

INTER COLLEGIATE PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

KOLKATA CHAPTER

Issue No. 1

NEWSLETTER FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

July-2002



“Arise, shine, for your light
has come, and the glory of
the Lord rises upon you”
Isa 60:1



Jo Chaho Ho Jaaye
Worship & Rejoice

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord & greetings to each one of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is a real joy and privilege for me to have been associated with the ICPF chapter of Kolkata. Christian Graduate Prayer Fellowship (CGPF) Kolkata Chapter, the senior wing of ICPF that ensures the smooth functioning of ICPF in Kolkata was formally launched on 9th March 2001 at the Prayer Hall of Church Of God, Kolkata.

From the name of the organization i.e. Inter Collegiate Prayer Fellowship (ICPF) it is clear that our aim is to introduce Christ to the younger generation of our city and state. This group of people are the most vulnerable to be attacked by the father of lies and deception – Satan. If we could bring this group of people to the saving knowledge of Christ I think we will be able to change the destiny of our country.

We are living in the last of the last days and the devil is very busy working overtime to keep everyone including many of the believers busy by different means. The most effective means used by the devil is the audiovisual media i.e. TV programmes. It has been proved scientifically that anything we see through the TV, the impression lasts for a long time in our mind and even sometimes permanently imprinted in our minds.

The ICPF has been targeting the young people in the college and school level for evangelizing and spreading the good news as; these are the people who will be the future leaders. We have conducted several seminars, special meetings & retreats in various parts of Kolkata and nearby suburbs. The response has been very encouraging and young people from different religious groups like Hindus, Muslims & other non-Christian groups have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. Many of them have even been baptized by the Holy Spirit. We have been conducting follow up programmes for these people. The response has been very encouraging. This shows how hungry people are for the truth.

I request all the well wishers and supporters to continue to pray for the ICPF.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the churches, pastors and believers who have been a source of help and strength for the ICPF. I will also like to convey my thanks to Brother Joseph Joy & all the committee members for their contribution towards ICPF activities. Jesus Christ is the only answer for our country.

1 John 5:11-15

Thanking you,

Yours in Christ,

Dr P.S Surendranath.
President CGPF Kolkata Chapter.

CHALLENGES OF THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN MODERN SOCIETY

- Bijoy John

(Calcutta Boys School)

For a Christian Youth, one of the **biggest challenges is to walk our talk and talk our walk**. Modern times make it even more difficult for a committed Christian. The world is a lot changed than before. Telephones, Cars, Bikes, TV, computers and Internet are all now a part of our daily life. In this fast pace of life, everything, both good and bad, are available to us everywhere. Satan tempts us with pornography, sex, smoking, drinking, drugs, bad relationships, bad friends, Internet, and many other things and attempts to make us stumble. Wake up Christian Youths; take up the challenge to stand against the designs of the devil.

Some of the challenges the youths face are in the following sphere:

- **Relationship:** - Christianity is about relationships rather than rules. It begins with the most important relationship of all our relationships- with the God who loves us.
- **Self-esteem:** - Everyone wants to be more rich, more beautiful and more in all aspects of life. If we rely on beauty, wealth, possession, friendships and such outward aspects of life for our self-worth, we may find temporary fulfillment and happiness. The real lasting happiness is attained only when our spiritual need is met. Without that it is only like running after the wind.
- **Sex:** - Sex is one of the biggest challenges faced by youth. Everything that God created has purpose. But everything that God created also has order. But when it is misused, it leaves lasting hurts and scars. God condemns this.

- **Family:** - Our very own family is a big challenge. Many a times when things go wrong, we feel that our parents do not care for us and in this process, we drift away from God.
- **Friends:** - Good friends are genuinely interested in what is best for us. There can be friends who tempt us to smoke, drink and do many other thing which are not pleasing in God's sight. Rather than being true friends, they become the devil's agents in spoiling us. Jesus wants to be our friend, and if we accept His friendship, we will never be disappointed.

Many young people find themselves disoriented and confused. God gives us guidance in what we should do. 1st Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." Ecclesiastes 11:7 to 12:7 also tells about the youths.

Many a times, we as Christian Youths are ashamed to preach the Gospel and to tell others about Christ. It should not be so. Youths have God of heavens on our side. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare. The weapons of spiritual warfare are given in Ephesians 6:13-18. When we employ these weapons, Satan tries to stops us with the fire of temptations, habits and wrong friendships.

Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit defeats Satan's designs. **You can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**

(NB.: This essay was awarded the 1st Prize in our Essay Contest)

Attention Students & Youths!!!

We wish that this Newsletter should be a medium for the students to express their views, testimonies, messages, problems etc.

So take this opportunity and send us your inputs. Let your friends and the grown-ups sit back and read what you have to say. You have to send us your complete Name, Address, which Class / College you study, Contact Number and Age. If you want this information to be kept confidential and not to be published you may please mention that also.

You may also send us the problems you face. When we answer it through this newsletter, others will also benefit.

The Way We Should Live!

How do we decide the way we should live?

- A See what people around us is doing and follow the trend
- B Follow the trend as much as we can afford.
- C Choose the way that best suits us ... comfortable, peaceful and hassle-free ... swim with the tide and never against it.
- D Search the Truth and live a truthful and holy life; though it is against the trend, against the majority opinion and calls for problems and persecution.

The first three ways are very easy and tempting but the wise and the brave choose the fourth. The Bible says *"The truth will set you free."* It is only the truth that sets us free. We are otherwise bound in slavery by the lie or ignorance. As we seek the truth and change ourselves accordingly, we become liberated and free from ignorance and lie.

"Truth is disagreeable only to the fool" an Arabic saying

"Truth and roses have thorns about them" English saying

"Truth is always the strongest argument"

A Greek saying go like this, *"Truth lies at the bottom of the well"* So to know the truth, one has to labour and search for it. Some of the basic truths that transform and change people are given below. Let the Wise and the Brave follow it. See that you don't miss the truth.

- 1 No man is righteous, everybody have sinned.
- 2 Sin has separated man from God.
- 3 Because of sin, every man is condemned to eternal death (Hell).
- 4 Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life; the way for man's salvation.
- 5 We are called to bear much fruit ... fruit that will last.
- 6 The branch that does not bear fruit is cut off ... thrown into the fire.

To know more truths, open your Bible and read it. Let it be a lamp to your feet and teach you the way you should live.

TESTIMONY.....

Praise the Lord!

My name is Anil Pillai. I am 16 years old. I have been brought up in Christian faith though my father is still a non-believer.

I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal saviour on 5th of January 2002 in one of the ICPF (Inter Collegiate Prayer Fellowship) camp held at Dum Dum. My life before the camp constituted roaming with my friends going out with my friends without asking my parents. I only used to think about fun and I was always out of all these religious things. After this camp I had changed a lot and it was tough because my friends were still expecting the same old Anil but I am happy that now looking at the change in me they have developed a big change in their lives too. In the camp no excess knowledge about Jesus was provided but I felt the touch of the Holy Spirit trying to pull me out from my previous life. It is a beautiful experience to be close to God and it is so exciting to know that the maker of all things Jesus is your guide. I am very much ready to do Gods work and am working with the ICPF.

I want you all to pray for my father so that he may also come to know God personally.

NB.: Br. Anil Pillai decided to take Water Baptism in the ICPF Camp in Jan 2002 and has taken Baptism in April 27, 2002

DID JESUS PLAY FOR BRAZIL?

Samuel John Varghese

Brazil has won the World Cup Football in Yokohama and the secret to their success, as revealed by Brazil's World Cup Stars and Pele's wife Assiria Nascimento is that it was divine intervention (The Telegraph Sport 3rd July 2002) Brazil's fifth World Cup triumph was followed by the whole Brazilian delegation saying a collective prayer on the pitch. "100% Jesus" was scribbled on the front of their top.

Once when King Nebuchadnezzar threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fiery furnace, a fourth person was seen walking with them in the fire. This fourth person saved them from the fire - a divine intervention indeed (Daniel Ch.3). Was it the same with Brazil? Was there any divine intervention in the verdict of the World Cup?

It is reported that Brazil's players are just a few of the country's sports figures who are part of an ever-growing evangelical movement. While they are active in building up their career, they are also very active in the evangelical movement. Being a part of an evangelical movement makes a lot of difference in the respective individuals. They grow up spiritually, emotionally, morally to own a strong character of confidence, purpose and a positive direction. Nothing can defeat their purpose and confidence, as their inspiration is Jesus Christ. This not only reflects in their personal life, it also impacts their professional life in a big way.

Evangelization is the will of God in our life. As long as we do not conform to the will of God in our life, we are not at peace with God. We might be working hard in our life, but doing that alone is not enough. The Bible says, **"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain"** Ps 127:1 Many Christians forget this simple truth and instead of seeking the will of God and abiding in Him, try to chase their goals with their own might. They even encourage (sometimes indirectly) their children to pursue their intellectual growth at the cost (or neglect) of their spiritual and moral growth. Keep them always involved and active with the students and youth fellowship even while you provide the best education in their life. Spiritual activities will never hamper a student's career as it always builds them up and teaches them to handle their responsibilities properly. Brazil has set a good example before us. Diego Maradona has dismissed Brazil as a "mediocre" team that was lucky to win the Cup. They were virtually written off after struggling to qualify and were ripped apart by their national media before the championship. While the giants failed, this "mediocre" team returned as world cup record breakers.

God is not at all interested in football. People from almost all nations were praying to God and if God starts helping them all, the world cup will be in a mess. Though God is not responsible in deciding the outcome of the match, God's hand is very much evident in building up the players of Brazil who trusted in Him to give a 200% performance. It is no doubt that the outcome is the result of hard labour, but the fact remains that Christ being their inspiration and Master, made their efforts fruitful. Christ made all the difference that gave them the upper hand in killing the giants.

Now it is your choice - will this event bring a change in your outlook towards evangelism? As students and professionals we might be branded as mediocre or underrated but with Jesus in our team we can even beat the best in the world. As the youth of this nation, are we willing to attempt great things for HIM? Are we ready to expect greater things from HIM??

With Jesus as our Captain, we can make the impossible — possible...

Quotable:

*“Where there is no vision, the people perish”
Old Testament*

“What you worship, determines what you become”

“Christ sends us out to bring others in”

“The one who follows Christ, leads the way for others”

“A candle looses nothing of its light by lighting another candle”

*“Those having torches will pass them on to others”
Plato*

A movement called ICPF

Kolkata News

Programs conducted:

- 1) Essay Contest in November 2000
- 2) “Sawal Zindegi Ka ... Kaun Banega Vijayta” One-day retreat at Bishop’s College, Kolkata on 23rd December 2000.
- 3) “Vision” One-day retreat at Thakurpukur, Kolkata on 1st May 2001.
- 4) “Swatantrata” One-day retreat at Barrackpore on 2nd October 2001.
- 5) “Jo Chaho Ho Jaaye – Worship & Rejoice” One-day retreat at Bishop’s College, Kolkata on 31st October 2001.
- 6) “Eeshu Ke Sath – Kamyabi Ke Aur” Annual Camp near Dum Dum Airport, Kolkata from 2nd January 2002 to 5th January 2002.
- 7) Gospel Meeting at Haliashahar, 24 Parganas (N) on 5th January 2002.
- 8) Pastor’s Conference at Shyamnagar on 16th March 2002
- 9) Half-day retreat at Kolkata on 31st March 2002
- 10) “Shab Cheye Dorkari Bosthu” One-day retreat at Kachrapara, 24 Parganas (N) on 1st May 2002

A Closer Glimpse

“Vision” One-day retreat at Thakurpukur on 1st May 2001.

God has blessed our first one-day retreat in Bengali. The total attendance was 48. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. P.S. Surendranath. Speakers Br. Samson Nag and Br. Samuel Varghese stressed on the fact “where there is no vision, the people perish”. They exhorted everyone to have a vision according to the perfect will of God.

Br. Soumitra Dey and Br. Bijoy John led the Praise and Worship. The group discussion and the Question-Answer session were attended with much interest and many doubts were cleared. It was a time for the participants to dedicate and rededicate themselves to the Lord and for His work.

A few feedback received from the par-

ticipants says:

“I expect in this program that Jesus touch my life and change my life. I enjoyed today’s programe. Now I know what is the vision in my life.”

Dipika Haldar

“There were many questions in my mind which I got answered”

Jayanto Kr. Dey

“I learnt a lot. I got to know the Lord more and how to handle life.”

William Nag

“Great Worship Service”

Shiney Joseph

“I enjoyed praising and worshipping the Lord.”

Nissy Varghese

“Swatantrata” One-day retreat at Barrackpore on 2nd October 2001.

This Gandhi Jayanti was a day of freedom to many. Just before the meeting concluded, Br. Bikram Das (22 Years) came to the stage, took the microphone and declares in front of the whole congregation, *“I am a Christian*

and I attend Church regularly. But inside me there was a great struggle going on. Outside I am calm, but inside I struggle and sometimes succumb to the sinful thoughts. But today Christ has made me free. I

thank God for giving me complete freedom today." It was hard to accept the shortcomings and the inside struggle publicly, but he was full of joy and happiness about what happened to him that day.

Here is what some of them say:

"Today I have got complete freedom through Jesus Christ. Now I am in Christ so I am a new creation. Today I got freedom from sin, a complete freedom."

Raj Ratan Das

"I want to take Baptism"

Paul Makhal

"Today I recognised who Jesus is!"

Ashadull Saikh

"I learnt to follow Jesus in my daily life"

Suvra Chatterjee

"Today was the day of many changes in my life."

Wasi Ahmed

"I have come to know many things about Jesus." Chandra Chatterjee

"I have made many changes in my life"

Souvik Mitra

In this One-day retreat, Br. Mukesh and team led the Praise & Worship. Pastor Login Masih spoke from the Word of God about Jesus who gives deliverance to us in different ways. Then followed the Group Discussion on different questions basically related to freedom in our daily life. In the second session, Br. Samuel John Varghese led a wonderful praise and worship session, which was followed by a message from Br. Joseph Joy. Based on John 8:36 and 8:31 & 32, he explained how Jesus Christ gives us freedom by transforming us and making us into new creation. The Holy Spirit started working and it led the youths into taking decisions. The devil was defeated and the people delivered. Thereafter time was separated for testimony.

"Jo Chaho Ho Jaaye – Worship & Rejoice"

One-day retreat at Bishop's College, Kolkata on 31st October 2001.

It was time for testimony and Br. Prottoy Kumar Das had a testimony to tell. Due to body pain he wanted to go home and at that same time, the preacher asked if anybody was suffering with body pain. When he raised his hand, he was told that if he worshipped God, he would have deliverance. As he starts worshipping, God gave him deliverance. He was jumping up and down and saying, "I have got deliverance."

ICPF One-day retreat started with the prayer of Rev. John Thomas. Br. Jobey Philip and Br. Shinoy Mathew led the Praise and Worship in the morning session.

Rev. Abraham C. Mathew spoke from the Word of God on Worship and Holiness. When he gave the altar call, several youths came forward accepting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Group discussion and the Question-Answer session which were interestingly

participated, followed it. Mrs. Geeta Surendranath gave the conclusion to the Group Discussion in a very beautiful way.

The workshop on Worship started in the afternoon session with Br. Blesson Joy leading the Praise and Worship. Br. Joseph Joy then gave a message on the deliverance through worship. This was followed by a longer worship session. The meeting concluded with the prayer and benediction by Br. Dirang Timothy Lungalang.

Some feedback received is as follows:

"Today God has gifted me the Holy Spirit" Tanusree Mitra

"I got a renewal in my spirit" K. Rajavadhana

"My Jesus touch me" Arjun Das

"I got a new revival ... there was God's presence" Ebenezer Abraham

"I got a new touch from God" Isaac Abraham

Quotable:

"To show His love Jesus died for us; to show our love, we must live for Him!"

"Don't just spend time, invest it"

"The more we serve Christ, the less we will serve self"

"Practice yourself what you preach"
Plautus

"He preaches well who lives well" Cervantes

"Every revolution was first a thought in one man's mind" Emerson



Pr. Raju Ebenezer

Pr. V. V. Alexander

Br. Joseph John

KOLKATA
WELCOME
THE ANNUAL
CAMP WITH
JESHU KE SAATH

Br. Sujo John

Dr. P. S. Surendranath

Br. Sudip Das

Angelos III

ANNUAL CAMP - 2002

Quotable:

“Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark”

“Character is what you are in the dark”
Dwight L.M.

“Good men die, but death cannot kill them”
Thomas Fuller

“Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal”
Thomas Moore

“A truth that is told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent” Blake

“Many people are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges”

“Eeshu Ke Sath – Kamyabi Ke Aur”

Annual Camp from 2nd January 2002 to 5th January 2002.

“God touched me and I have committed myself to minister God's Word full time. God renewed my spiritual life, prayer life and to be responsible” **Isac Simon**

“I sacrifice my life to walk with Holy Spirit. The Camp helped me to change my worship style. I got benefited free to worship” **S. Tarun Kumar**

“I want to serve God only (No other, only Jesus)” **-Sunil**

“Decided to live a holy life, to serve the Lord full time and to serve Him from wherever I am” - **Stanley Thomas**

“By this camp I really have changed my life a lot. First I felt I was worst but now I feel I am the best...My decision are to serve the Lord, to always praise in the Holy Spirit and tell my testimony to everybody” **-Deen Abraham**

“I have decided to take Baptism. Besides that, I want to lead a holy life” **-Leena Mathew**

Everybody has something to say, for everyone is blessed. I wish, but cannot write all, as I have to keep this report short. **All Glory and honour belongs to God and Him alone for He has made everything possible.**

The Campsite situated just beside Dum Dum Airport was a beautiful place with all necessary facility. We could have a clear view of the Runway just in front

of us and could see clearly the planes landing and taking off.

Dr. P. S. Surendranath, The President, CGPF, Kolkata Chapter inaugurated the Camp with the prayer led by Pastor K. K. Sunny (Church of God (Full Gospel) in India). After the inaugural address by the President, Pastor V.V. Alexander gave the opening message. In the following days, Pastor Raju Ebenezer took the teaching sessions and Br. Joseph John gave the devotional messages. The sessions on Practical Christian Living was taken by Pastor Raju Ebenezer and Dr. P.S. Surendranath. The Praise & Worship was led by Angelos III from Delhi. The anointed ministry of the Angelos III led the students to come out of their inhibitions and worship the Lord with a free heart and thus preparing their hearts for God's Word. Br. Sudip Das translated all messages into Bengali.

On 3rd January 2002, God brought Br. Sujo John, the survivor from the terrorist attack on World Trade Center on September 11, into our midst. He had a message that challenged the youths and students to live for the Lord.

With tears and cries the youths turned to God. The love, affection, fellowship and the worship was so good that we felt that it is good for us to be there.

Forthcoming Programs and Events

(For your prayers, participation and support)

DATE	EVENTS	PLACE
(August 2002)	Dr. K. Muralidhar's Meeting	Calcutta
15th August 2002	Half-Day Retreat	Calcutta
30th August 2002	One-Day Retreat	Shyamnagar (Hindi)
27th September 2002	Half-Day Retreat	Bedibhawan / Haliashahar
2nd October 2002	One-Day Retreat	Titagarh (Hindi)
4th November 2002	Half-Day Retreat	Calcutta
19th November 2002	Half-Day Retreat	Shyamnagar
6th December 2002	Half-Day Retreat	Titagarh
23rd January 2003	One-Day Retreat	Calcutta
31st January 2003	Half-Day Retreat	Bedibhawan / Haliashahar
February 2003 (Saraswati Puja)	Half-Day Retreat	Shyamnagar
28th March 2003	Half-Day Retreat	Titagarh
26th to 31st May 2003	Annual Camp 2003	

Keep in touch with us!!!

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