, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the current global situation, particularly the ongoing conflict in Israel.

In times of conflict and uncertainty, it is obligatory upon us, as followers of Christ, to reflect His teachings and embody the spirit of peace. The recent decisions made by churches regarding the celebration of this Christmas in response to the situation in Israel underscore the challenges we face globally and the need for unity in our response.

Our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace, calls us to be peacemakers in a world torn by strife and discord. In our context, where we are fortunate to live in a diverse and pluralistic society, the call for peace becomes even more significant. Therefore, as members of our Church of South India, I urge each one of you to embrace the role of peacemakers within our communities.

To contribute to peace let us:

- Fervently pray for peace in Israel and all areas affected by conflict. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in interceding for those suffering, and pray for the leaders involved in the resolution of conflicts.
- Take the time to educate ourselves about the complexities of the situation. Knowledge fosters empathy, and by understanding the root causes, we can engage in informed conversations that promote peace.
- Encourage open and respectful dialogue within our church community. Share perspectives, listen actively, and learn from one another. Our unity in Christ transcends any differences we may have.
- Consider engaging in acts of compassion and outreach. Look for opportunities to support our churches and organisations working towards peace and humanitarian aid in conflict zones.
- Advocate for reconciliation and understanding among diverse communities in our local context. By fostering harmony at home, we contribute to the broader mission of peace.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us remember that Christmas is not just a time for festivities, but a call to embody the transformative power of God's love in our lives and in the world.

Further, at the threshold of a new year, I urge each one of you to carry the spirit of peace into every aspect of your lives. In a world that often seems fractured and divided, we, as followers of Christ, are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation. May the coming year be marked by intentional efforts to mend broken relationships, foster understanding, and promote unity.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
(Matthew 5:9)*

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2024 !

C. Fernandas Rathina Raja,
General Secretary, CSI.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Dr K. Reuben Mark

*Deputy Moderator, Moderator In-Charge, CSI &
Bishop, CSI Karimnagar Diocese*

Dear CSI Family and Global Community,

As Christmas approaches, our hearts are filled with the joy and anticipation of the season. We are reminded of the timeless nativity scenes, where a company of angels appeared to shepherds, praising God and proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

In this season, we often encounter the familiar phrase, 'Peace on earth and goodwill to men,' whether on a Christmas card or a social media post. It serves as a gentle reminder of the profound message of Christmas.

Let us reflect on the true reason for the season, as articulated in Isaiah 9:6, where God's people are promised a "Prince of Peace." Not merely a bringer of peace, but the royalty of peace. The Christmas story unfolds the incarnation of this promise – the Prince of Peace born not in the halls of power, but in the humble form of a baby. His birth signifies the hope for unity in a world torn by war, turmoil, persecution, and division. In Jesus, we find a source of enduring justice and peace through his teachings, death, and resurrection.

Throughout the teachings of the Bible, Jesus emphasizes peace, as recorded in John 14:27. Let this verse echo in our hearts and guide our reflections during this Christmas season.

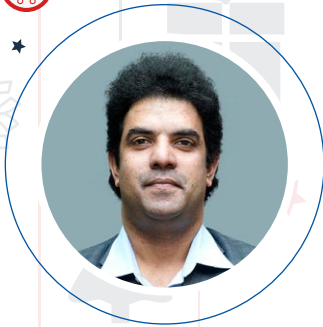
If Jesus is the Prince of Peace, we are not only called to bask in the light of the peace he brings but to actively work towards extending it to people worldwide, just as our Lord did many years ago. Despite the challenges, the Church is called to tirelessly strive for peace in all aspects of life.

May the Lord's blessings continue to shower upon us all.

Wishing you A Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2024.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Prof. Dr B. Vimal Sukumar
Hon. Treasurer, CSI Synod / TA



Greetings from Church of South India Synod!

At the festive season unfolds, may the gentle whispers of joy and goodwill fill your heart with warmth. United in the spirit of fellowship, we come together to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. In this season of celebration, may the love that was born in Bethlehem fill our hearts and homes with peace, joy and hope. May the radiant light of Christ shine brightly in every corner of the world, bringing comfort to those in need and refuge to those who seek care and concern.

In the midst of this eventful time, let us pause and reflect on the true essence of Christmas a time to welcome the Prince of Peace into our lives. In a world bustling with activity, finding space for tranquility becomes a cherished gift. This Christmas, may we discover moments of serenity that invite the Prince of Peace to dwell in our hearts. Let the melody of goodwill and the symphony of kindness create a harmonious space where love abounds.

As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, may the spirit of generosity be a testament to the enduring message of Christmas. Let compassion be the ribbon that ties our hearts together.

In the twinkling lights and festive decorations, find a reflection of the everlasting light that the Prince of Peace brings into our lives. As the Church of South India remains a pillar

of encouragement for faith, I pray that the coming year brings forth more opportunities for spiritual growth, outreach and dedicated service to the community. May the glow of hope guide us through the coming days and may the spirit of Christmas illuminate our path with love, joy and understanding.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with the blessing of peace and the warmth of cherished moments. May the coming year be a journey of growth, love and abundant joy.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warmest wishes!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Baker Ninan Fenn
Bishop, CSI Cochin Diocese

Dear in Christ, Greetings to you in the blessed name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ!

Why did the angels sing when they appeared to the shepherds to announce the good news of the birth of Christ?

We read about many instances in the Bible where angels appearing to people to convey God's messages. But in any of these instances we don't find angels singing any songs. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to inform her that she is going to bear a child who will be the Saviour of the world. But he didn't sing any song.

Shepherds were people of lowest state of the society in the days of Christ. They didn't have any decent position in the society. They were not even considered as humans by other people. The shepherds spent most of their time with their animals. They always had the stink of animals on their body but didn't bother to clean their body or clothes. They were always keen on their duty of tending the sheep. So, the pious Jews considered the shepherds as untouchable and unclean as they did not follow any religious rituals.

The angels knew that these poor shepherds will be really frightened if they happen to see a multitude of angels in the sky. They won't be able to grasp the news that the angels wanted to convey them, so the angels decided

to sing a beautiful song to cast away the fear of the shepherds and calm them down. Once they were calmed down, they would be eager to go down to the manger to see the baby, without any fear.

The birth of Christ was meant not only for a few selected people, but to all the people of the world. We are called to spread the good news of love and peace to all rich and poor; high and low, wise and ignorant.

May the Peace of Christ fill the hearts of all people who are living with fear and brighten the lives of all who look to the future that in full of uncertainties.

With Prayerful Regards.



The Rt Rev. Timothy Ravinder
Bishop, CSI Coimbatore Diocese & Moderator Commissary,
CSI Thoothukudi-Nazareth Diocese

Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

Season's greetings and Merry Christmas to everyone!

In the heart of the tumultuous and conflicted region of Israel and Palestine, finding space for the Prince of Peace, as envisioned in Christian theology, takes on profound significance. The historical and ongoing conflicts in this region have

deep-rooted religious, political, and social dimensions. As Christians, we are called to seek peace and justice, guided by the teachings of Christ and the wisdom of the Bible.

The Prince of Peace, a title ascribed to Jesus in the book of Isaiah, offers a compelling theological foundation for our engagement with the Israel-

Palestine conflict:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, ESV)

These words resonate with the

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christian community, reminding us of Jesus' mission to bring peace, reconciliation, and justice to a broken world. However, the pursuit of peace in this troubled region is complex and challenging. To find space for the Prince of Peace, we must first understand the multifaceted nature of the conflict and the theological insights the Scripture offers.

1. Reconciliation and Forgiveness

The Christian faith emphasizes reconciliation and forgiveness. In the context of Israel and Palestine, reconciliation is a powerful concept that can help heal wounds and mend broken relationships. The Bible encourages us to forgive as we have been forgiven (Colossians 3:13) and seek peace (Matthew 5:9). This requires acknowledging the suffering on both sides and working towards a just and lasting solution.

2. Justice and Compassion

Prophets like Micah remind us of the call for justice and compassion: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

(Micah 6:8, NIV). Seeking justice for all parties involved and showing compassion for the vulnerable is a vital part of our Christian duty in this context.

3. Peacemaking

The Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount highlight the importance of peacemakers: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9, ESV). To be peacemakers in Israel and Palestine, we must engage in dialogue, support reconciliation efforts, and advocate for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

4. Praying for Peace:

Christians are called to pray for peace and the well-being of all people. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV), Paul encourages us to pray for "all people, for kings and all those in authority so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." Our prayers can make a difference in promoting peace in the region.

In the Israel-Palestine conflict, finding space for the Prince of Peace requires a commitment to these biblical principles. It involves advocating for a two-state solution, respecting human

rights, supporting diplomatic efforts, and standing up against violence and injustice. It also necessitates empathizing with the suffering of both Israelites and Palestinians and recognizing the dignity of all involved.

It is important to remember that peace is not solely a political endeavor but also a deeply spiritual one. As Christians, we believe that true and lasting peace can only be achieved by aligning ourselves with the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. In the midst of this complex and enduring conflict, we are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation, bearers of hope, and agents of God's transformative love.

In conclusion, finding space for the Prince of Peace in the Israel-Palestine conflict requires a theological approach rooted in Christian principles of reconciliation, justice, compassion, and peacemaking. By actively engaging in the pursuit of peace, we can contribute to the healing of this region and honor our Christian calling to be instruments of God's peace on earth.

May the good Lord bless us all.
Once again Merry Christmas and meaningful New year 2024.



The Rt Rev. V. S. Francis

Bishop, CSI East Kerala Diocese &
Moderator's Commissary for CSI Kollam Kottarakkara Diocese
& CSI South Kerala Diocese

Joy to the World: The Transformational Movement

"JOY TO THE WORLD" is the matchless magnificence of Christmas. It is the unique blend of humanity and divinity. Furthermore, it is the exceptional outcome of

transformational movement of Jesus Christ towards the abundance of life! In this transformational process, Christmas preferentially opted for the poor in all aspect of

life. Christmas is always for the Last, Least and Lost of the Community. In other words, Christmas always stands with the grassroots, villagers, poor farmers, Daily wages, Dalit and

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Adivasi communities, homeless, street-slum dwellers, abandoned people, so-called sinners, alienated communities like LGBTQI, migrant workers (guest laborers), victims and more of these suffering communities. Let's take it as a great challenge to make our Christmas celebration as

joy to the world by participating with the transformational movement of Jesus Christ through which all can experience the abundance of life.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year-2024 !



The Rt Rev. Dr V. Pathmathayalan
Bishop, CSI Jaffna Diocese

Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

At the very outset, on behalf of Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, I would like to extend my Christmas wishes and New Year greetings to all of you from Sri Lanka. We have been sensing the presence of God for the four decades in the midst of war, pandemic, economic crisis and political instability. These factors never shaken or broken our faith that we keep in our God. We could find space even in the darkest time Sri Lankan history. God shared a space in his tiny manger with our people and God travelled with us as sojourner in the hardest time. As a witnessing community, we proudly sought that "Immanuel is with us". The Christmas manger, the first message of the divine Child, tells us that God is with us, God loves us and God seeks us. So, take heart! Do not allow yourself to be overcome by fear, resignation or discouragement. God was born in a manger so that you could be reborn in the very place where you thought you had hit rock bottom. Christmas means that God is close to us: let confidence be reborn!

I recall my bishopric journey along with my people in a very difficult time. Our

journey is to become a parable of unity, a beacon of hope and an aroma of the Gospel. However, when we look back the history, JDCSI, it travelled in the midst of dark clouds were gathering on the horizon both for the Church and the community. However, with the help and protection of God Almighty, we could say that We have successfully completed a year long mission journey.

As, I took inspiration from Nehemiah 2: 18, "Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach." As a Sri Lankan Tamil community, we have been facing many issues one by one, namely the violence fired up in the name of Ethnicity, Civil War, COVID Pandemic and Economic crisis. Myself and the people of JDCSI identified with the traumatized people of Israelites in Babylonian Captivity and exile. However, God revealed a plan to the repatriated Jewish exiles in this book of Nehemiah, God's primary instrument at this time was Nehemiah. Nehemiah was not a king, a priest, or a prophet, but an ordinary Israelite. But he held a cabinet-level position under Artaxerxes, the Persian monarch, and he became the governor of Judah later.

Generally, the kings of Israel had failed, the people had ignored the prophets, and the priests were corrupt. God chose a man who built a wall around Jerusalem in a little over seven weeks so the people could give concentrated attention to the reading, exposition, and application of God's Word.

The workers built the walls in only 52 days. Nehemiah settled the people in the city and its suburbs. He expounded and enforced the Law of God. He also provided a place where the people could wait for God's salvation. Combining Nehemiah's times with his character, we get the message of this book: Nehemiah proves that seemingly impossible things are possible through prayer and hard work when people determine to trust and obey God, and when they put His interests first.

Like Nehemiah, We, as Christ community lived in dark times. We too have to deal with indifferent multitudes. But we took this time to reunite and rededicate to rebuild the walls of JDCSI to establish the Reign of God in the land of Sri Lanka.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, this Christmas God is drawing near to you, because you are important to God. From the manger, as food for your life, he tells you: "If you feel consumed by events, if you are devoured by a sense of guilt and inadequacy, if you hunger for justice, I, your God, am with you. I know what you are experiencing, for I experienced it myself in that manger. I know your

weaknesses, your failings and your history. I was born in order to tell you that I am, and always will be, close to you".

So, take the example of our diocesan story as a story of Hope in the midst of suffering, and move forward with a heart full of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in the days to come.

On this time of juncture, I sincerely

thank Parent God, the Moderator in charge, General Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of CSI and the people of Jaffna Diocese for giving us this phenomenal opportunity to rebuild the diocese along with the presbyters and people of God.

Have a Merry Christmas and Blessed New year 2024!!!



The Rt Rev. Dr A. R. Chelliah
Bishop, CSI Kanyakumari Diocese

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."
(John 1:14)*

This season is a jubilant time of sharing the joy of Christmas, a celebration of divine closeness. The Lord, in His infinite mercy, responds to our prayers and draws near to us. In the incarnation of Christ, God descends to dwell among humanity, delivering us from the shackles of affliction. At the heart of Christmas lies the unique expression of God's closeness and compassion.

Immanuel, a name that resonates with the promise of God's presence (Mat. 1:22), exemplifies the essence of Jesus, the Word made flesh. By identifying Himself with us, taking on human form, and residing among us, Jesus becomes the fulfilment and continuation of the scriptures. His birth stands as the cornerstone,

dividing history into "Before Christ" and "After Christ." The prime purpose of Christ's advent is to lead us from sin to salvation (Mat. 1:21).

A Biblical truth unfolds, revealing that while Christ's people aspire to be holy, an even more extraordinary truth emerges – every one of His people is destined for holiness. God's love knows no bounds; it encompasses the entire world and every individual equally (John 3:16). To experience God's presence in our lives, we must first recognize Him in the people around us. Christianity challenges us to see God in all and all in God.

As God dwells among us – a God of closeness, compassion, tender love, and peace – I extend my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas. May the New Year 2024 usher in the fullness of life, marked by His divine closeness.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Martin Charles Borgai
Bishop, CSI Karnataka Northern Diocese
& Moderator's Commissary, CSI Karnataka Central Diocese

Christmas is a time to show Solidarity

December is a month of celebrations. Most of us do prepare well in advance for the Christmas. We try to adjust holidays/leaves to spend quality time with the family. We deck up our houses with wreaths, Christmas tree, lightings, star and with many more things. We buy new clothes, new attire and so on. However, this year's Christmas is very interesting. Amidst chaos we have advocate PEACE. Interestingly, the Christmas in Bethlehem is a subdued Christmas. The city which gave Messiah to this earth has become a deserted place. 2023 years ago the Messiah took birth in Bethlehem where there were sea of people

because of the census. Later, the city had become a center of attraction and every year thousands of people used to visit the city for festivities. Streets were decked up with lights and it became a major tourism attraction. However, contradicting to the yester years, today the city of Bethlehem is deserted due to the war between Israel and Hamas. There are children who lost their parents, there are children who took birth in the heap of stones, there are parents who lost their children, commercial establishments are shut and so on. Hence, Bethlehem is gearing up for subdued Christmas. It is high time for us to show solidarity with them. Of course we cannot do

anything, but we can remember and pray for them during our Christmas celebrations. Let us celebrate and vouch for Peace amidst chaos. Let this Christmas bring peace and joy among all the people and the leaders in particular.

I wish on behalf of the Karnataka Northern Diocese and its Office-bearers as well as Moderator's Commissary of CSI Karnataka Central Diocese and its Office-bearers, I wish every one of you a Peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

God bless.!



The Rt Rev. T. George Cornelious
Bishop, CSI Krishna-Godavari Diocese

Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

Christmas is all about love, peace and joy. The incarnation of God into human flesh is itself an expression of divine eagerness to commune with us which once was lost. The message of Christmas is simple - God initiates reconciliation with his creation, and God initiates a process to restore a broken relationship and fellowship with his creation. On this Christmas Eve as we prepare ourselves to give space and

invite the Prince of peace among us we should never forget - that it's a free gracious gift of God out of his boundless and unconditional love.

God who created humans in his own image with unconditional love cannot stay in peace when his loved ones being separated and driven out from his divine presence. As Paul classically defines "love is patience, love is sacrifice" -when

someone truly loves they are restless and peace less in the state of separation. It implies God who is a true lover is in peace less state. Throughout the history God's continuous efforts to reconcile with humanity through patriarchs and prophets shows his continuous divine initiation for peace and reconciliation. The only greatest challenge for humans is to find a space for God in midst of their own conflicts within and outside



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

of the world. Let us embark on a journey to discover the true meaning of Christmas and how it can guide us through life's challenges and uncertainties still finding space for that God of peace.

Hope of Great Light: As prophet Isaiah highlights "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," (Isaiah 9:2). This verse is often associated with the prophetic anticipation of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, who is referred to as the "Great Light" that would shine in the darkness. It's a powerful and evocative scripture that is particularly meaningful during this Christmas season.

Isaiah 9:2 highlights the idea of people walking in darkness and seeing a great light. This explains the significance of this verse in the context of the anticipation of the Messiah. The darkness of the World are the challenges that people face in the world today. There are many people in this world struck in midst of conflicts, injustice, division, and suffering. In today's contemporary world we are confronted with images of conflict and suffering. The people of Ukraine face the horror of war, and the Israel-Palestine conflict has deep historical roots that continue to cause division and pain. These are but two examples of the darkness of our world, where peace seems elusive.

But amidst these conflicts, we remember the promise of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 9:6, we read, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." Jesus was born into a world much like ours, full of strife and injustice. Even at the time of Jesus' birth we observe great massacre

of children and fleeing of Mary and Joseph with life threatening situations. Yet, His mission was to bring peace and reconciliation.

How can one Find Space for the Prince of Peace in such chaotic hostile situations? How do we find space for the Prince of Peace in the midst of such conflicts and sufferings? It begins with understanding the essence of His message. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors and even our enemies, to seek reconciliation, and to be peacemakers. This is our challenge, and this is our calling. In the face of the Ukraine war and the Israel-Palestine conflict, we must not turn a blind eye. We can find space for the Prince of Peace by advocating for peace, offering prayers for those affected, and supporting organizations working towards reconciliation and humanitarian relief in these areas. Being peacemakers means not only seeking the end of conflict but also fostering understanding and reconciliation. We can engage in dialogues, educate ourselves about these conflicts, and support efforts that promote justice and fairness.

Do not be afraid: The message that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on that holy night: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." These words are not only a source of joy but also a call to action, as we seek to find space for the Prince of Peace in our lives and in the world. In the world today, fear often grips our hearts. We fear the uncertainty of the future, the challenges we face, and the turmoil that surrounds us. Whether its personal concerns, global conflicts, or the struggles we witness in our communities, fear can be all-consuming.

However, the birth of Jesus is the ultimate source of hope and joy. It is a reminder that God has not abandoned us but is present among us. The message of "good news of great joy" brings

hope to a world yearning for peace, love, and salvation. So, how do we find space for the Prince of Peace in our lives, especially in the face of fear and uncertainty? It begins by opening our hearts to Jesus, by allowing Him to dwell within us. It is in His presence 'Immanuel' which means 'God with us', that we discover true peace and joy, even in the midst of war and life's challenges.

But we are not called to keep this joy and peace to ourselves. Just as the shepherds shared the good news, we are called to be messengers of the Prince of Peace, bearing His light and love to those in darkness. The angels' message is not for a select few; it is "for all the people." It is a message of inclusivity, reminding us that the good news and the peace of Christ are available to everyone, regardless of their circumstances, background, or struggles.

During this Christmas season, as we remember the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us not forget the importance of extending His message of peace to the darkest corners of our world. We pray for the people affected by these conflicts and for the wisdom and strength to play our part in finding space for the Prince of Peace. Let us remember the profound message of "good news of great joy" and the birth of the Prince of Peace. Let us open our hearts to His presence, allowing His peace to permeate our lives and be a source of hope for a world in need. May we not be afraid, but instead, may we be messengers of the Prince of Peace, sharing His love, compassion, and joy with all the people we encounter. In doing so, we embody the true spirit of Christmas and honor the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian
Bishop, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese

Christmas Greetings from CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese!

Pax Romana was a great achievement that elevated the Roman Empire to the world stage. Under the Roman Empire's rule, the world was promised complete peace and economic prosperity. This world should not be taken to mean that welfare projects resulted in peace and prosperity on the land. By suppressing dissident voices from conquered countries through war and suppressing any protests for independence, the Roman government established peace.

The common people who lived in the

insecure environment of the Roman rule faced a variety of economic, social and moral crises at that moment. They hoped that a Messiah would appear to help them overcome the despair and pain caused by constant oppression. They had been eagerly anticipating it. The people who lived a dark life in the midst of despair and pain received a great deal of hope from the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus was a source of hope for those who believed in him.

The message of Christmas is relevant at all times. The birth of Jesus brought peace and joy to world that was hopeless. The Post Covid era has become extremely complex. The

Pandemic has caused us to experience uncertainty in our daily lives. There are so many people around us who have lost hope in life, feeling isolated, rejected and abandoned. The world in sorrow and pain can look forward to joy and peace with the birth of Christ. As we look forward to this year's Christmas, let this season be a chance to share the joy and hope that the birth of Jesus brings us with the world around us.

May everyone have a Christmas filled with joy and tranquility.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Rt Rev. Dr D. Jeyasingh Prince Prabhakaran
Bishop, CSI Madurai-Ramnadu Diocese

"The dayspring from on high hath visited us." (Luke 1:78)

The birth of a little Child the Christian world at this season celebrates. Christmas Day is a holy and happy day when we commemorate the coming of God's Son into the world—the incarnation of God by way of the virgin birth. Never too happily can we sing. Never too eagerly can we ring the bells. Never with exaggeration can we

express the Christmas benediction: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). With the coming of the "dayspring from on high," morning broke upon the world's darkness—in Bethlehem—while men and women, bruised and bleeding, were in a darkness unlighted by flickering philosophical tapers and sputtering

Judaistic lamps.

I. Christmas Means a Manger

Coldly the world, which later cruelly thrust Jesus out on the point of a spear, received Jesus on a pallet of manger straw. Messiah's birth chamber was a stable—not a palace, not a human habitation. How wonderful for us that the Lord of Glory was so humbled and abased for us, the vile and sinful progeny of Adam. Born



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

as the very poorest
are born, without
attendants, He
was the One through
whom God worked and
works sublimities without display.

Look upon the manger! You will see the Christ who came down from the heights of deity to the depths of humanity, down from Heaven's honors to earth's humiliation, down from Heaven's coronations to earth's curses, down from Heaven's delights to earth's defamations, down from the glory place to the gory place, down from Heaven's riches to earth's poverty.

II. Christmas Means Meeting

In the birth of Jesus, Heaven and earth meet. Shepherds served and angels sang. We read of "shepherds abiding in the field," "the angel of the Lord" and "a multitude of the heavenly host." The angels went back to Heaven. The shepherds went to Bethlehem. Heaven and earth were in touch, and Heaven took the initiative. "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is

above all" (John 3:31). He who is from Heaven and is above all is Heaven's Bread for earth's hunger, Heaven's Light for earth's darkness, Heaven's Grace for earth's guilt, Heaven's Life for earth's death. And during the days of His flesh on earth, this Christ never lifted a finger, never took a step, never breathed a word to injure any. He welcomed to His love the most neglected of the outcast, the poorest of the poor, the saddest of the sad, the vilest of the vile, inviting them to His holy and happy home in Heaven.

III. Christmas Means the Master

This Christ whom the disciples called Master is He who, in eternity, rested on the bosom of the Father without a mother, and in time rested on the bosom of a mother without a father—Son of Man and Son of God, just as old as His Heavenly Father and ages older than His earthly mother. He who was in the manger later mastered disease into health, blindness into sight, deafness into hearing, lameness into suppleness and strength of muscles, leprosy into cleanness, storms into calm, scarcity of bread

into food plenteous, dumbness into speech, death into life and grace into resurrection glory. He mastered sin, Satan, suffering, death, the grave and Hell. And through Him we can be more than conquerors, mastering all things that mar proper observance of Christmas, mastering the mind so that it thinks God's thoughts after Him, mastering Satan by resistance until he flees from us. At this Christmas season, every heart ought to say, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15). You did not ask God for this gift; it was freely bestowed.

At this Christmas season, we may not bring Him as costly a present as the Magi brought, but we can bring to His feet and cradle the frankincense of our joy, the pearls of our tears, the kiss of our love, the prostration of our worship; we can move someone to faith in Him, and give testimony that Jesus, our Saviour, our Lord, is Son of Man without sin, Son of God with power and glory, whose name is ceaseless music at the throne which overlooks the world.



The Rt Rev. Dr Royce Manoj Kumar Victor
Bishop, CSI Malabar Diocese



Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1: 5)

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Light, that shines in the night, a celebration of joy, hope and peace, it is crucial to acknowledge the world's ongoing

conflicts, such as the situation in Gaza, Israel, and Ukraine. The Prince of Peace's message becomes even more poignant in the face of such struggles. As we revel in the joy of Christmas, let us not turn a blind eye to the pain and suffering of those in conflict zones.

The Prince of Peace came into a world

desperately in need of reconciliation and healing. In remembering his birth, we are compelled to extend our thoughts and prayers to areas marred by violence and strife. The message of peace is a call to action, urging us to work towards creating a world where all people can experience the tranquillity that this season



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

represents.

The conflicts in Gaza and Israel remind us that peace is a precious gift that many are still yearning for. As we celebrate Christmas, let us also commit to advocating for peace in regions torn apart by war and conflict. Whether through raising awareness, supporting humanitarian efforts, or engaging in dialogue, we can contribute to the pursuit of peace in our troubled world.

In finding space for the Prince of Peace in our hearts, we must not only focus on personal reflection but also on fostering peace globally. By acknowledging and addressing the challenges faced by communities in conflict, we embody the true spirit of Christmas and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Let the Christmas spirit move us to extend a hand of solidarity and compassion to those affected by conflict.

In the spirit of the season, let us pray for the well-being of all individuals living in conflict zones and work towards a world where the Prince of Peace's message prevails, bringing an end to suffering and ushering in an era of harmony and understanding.

Merry Christmas to all, and may the light of peace shine brightly in every corner of our world.



The Rt Rev. Dr P. Isaac Varaprasad
Bishop, CSI Rayalaseema Diocese
& Moderators Commissary for CSI Nandyal Diocese



"Peace on Earth"

In the context of an unending violence in a troubled world torn by strife and war and exactly the very place where Christ was born two thousand twenty three years ago the little town of Bethlehem affected by war and blood shed, can the message of PEACE ON EARTH pronounced by the heavenly hosts has any relevance and meaning in the current world scenario? The constant war between Ukraine and Russia, the ethnic and religious clashes in Manipur targeting women, burning houses, churches and killing innocents, where is the scope for peace on Earth? When the peace is the cry of every human soul and a desperate need, can this be a good tiding to the world celebrating Christmas at a very large scale. We have questions of uncertainty, prevailing chaos everywhere and the mounting conflicts are challenging our faith in God.

How can we experience peace? Peace is a covenant between God and broken communities and individuals. Peace is

not just an absence of war and violence, but it is an experience of relying on God and relating with God. We can find peace, only when we are connected to God. Believing is relying-trying is relating, in the spiritual sense. Humans have learned to manage the world, drastically progressing towards controlling the world but miserably failed to understand and find the source of peace. We need to mould ourselves to achieve peace in our context. When our faith is countered, encountered and encompassed with global challenges distracting the peace, we should stand in strong determination as peace mongers, peace planters and peace makers. When kindness and compassion fades and become unseen, SHALOM shall be our slogan, for Jesus said that blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God.

As a community celebrating the birth of the prince of peace, we should deliver a strong message of peace as our witness to this world of violence and

heartedness. The enemies of peace are violence, heartedness and selfishness. Christ was born to redeem mankind from this wretchedness. We cannot overcome violence through violence and heartedness with heartedness. In Christ violence is defeated, Love and forgiveness won against violence. That's why the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have greatly influenced the world, where no one in the history could influence. No religion and no isam cannot resist the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christ is the message of peace and a sign for peace in this world of violence and heartedness. The birth of Christ has brought the festival of peace and celebration of peace. As we all celebrate the birth of Christ greet and exchange gifts, let us all join our hearts and minds with the songs and praises of heavenly hosts proclaim and witness peace to this world. May the prince of peace protect our minds and hearts with his peace which passeth all understanding. Amen.....

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Dr ARGST. Barnabas
Bishop, CSI Tirunelveli Diocese

Beloved in Christ Jesus,
Warm Christmas Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord- "PRINCE OF PEACE". When the angel announced the birth of the Lord, the multitudes of angels sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth PEACE to those on whom his Favor rests".

On 24th December 1870, the Franco-Prussian War between the French army and German army was at its peak. A German soldier was hit by a gunshot by which both his legs were severely wounded, and he could not walk further; but with all his strength he was creeping on the ground to reach a pit, dug for safety to save his life. While creeping towards the pit, his military outfit was caught by a thorny iron fence, and he began to struggle like a worm to get himself released from the thorny fence. A French soldier was watching this from a very short distance and was raising his gun to shoot his enemy. At the same time, there was a sudden outburst of a melodious Christmas song from a farmhouse on the battlefield- "Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel". All the French soldiers began to sing the same song in their language and simultaneously the German soldiers sang the same song in the German language. A temporary cease-fire was announced. Suddenly the French soldier put his gun down and rushed to the wounded German soldier, released him from the thorny fence, and took him to a place of

safety. The German soldier was astonished by the act of his enemy and looked at his face. He answered, 'Brother this is Christmas Day'.

Christmas celebrations remind us of the first coming of the Prince of Peace and meaningful Christmas celebrations inspire us to invite the Prince of Peace into our hearts and communities.

Jesus was sent by His Father into this world to bring peace to mankind by reconciling man with God, giving himself on the cross as a ransom price. The resurrected Christ ends his disciples into the word saying, 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you'. Therefore, it is evident that we are all called to be his instruments of peace and reconciliation. As Apostle Paul says, our Lord has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Today when we look at the world scenario, we would say that the greatest need of the world is peace and not any other material resources. During these days, we all are in the threat of facing another world war. In the Middle East, we find many are living in the terror of war. Also, many people have become homeless and refugees. In our own country, in the Northeast, many people, particularly Christians have lost their shelter and are still living in fear and desperate for basic needs. As an instrument of peace, Tirunelveli Diocese sent a team of Clergy to Manipur and expressed

our love and Christian concern to the suffering people in action and truth.

Christmas season reminds us that Jesus was born as a homeless baby and was taken to Egypt as a refugee and His parents had to live in fear for their lives till the death of Herod. Therefore, sharing our love and concern with the people in the war-torn parts of the world and praying and working for peace and reconciliation is the only ideal way of – FINDING SPACE FOR THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

May the joy of Christmas in sharing our peace be with you all.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The Rt Rev. Henry Sharma Nithiyanandham
Bishop, CSI Vellore Diocese

Christmas Epistle ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather together during this joyous season of Christmas, surrounded by warmth, love, hope, and laughter, let us not forget those whose lives are clouded with darkness and despair. In the Holy lands of Israel and Palestine, where our Savior once walked, countless innocent children are caught and lost their precious life and future in the crossfire of conflict, enduring terrifying circumstances that no child should ever have to face. Who is the hope in this context? Where is Jesus in this pursuit?

Let us close our eyes for a moment and envision the streets of Bethlehem, where the divine light once shone so brightly, now overshadowed by the tears and anguish of the young. They actually should be experiencing the wonder and magic of this special time, but instead, they are clouded with fear, uncertainty, and pain. How can we, as children of God, immerse ourselves in the joyous festivities while they bear the heavy burden of suffering? Where is the light?

My dear brothers and sisters, let us unite in prayer and action this Christmas, opening our hearts wide to the plight of these precious children. Let us not turn a blind eye to their struggles but extend a helping hand, a word of comfort, and a glimmer of hope. Together, we can make a

difference in their lives, even from afar.

In our own beloved homeland of India, where vibrant traditions and cultural diversity intertwine, we too have children who face adversity and hardships that mar their childhoods. Poverty, disease, and inequality cast a shadow over their lives, stripping away their innocence and robbing them of their fundamental rights. As we celebrate, we cannot simply forget about them; we must acknowledge the responsibility we have towards them. What is our Mission?

My dear brothers and sisters, this Christmas, let us not only embrace the beauty of our own festivities but also dedicate ourselves to bringing joy and solace to those who suffer. The true spirit of this season lies not only in the exchange of gifts and the indulgence in delicious feasts but also in our ability to care for others, to share the love that Christ has bestowed upon us all.

Together, let us pray and support the organizations and initiatives that provide aid and relief to these children, delivering hope and healing to their lives. Let our actions speak louder than mere words, and may the depth of our compassion inspire others to join us in this noble cause.

As we gather around the Nativity scene this Christmas, let us remember

that the divine child lying in the manger came to this world to bring love, peace, hope, and salvation. In our pursuit of celebrating His birth, let us not forget those who desperately need His love and peace. May we be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to those in need, and may our efforts be blessed abundantly.

With heartfelt blessings and prayers for a Christmas filled with compassion, with unity proactive mission in the New Year !

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. R. Navagnana Prasad
Director, CSI SEVA



Dearest beloved in Christ, greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and wishes to you all from the CSI- SEVA board team.

Christmas is a season to experience Peace, Joy, Hope and sharing of God's love with one another. Also we are awaiting with a hope for the New Year-2024 to be a Blessed year for an Individual, Families, Church and the Society at large.

In the light of Isaiah 27:2-6, I just want to share few thoughts as Greetings for this festival season as follows:

Here God sent a message of hope to His people of Israel to come closer to His love.

Here we see a fruitful vineyard for which, God Himself to 'WATCHOVER, to PROTECT it carefully, to 'WATER' it.

Like Israelites we are also called to Produce enough good fruit for the

whole world. Even Gentiles are called to come to our God, the Light to dispel in the context of darkness.

Here Isaiah compares the state of spiritual life with a dead branches of a tree that are broken off and used to make fires. Trees in the Scripture often represents spiritual life.

1. The TRUNK represents the channel of STRENGTH FROM GOD the Almighty.
 2. The BRANCHES are the people those who SERVE HIM .
- The branches sometimes waver and blow in the wind.
- But if we submit ourselves to God the Almighty, the source of strength and hope and stay in the tree being branches, God can make use of us for His Service and make use of us for His purpose for which we are called to be His own people.

So we need to be attached to the tree, to bear more fruits and to be tasted by the people from different contexts.

Isaiah 11:10 says; A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

May this season of Christmas and New Year, be the season of Peace, Joy, Hope, and Love in spite of all the existing situations which may rule our hearts and minds by the Power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the Hope, come out from the shoot of Jesse in the days to come.

May God bless you all abundantly. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year 2024. !

Rev. J. Justin
Director, Department of Mission & Evangelism



As the festive season unfolds, Christmas brings with it a profound and timeless meaning that transcends borders and cultures. Beyond the carols and festive decorations lies a sacred

narrative, a story of divine love and unparalleled grace.

Christmas beckons us to the humble manger in Bethlehem, where the

Saviour, Jesus Christ was born. His arrival symbolizes the greatest gift to humanity – the gift of redemption and eternal hope. In the midst of our celebrations, let us not forget to



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

bow our heads in gratitude for this miraculous moment that changed the course of history.

As we exchange gifts and share in the warmth of familial bonds, may we also reflect on the ultimate gift bestowed upon us – the gift of salvation through Christ's sacrifice. Let the flickering candles on our advent wreaths remind us of the light that dispels darkness,

the light that is Christ, illuminating our hearts and guiding us on the path of righteousness.

In the spirit of Christmas let our homes become havens of love, forgiveness and compassion. May the message of peace on Earth and goodwill toward all resonate within our hearts and extend to every corner of our world.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with the immeasurable joy that comes from embracing the real meaning of this blessed season. May the love of Christ be your guiding star today and always.

With heartfelt Blessings.!

Rev. Anilal M. Jose
Director, Department of Pastoral Concerns



“Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10) is the message the angel said to the shepherds on the first Christmas night. Christmas is not a time. Christmas is not a season, but a state of mind. Christmas is a call to cherish peace and goodwill. Christmas is all about being plenteous in mercy. Scriptures motivate us to look forward to experience this real spirit of Christmas in our lives. The Advent season is meant for preparing us to ‘hope beyond all kinds of fears’ and anticipate the coming of the Messiah. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. When we worship together on the Christmas Eve and the day of Christmas, we would be able to understand Jesus as the saviour. Matthew narrates the Lord’s messenger appearing to Joseph in a dream and explains the meaning of the name Jesus to be given to the child: “He will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Luke has a different perspective in his dramatic narrative

(Luke 2:1–20). The oppressed of all times who, represented by Joseph and Mary, must pay tax and tribute to an occupying power, or who too often find “no room in the inn.” The announcement of the birth of Christ the Lord to humble shepherds strikes a responsive chord in all who struggle in a world that exalts wealth and position. The promises made through the song of Angels echo Mary’s earlier song magnifying the Lord, who “has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble” (Luke 1:52). Angels’ song also expresses the Christian’s response of exultation in the Lord’s covenant blessing of peace, made available to all by his grace in Christ. Moreover, the “good news of great joy” is not only for the Jewish people alone but it is extended to all people on whom God’s favor rests. Both Jews and Gentiles alike. Luke 2:10 proclaims the inclusion of the Gentiles in the plan of God. Christmas is a ‘homecoming with no one missing.’ As we worship and celebrate on the remembrance of the birth of Immanuel, “God with us” (Matt. 1:23), may the presence

of God assure us with hope and strength to respond to the challenges of this world filled with war, violence, untruth, deception, and persecutions. There is an unexplainable wonder and gripping power revealed in the New Testament’s proclamation. The eternal Son, Jesus, through whom ‘all things were made’ (Heb. 1:2), should lay aside his glory and empty himself, “taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:6–7 NASB). May these days fill us with new beginnings and new hopes. May our celebrations enable us to feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, befriend the lonely and impart love to the hopeless ones around our homes and parishes. Let us be mindful of those whom we share our resources. May we be careful not to make them objects of charity; but subjects of God’s love.

Wishing you a meaningful Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2024!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Joseph Dasan Tokala
Director, Department of Christian Education



The birth of Jesus is historical as well as the fulfillment of God's divine purpose. The phrase Prince of Peace in Isaiah 9:6 indicates that the King of Peace migrated from the heights of absolute being... into the time and space down into humanity, down further still to shrink himself into the womb, to the very roots and seabed of the nature created by Godself. Luke writes that Mary gave a living space for the King of Peace in her womb. Joseph accepted the mysterious pregnant woman, Mary as his wife thereby giving place to the Saviour of the World the unbreakable interconnectedness of both peace

and justice is shown by the divine parents. The word peace means "to live in harmony and completeness, and health and wholeness". The Holy Scripture tells us that for Peace to prevail Justice is important.

Jesus the peaceful warrior is a gently conqueror who shows both power and compassion, taking time to care for the wounded and broken. He never comprises with evil, but conquers evil with good, with gentleness and care.

Jesus gives us the peace of God. This kind of peace is the calmness of confidence in God. This peace of God

is a sign of victory through love and sacrifice.

Since Jesus, the Prince of Peace is

- a. A free gift from God
- b. A best gift from God
- c. An useful gift from God...

Our responsibility is to provide a living place in our everyday life, for the incarnate God who transcended from heaven and lived amongst us and offered himself as a sacrifice for our salvation.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas !

Rev. Ch. John Nischal Kumar
Director, Department of Youth



Jesus Christ is Born to give Light to our Lives

The rhetoric image of Light in the Bible elucidates the importance of life in its fullness. In general, physical Light helps us to see the world around us and gives brightness and clear vision to our eyes. Biblical understanding of Light emphatically emphasizes on the victory over sin, darkness and ignorance and it enlightens our minds, guides us in a right direction and heals us from our spiritual sickness. Ps 119:105 states that, "your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In Gen 1: 1, "God said, let there be Light." Above two verses proves that Creator God

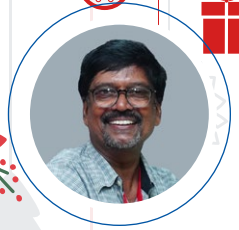
has spoken His Word and through that Word Light was formed. Likewise the same Word was instrumental in the incarnation of Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14- The Word became flesh and made dwell among us). In Jn 8:12 we can see the proclamation of Jesus as the Light of the world. The Above argument provides the evidence that the Word of God which was incarnated the form of Jesus Christ is the Light to this world. in this present scientific world, we believe in reason and signs. When Jesus Christ was born, there were signs of light, for example: the imagery of Stars and Angels are seen

as the agents of Light. Jesus' life was full of light and he filled all of us with his light. Now in this world with war, violence, pandemic and disasters, we see many people living in darkness and longing for help, care and support. Remembering the legacy which Jesus Christ passed on to us (Matthew 5:14- You are the Light of the world), let us spread a ray of hope in the lives of the people who are in need.

Wish you a Light Filled Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Prof. Dr G. C. Abraham
Director, Department of Ecological Concerns



His Coming is a Good News for all Times

In this world of pale, gloom and despair
There is always a HOPE,
Hope of life, peace and redemption
Calm amidst trials, tests and tribulation...
Yes, the Son is born (Isa 9:2,6; Heb:1:1)
As the whole creation groans and looks up for renewal (Hos 4:3; Isa 65:21-25)
To wade through perils, destruction and hardships,
Await for the Prince of Peace
May we have a blessed Christmas and
A restored choicest Happy New Year

Rev. H. John Samuel
Hon. Associate Director, Department of Ecological Concerns



A Modern Christmas Carol

1. The Forecast

As the whole multitude of people were waiting
There appeared the weatherman, Gabriel, forecasting
They were troubled, and fear fell upon all
“Do not be afraid, hear what is to befall.
Your land shall remain barren, no rain, no grain
Be strong to endure the sadness and pain.”

2. The Birth

The NRC was invoked to prove citizenship
Joseph and Mary were forced to make the trip
But lo, it was heavily pouring – a terrible flood.
There was no electricity, no drinking water, no food.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son amidst the damp
There was no place for them but the refugee camp.

3. Out in the Field

In the same region, there were migrants out in the field
Without jobs, they were helpless and in need
From the heavens came a light and a sound

The whirring sound of a helicopter going round
Into the dying earth, filled with plastic and garbage
They dropped into craving hands each a food package.

Christmas, then and now, is never wholly a happy affair
There is always loss and pain. But, also God’s “I care”
Let the birth of Jesus our Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
Fill us with hope, peace and joy, for we are loved by God.

Happy Christmas!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. J. Jeba Daniel

Director, Department of Communications



The Promise Fulfilled in the Manger

In the quiet town of Nazareth, a young woman named Mary received an extraordinary message from an angel (Luke 1:31, 32). The promise conveyed had three profound dimensions: a) she would conceive and bear a son, His name would be Jesus, b) He would be the Son of the Most High and c) He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever. Moreover, this child would fulfil the prophecy of reigning on David's throne forever. This was not just a message to Mary; it was a cosmic proclamation echoing through the corridors of time.

For centuries, the anticipation of the Messiah had filled the hearts of the Jewish people. Every mother hoped that her son might be the promised

Saviour. The entire Old Testament pulses with the expectancy of Christ's birth, starting with the first spark of hope in Genesis 3:15. God's message to Mary was clear: "You are the chosen vessel to bring forth the Saviour, the fulfilment of My promise to the world for all ages. "What does Christmas mean for us in the light of God's promise? Christmas is the grand revelation of God's faithfulness. Jesus is the living fulfilment of the promise made centuries before. In a world where human promises are often broken, God's promise stands unshaken. Jesus, born in that humble manger, is the embodiment of God's covenant with humanity.

The beauty of Christmas lies in the

fact that it is not just a historical event; it's a living reality. Jesus is the Promise fulfilled, providing us with salvation. The angel's words to Mary reverberate through time, assuring us that God keeps His promises. As we celebrate Christmas, let us embrace the profound truth that our Saviour has come, the Promise incarnate in the form of a vulnerable baby in a Bethlehem stable.

This Christmas, may the fulfilled promise of God in the manger fill our hearts with awe and gratitude. The Saviour has come, bringing hope, joy, and the assurance that God's promises endure for all eternity.

Rev. S. Sam Britto Francis

Director, Department of Dalit & Adivasi Concerns



The Department of Dalit and Adivasi Concerns welcomes all CSI Members with warm Christmas greetings as the Holiday season draws near, embracing the spirit of happiness, love, and togetherness that characterises this unique time of year. We should take this time to think, be grateful, and stand together as we celebrate the beginning of hope and rebirth.

Promoting inclusivity, fairness, and empowerment for the marginalised

populations we serve ought to be at the core of our work. Let's recommit ourselves to building a society this Christmas where everyone can prosper and make a meaningful contribution, regardless of background.

Let us give the gifts of compassion and understanding together with our festive feasts and gifts. This time of year inspires us to dismantle obstacles and give everyone a feeling of inclusion. Let us, in the genuine spirit of Christmas, reach out in

friendship to those who are most in need, building a community where differences are not only accepted but encouraged.

I hope that we will take some time this Christmas to reflect on our accomplishments and to recommit the path ahead. Let us work together to create a society where each and every Dalit and Adivasi person is treated with respect, equality, and the happiness that this time of year provides. We are expected to think

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

about the people who are affected by the war in Palestine and Israel, as well as the people from Manipur. Let this Christmas season bring liberation and peace to the affected communities.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas that is full of love, goodwill, and a common goal of a future that is more compassionate and inclusive. May this Christmas bring you many reasons to smile. Share this wonderful time

of year with those near and dear to your heart.

Rev. W. Jebasingh Samuvel

Associate Director, Department of Dalit & Adivasi Concerns



Hope from a Tiny, Cute Hand

The continuous crisis in Sri Lanka, namely, civil war, natural catastrophes, the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, and political instability have been affecting the common people's lives. Against the canvas of this scenario, what does it mean to celebrate the birth of Christ?

The Vulnerable Child Jesus, Homeless and Migrant

Jesus was born to migrant parents, who did not have a proper place to rest or proper food to eat; mother Mary did not have adequate medical facilities to deliver her child. Finally, they were provided with a stable and a manger to keep the child safe. Jesus's Mother bore the brunt of being the victim of the human rights violations

of her time. When Jesus was born hundreds upon hundreds of children were massacred. The social, economic and political context was crucial. We could say that the 1st century Palestine and 21st century Sri Lankan contexts are the same.

Hope from a Tiny, Cute Hand

We are preparing to celebrate Christmas in the time of an ongoing crisis in most of the South East Asian countries. However, we have good news from a tiny, cute baby Jesus. Dear friends, Mother Mary and Father Joseph realized and believed that it was only from God that they could hope. God is a God who gives to the victims hope to overcome their situations of hopelessness. God is

the one who journeys along with the victims in their journey of struggle.

In the context of the economic crisis, let us be the instruments of sharing our foods and belonging to our neighbours. In the context of fundamentalism, let us be the hope in resisting such forces in our communities. Christmas is the celebration of hope, and in hope, let us all resolve to become the harbingers of peace and hope in our contexts. May the spirit of hope enlighten all our hearts and minds to become the light of hope in our local contexts; only then will Christmas be meaningful.

A very happy and blessed Christmas to all.

Rev. Christopher Dharmaraj

CSI-EMS Support Officer



Christmas SHINE

Sharing the Light: A Call to Action, the message of salvation in our communities.

Hope: Living the hope that sustains us.

Illumine the Darkness: Embracing the transformative

power of Christ's light in our lives.

Nurturing in the Love of God: Unwrapping the layers of the divine love.

Ecstatic Sound of Christmas: Listening beyond the carols and festivities.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas: A Divine Search

In the heart of India, where cultures
entwine,
A sacred season, a moment divine.

With love and gratitude, we come together,
To welcome the Prince of Peace, in His tether.

In Bethlehem's echo, a tale is retold,
In India's embrace, His story unfolds.

May the grace that emerged in Bethlehem finds place,
In every heart, every corner, and every space.

As colours blend in a rangoli of delight,
May His peace guide us through the silent night.

Finding space in cultures, traditions we share,
The Prince of Peace, our burden (Israel-Hamas) to bear.

Amidst the festivities, the joy, and the cheer,
Let's find a space for Him, draw Him near.

For unity and love, our hearts find release,
A Christmas filled with the Prince of Peace.

Let the lights on the tree tell tales of old,
Of unity, love, and a story untold.

May the message resound, never to cease,
In every corner, finding space for the Prince of Peace.

May the love, joy, and hope of Christ transform us and
radiate through us to bless others. May this Christmas be
a substance for a renewed dedication to our faith and a
deeper relationship with the prince of peace. Amen.

Let this season bring pleasure, peace and prosperity to all.

ALL INDIA CHURCH SUPPLIERS

Manufacturing

🔔 Church Bells

🔔 Ship Bells & Metal Bells

30kg to 2000kg Bronze Church Bells

No.38, Main Road, Perumalpuram, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu - 627007.

📞 0462-2533437 📱 98421 53281

Church
Bell



Searching Space for the Birth of the Prince of Peace with Midwives in Exodus

The Problem

How to find space, time and place for anything else in a world that is obsessed with and governed by:

- Profit-Sheets or spread sheets
- Upward going graphs, Y-Axis
- Pie-chart of all round growth, how much share of profit
- Time bound flyers
- asap
- 24x7 work culture
- Cosmopolitan City centers that never sleep,

Even if one breaks free from 'corporate slavery' than where to find space for the birth of the Prince of Peace? What will be the identity and location of our ministry and mission. What are we searching for, and from where do we begin our search? Are we searching for a A construct, A thought, An Elusive Mirage?

Search for a Biblical Paradigm

A meditation on the theme of "Finding Space For The Prince Of Peace", requires from us to search, find and establish a biblical model for our life and faith, its significance and its demand for faith and mission on us as an individual as well as a Church.

Searching Space for the Birth of the Prince of Peace with Midwives in Exodus:

The search for the model takes us to the text Exod 1:15-22. This text is a wonderful story of two extra ordinary, par-excellence midwives Shiphra & Puah who made a choice of partnering with God as against partnering with the imperial power of Egypt under whom the Hebrews were colonized as slaves. Shiphra and Puah choose to fear God and not to fear Pharaoh; fear of God took away the fear of Pharaoh.

In Exodus chapters 1-2, the narrative is concerned about the situation of the slaves. It is also important to take notice that till the end of chapter 2 *YHWH* has not been actively engaged in the narrative. The

slaves, particularly the Hebrew women slaves Shipra & Puah, mother of Moses and the sister of Moses are left on their own to fend for themselves, use their wits and intelligence to encounter and thwart the 'death- agenda' of Pharaoh all by themselves without the help of any male leadership. So the narrative opens in a needy human situation in which the wonder of Hebrew birth and subsequent care by the mother and sister are working in defiance of Pharaoh's decree. Ironically, in chapters 1-2 first Moses is vulnerable and needs to be saved by the Hebrew women before he could save them by becoming the champion of the Hebrew slaves.

Hebrew Midwives' Subversive Role against Empire for the Birth of Messiah

Two shrewd midwives Shiphrah and Puah in Exodus story play a crucial and subversive role in negotiating with the ruler of Egypt. They inform Pharaoh that his negotiation and "deal" with the Midwives to control the slave population by killing the male child have failed. "The Hebrew women... are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them" Exod 1:19. It shows that even such a powerful ruler of the great civilization was dependent upon midwives, and he was helpless before the skills and trade secrets of midwives. The clarification given by Hebrew midwives could not be challenged or verified by the whole imperial machinery of great Pharaoh. The midwives were able to safe guard the future of the slave Hebrew community by saving the male Hebrew children. Midwives challenged the authority of Pharaoh; they informed the Pharaoh about a technical fact which could not be verified or proved even by the Pharaoh. It is ridiculous and absurd to say that Hebrew women or any women for that matter can deliver a child without the help of a midwife. Great monarchs were dependent upon the services of midwives who could effectively use their legal and



Rev. Dr. Naveen Rao,
Principal & Professor of OT,
Leonard Theological College,
Jabalpur.





medical authority for or against them to carry out their policies over life and death of

- Hebrew slaves. What did Hebrew midwives do was not just presenting a comparison between the strength of Egyptian women with Hebrew women in delivering a child; it was an act of treason against the 'death-project' of Pharaoh.

These two midwives made a mockery of all the power, wisdom and might of the Egyptian empire when they decided to present a satire to the foolish Pharaoh that, "Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and are delivered before the midwife comes to them" (Exod. 1:19). The remarkable thing is that the Pharaoh is so naïve to believe this tale told by the Hebrew midwives. The audience and the readers of the Exodus story know very well that there is no such thing as painless childbirth. And Pharaoh is ignorant of the fundamentals of childbirth and labor and therefore he is and cannot be a giver of life.

Church as a Midwife Finding Space for the Birth of Prince of Peace

In the biblical World the midwives were highly regarded. They were important not only to the parents by helping them to conceive, give birth and rear children, but they were important to the whole community which learned from their work how to understand God and God's work of creation and salvation as a midwife. The thankfulness and gratitude of Israel to midwives were kept afresh by the use of the metaphors of birth and birthing with which the Creator and Creation was narrated in the Biblical narratives and Psalms.

The biblical model of midwife brings before us how to be in partnership with the God of whole creation, how to understand the responsibility of whole cosmos as our parish. It is not to rule and plunder, it is not to overpower and oppress, but it is to serve to beget life and peace.

- The model of midwife presents before us a ministry to become a channel to beget life by making space for the 'Peace' to be born in partnership with God.

- During colonial times the theme "partnering with God of whole creation" would mean to obtain a sanction as representatives of God on this earth being created in the image and likeness of God to rule over, to subdue and to have dominion over nature and over the people who live close to nature, such as native, aboriginals, tribal, dalits, adivasi and women. But the model of midwife brings before us a postcolonial dimension of partnering with God to serve, to work towards promoting, enhancing and sustaining life.

- When the forces of the World, the Pharaohs and Abhimeleks of today, are demanding that the Church join with them in life-threatening partnership. We are challenged by the courage and daring of two women who decided to join God in partnership of life sustaining and life promoting mission, who decided to fear God over against the fear of Pharaoh, to stand up for the birth of peace by justice.

- When the whole creation is crying in travail of birth-pangs for redemption (epistle of Romans) the Church as midwife needs to become a felicitor, a means and an agency to bring release and liberation of creation.

- When the forces of greed and selfishness like MNC and Corporate houses are trying to have dominion and to subdue and destroy the forests, rural life, rivers, ponds, trees, all kinds of flora and fauna, then Church as midwife needs to side with Creation. Church needs to ensure the birth and growth of species of whole nature, water bodies, forests, etc. Church need to be an agent of life for the creation.

- When the Gospel demands from us as partners of God to preach the good-news of salvation to the whole creation, Mark 16:15- 'And he [Jesus] said unto them, "Go into the entire world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation"', then the Church needs to listen to it. This

is a call for partnering with God to bring good news to the whole creation that we the church will work to ensure that the forests are not destroyed, the rivers and seas are not polluted, the underground water is not contaminated, to ensure as a midwife that the species of animals and plants will not be made extinct, the ponds will not be dried up to make housing societies, markets and shopping malls. Church can decide to be eco-midwives, eco-evangelists, eco-activists.

- Midwives are bringing before us the model of the Gospel of Life & Peace, life-affirming, life sustaining and life enhancing ministry in all its forms, for the whole World (cosmos), call for us to be a minister for the whole creation.

- Midwife is a metaphor for the Church to be an agent, facilitators, and medium for the birth of new life of the whole cosmos with an exclamation like John Wesley that "The World is my Parish".

Jesus came to fulfill God's mission of Prince of Peace, where the World finds at hand 'Prince of Peace' ushering in Life in abundance, fullness of life, and it includes no war. Through the act of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels on several occasions God's purpose of mission is accomplished. Jesus enacts an alternative system of Kingdom of God that was marked by compassion among human beings for each other, and based on a belief in the sufficiency of resources for all the people when the resources are shared with each other. This all could become possible when two WOMEN took initiative to make space for the birth of Messiah, Moses. They enacted their discipleship with a daring to stand against the program of Pharaoh and gave birth to Moses.

May the model of two midwives encourage and inspire us this Christmas to dare and to do, by making space for the Prince of Peace to be born, giving a chance to the birth of reconciliation and peace initiatives in our World that is torn by war, hatred, violence and killings.

Let there be Peace on Earth, and Let it begin with me, SHALOM !!!



Finding Space for Unsettling Expressions of Christ during Christmas

A powerfully disquieting image of Christmas manger has recently come from Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus in Palestine, where the image of the baby Jesus is placed amidst the rubble in a church there. This is an appropriate, even if an unfortunate depiction for a celebration. The manger relevantly depicts the existential crisis of the region as many children are pulled out of rubbles, most of them regrettably crushed to death, in war hit Palestine and Israel. The biblical incident of the Massacre of the Innocents is carried out all over again in our own lifetimes. The current crisis expects a life-affirming response and nothing else, as only such a response evokes hope and relief towards achieving peace.

The manger in Bethlehem questions the sanitized idea of the mangers of the Christian traditions and the all-calm and quite narratives around them where Jesus is placed in a romanticized set up. The stench of the cattle shed cannot be smelt. The agony and travails of Mary is not usually captured. Joseph looks less bewildered than what the scripture passages tell us and suggest about his struggles. Moreso, the manger is not

surrounded by wailing parents who lost their young children to the cold-blooded murder of the ruler and the powerful. It is important to note that, in traditional and conservative Christian thought, Jesus is depicted as an exclusive child to have gone through vulnerability and risks, in contradiction to the killings and risks many children and their parents went through (Matt. 2: 13-18).

Martin Kerr, the British-Canadian songwriter and performer, captures the grim, hopeless and peaceless season of war in Palestine-Israel, as it is in many parts of the word, with these words to the tune of Away in a Manger:

“Away in bomb shelter, concrete for a bed/
The little lost children lay down
their sweet heads

The drones in the dark sky look down
where they lay/ While they pray to the
angels to fly them away”.

Bible, Messiahs and Peace

In the Biblical tradition of the Old Testaments, messiahs (the anointed ones) emerged from time to time to bring peace, justice, liberation and



Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon,
is a *Presbyter Karnataka Northern Diocese (CSI)* and
Professor of Christian Theology
at the *United Theological College, Bengaluru.*



restoration of the people of God who ever enslaved as prisoners of war. Shalom (Hebrew for Peace) is more than just the absence of war, strife or violence. The scope and objective of Shalom are community-oriented. Shalom has an aspect of individual welfare too, but in the best interest of the community. It denotes to what best welfare can be envisioned and how this vision can be applied in its immediate contexts. As a high mark, Shalom denotes continual renewal of relationships: relationships between humans, relationship between humans and creation, and relationship between humans and God. Therefore, Shalom is a continual reworking of Covenantal relationship or harmony between communities. It denotes fullness of life or meeting the desires of a being. It includes material blessings: denoting meeting all subsistent needs, success, or fulfillment in life.

The New Testament equivalent of Shalom is Eirene. The spirit and practice of Shalom continued while the political context gave Eirene a new demand. The Palestine of Jesus' time was a Roman colony, strongly influenced by Greek philosophy and culture and rooted in the practice of Judasim. When Jesus preached peace through the Kingdom of God, he proposed the notion of peace that contested the colonial notion of silenced peace as was projected and practiced by the Roman empire (Pax Romana) of his time. While the Roman peace did denote prosperity and a certain sense of tranquility, the Empire achieved this peace through regimented opinions, shrunk spaces of questioning and contestations, submissions, occupation and servitude in their own land. It is during such a culture of politics and colonization, and when people looked for a messiah who would identify himself with them, Jesus broke into the scene to preach the peace of God.

Hope and Peace are captured in biblical theology of Covenant through the birth of children and the participation of the innocents in the


communities along with the rest of the community members. Children are the signs of the covenant. The theological importance of children such as 'children as a gift from God', 'means of God's activity', and 'a symbolic assurance of the covenant between God and the people of Israel' inclined the Hebrews to have children and to place them in high esteem. In the Hebrew culture of biblical times, children immortalized the family heritage and the covenantal promise of God.

The wars and killings are therefore a violation of the God-intended covenant between the communities. The killings, violation of rights and dignity, value-neutral education, and the lack of prophetic vision is what is haunting us today. The number of killed children in the Palestine-Israel crisis is anywhere around 5000. It will be around 7000 if you add the disappeared children. Through intentional killing of the innocents, intergenerational conversations are abruptly silenced. The hope is that the victims of war and those who grow up in warring contexts do not cultivate hatred, although it should be expected. The hope is that the killing of the innocents is not normalized, as they are easy targets and trophies of the powerful and the dominant. Christmas comes to us in such contexts making us rethink our ideas of endless expensive celebrations.

The American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, captures similar contexts of anxiety, desolation and hopelessness in our times when the advent of Christ must help us share and practice peace. In her poem *Amazing Peace: A Christmas* Maya Angelou writes:

*Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.*

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon



*snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.*

*We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?*

*Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.*

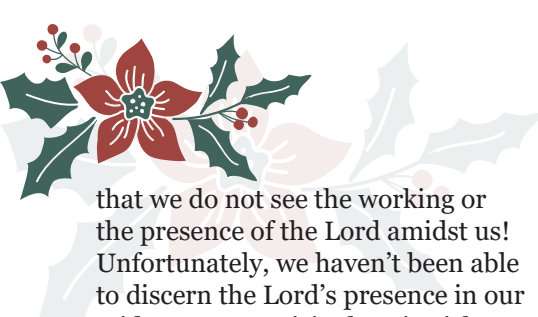
Then she goes on to say:
Hope is born again in the faces of children

It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.

*Hope spreads around the earth.
Brightening all things,*

Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

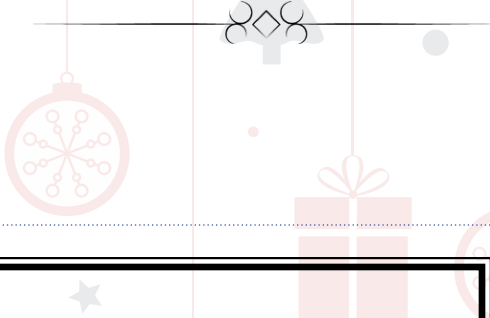
Amidst wars, strife and destructions, we have entered yet another season of Advent and Christmas, to experience the coming of the Lord in ways that are unexpected. At the same time, we are caught up in madness of a market-driven consumeristic advent season. We are in a restless culture and we just cannot wait for the next event to happen. Christmas has become an event than being a lifestyle. Our minds are so loud and frenzied that even slowing down for a brief moment of silence or introspection has become challenging. The Lord comes in ways the Lord wishes to. However, our understanding of the coming of the Lord is so much conditioned by the notions of the Second coming so



that we do not see the working or the presence of the Lord amidst us! Unfortunately, we haven't been able to discern the Lord's presence in our midst. Not surprisingly, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who died in the hands of Hitler's Nazi forces for questioning their ruthless political intentions, says this from his prison cell about the coming of the Lord: *We have become so habituated to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us... Advent is a time of waiting... Our whole life, however is an advent, that is, a time of waiting for the ultimate... Learn to wait because he has promised to come.*

During the Advent we choose to see the coming of the child Jesus, a vulnerable child whose parents could not afford a hygienic place and comfort for his birth. Not that such places were unavailable but such places were not accessible at affordable prices when immediately needed. Every year we see this Jesus back in the manger as if this Jesus has not grown out of it. Perhaps, deeply guided by our strong attitude for power and control, we do not wish to see an empowered Jesus who has grown out of such vulnerability to question our practices and celebrations. This Christmas, what type of Jesus we wish to wait for or receive? Do we still wish to see Jesus the child, whom we

could carry, cuddle, pamper and then subtly socialize him into our cultural practices and institutionalized ethos? Or, do we wish to receive Jesus who questions us and reforms us for a better understanding of Advent, waiting and Christmas? The Lord is Coming! The Lord has Come!! Or, as a preacher once said, perhaps the Lord came to us like a thief in the night, but unfortunately did not find anything worth stealing!!!



**THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, BANGALORE
INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF:**

Professor/Associate Professor in Christian Theology

Qualification: An earned doctorate in the field of specialization from a university recognized by the Senate of Serampore College (University) with minimum three years teaching experience and preferably competence in supervising doctoral students. The appointment will be for a period of three years, the first year being probationary year.

Applications should include: a) Curriculum Vitae with a Bibliography of published works; b) Copies of at least two selected samples of scholarly publications; c) Three references directly sent to the College in a sealed envelope; d) Copy of the SSLC; e) Copy of all Degree Certificates.

Applications must reach:

**The Principal,
The United Theological College,
No. 63, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bangalore – 560 046
On or before Friday the 15th March, 2024 by 12.00 Noon.**

A scanned copy of the application may be sent to:

unitedtcprincipal@gmail.com

Peace Day Observance at CSI Diocese of Malabar

The International Day of Peace was observed at the CSI Church in Kariyambadi, Diocese of Malabar on the 22nd of September 2023. Rev. Sam Prakash, in his introduction, spoke about the importance of Peace. He mentioned the contemporary situation in the world and the need for action, especially by young people.

After which, Mr. Nivin Thomas spoke about the initiatives of CSI for

peacebuilding, with special reference to the Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) programme of CSI SEVA. Ms. Dona Shah, LCP member of the Diocese, also conveyed the importance of World Peace in contemporary conflicting situations.

A peace tree was set up to symbolise the importance of fostering peace, and the diocese youth groups signed and took a photo in the shape of a

heart. This was done with the hope that world peace may be achieved with a pure and compassionate heart. This was a local diocesan programme organized by Rev. Sinoj Manjooran, Mr. Shinu and Mr. Subin. Around 50 people from the region actively participated in the event.

Mr Praveen Daniel,
Programme Executive,
CSI SEVA

Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP) - 2023

The orientation of Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP) held at CSI Synod Centre, Chennai from 13th to 17th October 2023 and 03rd to 06th November 2023. This year as a part of EYVP Programme, two Ecumenical Youth Volunteers, Ms. Carolin Keller and Ms. Luisa Marie Oellig from Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), Germany came to Church of South India (CSI) to render their services as volunteers at different boarding homes of CSI. Ms. Kathrin Lehrbach, Coordinator, Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme, EMS, Germany accompanied the volunteers in the initial days.

Orientation on 'Understanding Indian Society' was given by Rev. Dr. Babu. C. Naik, Professor of GLTC, Chennai.

Prof. Babu explained various aspects related to the Indian Society like, History of Indian Society; Socio-political, religious and economic structure of Indian Society; Present Indian scenario on 4 estates of India: Government, Legislative, Judiciary and Media, How NRI' can adjust to the present Indian situation amidst contemporary issues of Nationalism and Multi-Faith Context; Rights and Privileges of NRI' in Indian Constitution.

Orientation on the Structure of CSI, Indian traditions, cultures, languages, faith practices and so on was given by the General Secretary of CSI, Adv. C. Fernandes Rathina Raja. Directors of the CSI Synodical Departments explained various activities of their

departments. Interaction with the wardens/representatives of different boarding homes gave space for the volunteers and wardens to exchange their ideas and action plans for the upcoming months of volunteer's services at boarding homes. Prior to their journey to the boarding homes, volunteers were taken to the prominent places in Chennai.

Rev. Ch. John Nischal Kumar
Director, Dept. of Youth
CSI Synod.



CSI Life Advertisement Tariff

CSI Life Subscription Rates

Back Cover Outside - Colour

Rs. 8500/-

Back/Front Cover Inside - Colour

Rs. 7000/-

Center Spread(1 Page) Color

Rs. 7000/-

Black & White

Rs. 5000/-

Black & White - Half Page

Rs. 3000/-

India - 1 Year

Rs. 150/-

India - Life Time

Rs. 3000/-

U.S.A

\$. 30.00/-

U.K

£. 30.00/-

Australia

\$. 35.00/-



WANTED TO SUBSCRIBE CSI LIFE?

NOW IT IS EASIER THAN EVER !!!

Scan the QR Code to Subscribe
CSI Life Magazine and Scan UPI ID
To Pay online.

SUBSCRIPTION/RENEWAL FORM




QR for UPI PAYMENT



UPI ID: csisynod@iob

WRITE TO US

 **The Business Manager**
CSI Life Magazine
CSI Centre, #5, Whites Road
Royapettah, Chennai - 600 014,
South India

 **csilife2012@gmail.com**

Call us for the New/Renewal/Update Subscription Payment on: 044 2852 1566 / 2852 4166

LOOKING FOR A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE ?

Join in the Brand 'LEONARD' where your evangelical call meets with the academic excellence !

WHO CAN JOIN?

12th Pass - 5 years B.D

Degree Holders - 4 years B.D

B.Th graduates
2 years upgrade B.D

WHO WE ARE?

- Biblical based, church focused Theological College.
- Wesleyan Foundations of Holiness of Heart leading to Social Holiness.
- Our Pentecost - To bear the Cross to India's Heart.

OUR OTHER COURSES

- BCS & Dip.CS from Senate of Serampore
- 1 year Church Worker Course
- Religious Education Course

(All courses in English & Hindi Medium including BD)



Leonard



WHAT WE OFFER ?

- Experienced and Qualified Faculty
- Advanced courses in Languages (Hebrew, Greek & Sanskrit).
- Wifi enabled - Library and Classrooms
- Doctor's weekly visitation • Dispensary
- Students work in college
- In-house cloth washing facilities.

HURRY UP,
first come... first serve

**LIMITED SEATS &
LIMITED SCHOLARSHIP**

**APPLY
NOW**

Login / Make a Call

www.leonardtheologicalcollege.com

Principal: +91 94247 05722,
Registrar: +91 76829 76001

Leonard Theological College

P.O. Box No. 36, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur (M.P.) - 482 001.
Ph: 0761 - 4063307, 4046133; Email: ltcjbp@gmail.com