



*Down Memory Lane
30 Years of Christ Church, NOIDA*

Christ Church, NOIDA is a constituent church of Diocese of Delhi, Church of North India



Published by Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan, Presbyter-in-charge, Christ Church, NOIDA – Authored and compiled by Late Col. M. L. Lukose, Mr Anandkumar Peter, and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee

**“I will not give sleep to my eyes
Or slumber to my eyelids,
Until I find a place for the LORD,
A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”
(Psalm 132:4-5)**

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Dedication



Late Col. Lukose – 29th September 1937-23rd January 2019

The publisher, and co-authors of this memoir, dedicate this work in the found memory of one of its co-authors, Late Col. M. L. Lukose, who had initiated this project. Col. Lukose passed into glory on the 23rd of January 2019, at a time the book was ready to go into print.

Late Col. Lukose has worked relentlessly for a long period of time collating, compiling and verifying historical information and photographs tracing the history of Christ Church, Noida over a period of 30 Years. He had spoken to people who were present at the time the church was planted. As we completed each stage of writing, we could see him rejoicing like a child.

With earnest prayers for the departed soul, we dedicate this book to Col. Lukose.



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Preface

This is the success story of a church, planted by a very small group of devout Christians in the newly established town of NOIDA, an acronym for New Okhla Industrial Development Area, which, in 30 years has achieved enviable wholistic growth and has become a point of reference to other churches. An earnest effort has been made to record the memories of the authors, as one could best recollect, as they were closely associated with Christ Church, NOIDA (CCN for short), at varying periods, during the 30 years of the existence of the church. We are thankful to God Almighty for His immense blessings upon us and for safely bringing us to this point in time and inspiring us to write down our memories. We have not been alone in this effort, many other members of CCN pitched in with their personal memories, most of which have been incorporated at appropriate places in this book.

A repository of memories of any organisation is the sum total of the memories of the individual members at any point in time. Since people move on for various reasons, this repository becomes dynamically variant. Therefore, having seen and experienced the growth of CCN, and having been active participants in the life and ministry of the church, we felt it would be appropriate, for the benefit of present and future generation of faithful, to record important events through the years and the contribution of various people who made it possible. Not only that CCN developed spiritually, but it also did not lose time to accept its social responsibilities and began to look outward through various outreach projects.

During these Thirty Years, CCN has been pastored, beginning with its Founding Priest, Rev Col Lawrence Massey, who was inspired by a compelling vision to plant the church, followed by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, Rev. Kamal Mall and now Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan. During this period the congregation has grown from a few initial



believers to a strength of over 200 dedicated families comprising about 600 individual members. Therefore, this book is structured according to the timelines of its Pastors.

CCN has a great address, being situated in the heart of NOIDA. Its central location, RC-1, Sector- 29, in the vicinity of Botanical Garden Metro Station is an added advantage in terms of visibility and accessibility. CCN has become an enviable role model in the Diocese of Delhi, proudly propagating “Unity, Witness and Service”, the motto of CNI.

Finally, as the writing is done from our memories and some records in our personal possessions, we accept that there could be several omissions and commissions, which if brought to our attention will be remedied in the next edition of this Memoir if that is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan

Col. M. L. Lukose.

Mr. Anandkumar Peter

Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee



The Publisher, Authors and Acknowledgements

The Publisher

It is heartening and commendable that just a few months after assuming the Pastoral responsibilities of CCN, our Presbyterian-in-charge, Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan decided to promote the publication of the memories of those people who were associated with CCN for decades. He was inspired by the work done by his predecessors. This work of Memoir is being published by him for CCN, on behalf of its authors.

The Founder

When such a work is produced after a period of three decades, normally hearsay tend to creep in. However, authors were lucky to have facts first hand from the founder of CCN, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey. The authors are grateful to him for recounting events in great details and with accuracy, and in many instances supporting these by carefully preserved documents. He narrated events in its chronological order and the role of people who made it possible without bias or favour. We have, gratefully, recounted his memories and evidence he had carefully archived, as accurately as possible in this book.

The Co-authors

Col. M. L. Lukose.

The church was planted on the 13th of November 1988. Col. M. L. Lukose, and family, after retirement, settled in NOIDA in January 1989. He was in and out of NOIDA ever since 1986 getting his house ready for occupation. Thus, Lukose Family was fortunate to have been associated with the growth of the church from the early stages and had worked closely with the founder Presbyterian, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey and thereafter with all the Presbyters who succeeded Rev. Col. Massey. He had also held important offices as Secretary and



Treasurer and had shouldered several responsibilities in the church all through the years till the present time, placing him in a position to record his memories accurately, to the best of his knowledge and ability. Col. Lukose recalled with gratitude the fact that his wife Mrs Manorama Lukose have greatly contributed and enriched this work of his. Col. Lukose also recall that Mrs Manorama Lukose was a member of the PC in the initial and later periods and had held the positions of President and Secretary of WFCS for years”, thus provided much first hand memories of CCN.

Just as we were getting ready to pass on the manuscript to the publishers, Col. Lukose passed into glory on the 23rd of Januray 2019.

Mrs Kamna Cowasjee

The Story of the second co-author, Mrs Kamna Cowasjee, wife of Wing Commander Ransford Cowasjee, (Retd), is almost identical to that of Col. Lukose, except that the Cowasjees took up residence in NOIDA in May 1989. But in no time they were into active participation in virtually all the activities, in building a congregation and keeping the church going. Mrs Kamna too benefitted with the family’s close association with Rev. Col. Massey and other Presbyters who succeed him. Mrs Cowasjee was responsible for the conduct of Church Annual Garden Fete throughout and was the one who brought out the brochure year after year. She did considerable research into the background of the church for the Silver Jubilee Brochure which she co-edited with Mrs Roma Naomi Das, another contributing member of CCN. Her contribution towards initiating and supervising CCN outreach programmes needs special mention. Experience of her husband Wg Cde Ransford Cowasjee as a Pastorate Committee member and in various capacities in the Church also benefitted her, to be exhaustive in her contribution.

Mr Anandkumar Peter

The third author, Mr Anandkumar Peter, has been worshipping in CCN for about 18 years, at this writing. God had Blessed him with multiple talents which placed him in the thick of all spheres of church ministry, be it accounts and finance, administration, conducting of worship services and delivery of sermons, organizing Annual Family Retreats and Workshops, specially supporting Rev. Dr Paul Swarup & Rev. Kamal Mall, and being a resource person whenever called



for. He was part of the team lead by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup in the preparation of study materials for the Lent Group studies. He continues to be the Founder Editor of the Scroll, our church newsletter. He had served two terms of several years as the Treasurer and the modernisation of the church accounts, turning it into a model for church accounts, stands to his credit. His close association with Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and Rev. Kamal Mall has enabled him to pen, fairly accurate memories of church activities for over 14 years of their tenure.

Acknowledgement

Others who contributed in this effort by narrating their firsthand experience of the respective periods and providing documentary evidences of events are Bishop P. B Santram, Former bishops of the Diocese of Delhi, CNI, Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, the Founder Priest, Mr Rohit David, Vice Admiral H. Johnson, (Retd), Col. P. D. Shah, (Retd), Mr Alex John, Mrs Pramila Lal, Mrs Shirley Egbert, Brig. Rajiv Williams, (Retd), and Mrs Christy Franklin, Administrator of CCN, to name a few. We are grateful to them for their support and valuable contribution.

We are especially thankful to Mr John Solomon, the Resident Editor of the CCN Newsletter, the Scroll, for providing editorial support from time to time.

We are grateful for the good wishes and prayers sent in by our present Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, CNI, Rt. Rev. Warris K. Masih, our Presbyter-in-charge, Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan, the founder Presbyter Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, our past Presbyters Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and Rev. Kamal Mall. We proudly reproduce their messages herein.



Messages

MESSAGE FROM RT. REV. WARRIS K. MASSEY

Greetings from the Diocese of Delhi and on my personal behalf, in the Mighty & Precious Name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ!

I am glad to know that the Christ Church Noida is celebrating its 30th Anniversary on 13th November 2018. I am pleased to note that to mark the occasion they are releasing a History Book which records the contribution made by their Pastors, Stalwarts, Founding Members and other Members of the Congregation.

Remembering one's roots helps one retain humility and realize God's Mighty Hand in everything that happened to make Christ Church Noida, what it is today.

Hence, such documents are significant in their own way and essential for reference, on various issues related to the past, so that justice is done to all who otherwise could be forgotten in course of time.

On this auspicious occasion, I send greetings & hearty congratulations to your Pastor, Rev. Sunil S. Ghazan for this initiative, all Members of the Pastorate Committee and the CCN Congregation at large.

I earnestly pray that God would continue to bless & use you to remain powerful witnesses for the resurrected Christ.

Yours In His Service

The Rt. Rev. Warris K. Masih,
Bishop of Delhi, CNI

Wednesday, 31 October 2018



MESSAGE FROM PRESENT PASTOR-REV. SUNIL SOLOMON GHAZAN

[October 30, 2018, 7:58 PM]

I am grateful to God for his continued mercies upon us, as members of the Christ Church Noida Family.

I remain indebted to my predecessors, namely Founder Presbyter, Rev.(Col.) Lawrence Massey (Nov.1988-2004); Rev. Dr Paul Swarup (2004-2011); Rev. Kamal Mall (2011-2018) whose hard work and dedication have made the Church what it is today. I have taken over from them from 17th June 2018.

It is important & Biblical to remember one's roots; as it is written: "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments and His statutes which I command you today...then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' And you shall remember that the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." Deuteronomy 8:11, 17-18.

The very idea of compiling 30 years memory is this, that the CCN Members, (Founding or Current) remembers their roots with humility, awe & fear of God, don't say in their hearts that it is by the power and might of their own hands have they gained all this. That instead they may acknowledge, that it is the LORD their God who gave them the power to get wealth.

My slot of contribution is recorded by the history writers of the Church namely Col. Lukose, Mr Anand Peters and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee and others who worked behind the scenes to produce this compiled 30 years memories, of this very young Congregation, may it help them look back at the contribution of their Shepherds whom God sent and appointed to serve Him and His people.

May God bless the Christ Church Noida for many more years to come!

Yours in God's Service,

Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan.

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER PRESBYTER - REV. COL. LAWRENCE MASSEY



I am sending, the following few words on the occasion of Church Anniversary:-

It is my great joy and privilege to wish members of Christ Church NOIDA, the Lord's abundant and rich blessing on the 30th-anniversary celebration of the Church.

God had blessed this Church, is a blessing now and will continue to do so in future. Remember what St Paul said to the Philippians, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus(Phil 4:19). When our central focus is on Jesus, He will provide all our needs and growth for the Church.

When we put God's Word in our mouth and rely on His promises in our lives, commitments and plans, we will see wonderful things happening. Let us conclude with Phil 4:29 which says" Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

May God continue to bless Christ Church NOIDA.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Col Lawrence Massey

12th November 2018



MESSAGE FROM REV. DR. PAUL SWARUP

First of all, I want to congratulate the Pastor Rev Sunil Ghazan, the Pastorate Committee and all the members of Christ Church, Noida as they celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. It was a privilege for me to serve Christ Church, Noida along with Nina and Daniel for seven years from the year 2004 to 2011. When we were transferred from St James Church we came into a Church which did not have a parsonage. There was an old temporary church where the present parsonage stands. Slowly but surely, we shared with the congregation the vision of building a parsonage. We also suggested that we hold a Fete in order to raise the needed money for building the parsonage. This was done and slowly the work began on the parsonage complex. We moved into the parsonage complex in the year January 2006. This was followed by the building of the parish hall which was also a long-standing need. We praise God for all his mercies in providing for all the need of the Church during this building project.

On the spiritual front, we started to have regular Wednesday evening prayer cells. This was indeed the highlight of the week as we saw God doing his mighty miracles in releasing people who were demon-possessed as well as many who had diseases were healed. The Wednesday evening prayer was something that happened to be the powerhouse for the church and all its activities. Along with this we also had the 24 hr chain of prayer where the prayer points were given to the members of the congregation and asked to pray for one hour in their homes. This also helped in bringing revival in the Church. The Sunday School met during the service and the Youth group used to meet for Bible studies regularly.

One of the things that we introduced was the zone wise bible studies. We had divided the church into different zones and there were leaders assigned to lead the bible studies. There was a leader's guide and a study guide which we had prepared and these would be discussed in the various bible study groups. We did a particular series on studying the Holy Spirit which in the end became a book which was published in English and in Hindi.

The Vacation Bible School was also started during our time and many of the children from in and around Noida participated in this. This also was another step in the spiritual journey of Christ Church, Noida. Family Camps were held in Torch Bearer's in Dehradun and many families participated in this and were greatly blessed. One day retreats were held on Aug 15th and Jan 26th to strengthen the spiritual life of the parishioners.

More than anything else we were nurtured by the love of the members of Christ Church, Noida who showered their love on us and made us always welcome. We finally bid farewell to Christ Church, Noida in April 2011. We once again wish Christ Church, Noida wonderful and Holy Spirit filled years ahead.

With every blessing, Salom!

13th November 2018

Paul Swarup



MESSAGE FROM REV. KAMAL MALL

31.10.2018

Dear Rev Ghazan and the congregation at Noida,

Greetings in the Mighty and Awesome Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Truly, our God is a great God who continues to show Himself faithful. First, let me congratulate you as Christ Church Noida turns 30 this year. Secondly, I'd like to say that it has been an honour to work in Christ Church Noida for 7 years and that I've been blessed in every possible way while participating in its ministry.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank God for the ministry of Christ Church Noida which is so strategically situated. CCN Ministry continues to seek to be a resource to many in the neighbourhood and to the Christian community in Noida at large. My prayer is that this ministry becomes a catalyst for the building of healthy local ministries first, which will, in turn, lead to a strong ministry regionally.

As we continue to press along, in years we're hoping to see revamped Christ Church that we're looking to expand to become "Missionary Church." I look forward to great days ahead as the Holy Spirit leads and guides CCN into the higher heights, and deeper depths in Him. God bless you all!

In Service to both King and Kingdom,

Rev. Kamal Mall



The Genesis

Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, on retirement from the Defence Services, with his wife Mrs Khurshid, daughter Chitra and sons Austin & Basil, (at this writing both retired from the Indian Army), settled in his apartment in Sector 29, Noida in December 1987. Almighty God bestowed upon him a grand vision. He had acquired the Bachelor of Divinity degree, while in active Army Service and was ordained as a Priest, by the Bishop of Nasik, CNI, before he moved into Noida. Since there was no CNI Church in Noida, he diligently started looking for Christian families, settled in Noida, a town which itself was at the initial period of its development. As per the advice of Rt. Rev. WD Simon, Bishop of Diocese of Agra, CNI, whom he met at Agra on the 5th of January 1988, he approached Rt. Rev. Maqbool Caleb, the then Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi, CNI on 18 Jan 1988. Having been convinced of the spiritual needs of Christians in Noida, he gladly supported Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey and encouraged him to establish a CNI Church in Noida, a National Capital Region City. He was advised by the Bishop, to look for a plot of land in Noida for a church building.

Subsequently, after receiving a written request, from 12 Christian families living in Noida, on 1st October 1988, Rt. Rev. Maqbul Caleb, appointed Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, as the Honorary Presbyter-in-charge of the CNI Church, Noida, vide his letter No. Clergy-A/72/88 of 1st October 1988. Those who signed this pioneering document were Mr CM Dina Nath, Mr IN Egbert, Capt. JA Peters, (Retd), Mrs FC Gergan, Mrs D Tressler, Mrs Lilly R, Maj Gen RS Diol, Mrs Ruby Santram, Mr Sittan Lal, Wg Cdr. SK Tressler, Mrs Venita Massey and Wg Cdr ASA Michigan.



Events between 1988 & 2004

First Divine Service

Little over a month after the installation of Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, as the Honorary Presbyter, for the Noida church, on the memorable Sunday, of 13th November 1988, Bishop Rt. Rev. Maqbul Caleb, assisted by Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, conducted the 1st 'Divine Worship and Holy Eucharist Service' in the house of Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey. The seed was thus sown and the faithful, including retired Defence Services Veterans living in Noida, attended the First Service of the Lord's Supper. Thereafter, Divine Worship Services were regularly held on Sundays, in the Houses of the faithful, in Noida, on the rotation, for about three years.

House Church

Sunday Services were conducted, during 1988 to 1991, in the homes of, Sector 21, Mr. Rohit David Wg. Cdr. R A Cowasjee, Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth, MWO Solomon; (Sector 26) Mr. I. N. Egbert, CM Dinanath, Alex John; (Sector 28) Wg. Cdr. Dennis Harrison, Gen Eric G Kerr, (Sector 29) Col Raman, Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, Capt. John Peters; Sector 37: Col P. Dyes, Mr. Anil Santram, Maj. Gen R.S Diol, and Col John Tressler.

About the pioneers

Enquiries made to few initial members and looking at the available records reveal that following devout Christians attended the First Divine Service of the CNI Church:

Mrs Jane Maqbul Caleb, Mrs Khurshid Lawrence Massey, Mr Rohit David and Mrs Reeta David with their 2 Children, Mr Anil Santram (Late) and Mrs Shunila Santram, Capt. John Peters, (Retd), Mr C. M. Dina Nath (Late) and wife, Mrs Reeta Dina Nath (Late), Mr I. N. Egbert (Late) and Mrs Shirley Egbert with their 2 Children, Mrs Dorothy Tressler, Mr Alex John and Mrs Kiran John with their son Vikram, and Wg Cdr. Sushil Tressler (Late) & Wife Mrs Mrinalini Tressler.



Formation of the Ad-hoc Pastorate Committee

As advised by the Bishop Maqbul Caleb, an Ad-hoc Pastorate Committee, to hold office till the first Annual General Body Meeting, was formed, in a meeting held, on the 20th Nov 1988, presided over by Rev. Col Lawrence Massey, after the Divine Service, at the house of late Mr Anil Santram. Late Cdr NA Mullerworth, Mr Anil Santram (Honorary Secretary), Mr Rohit David (Honorary Treasurer), late Mr CM Dina Nath, Mrs Sheela Bhalla, and Mrs Massey were elected as the members of this first Pastorate Committee. Mr Alex John was nominated as a Committee Member in waiting. Mrs Shunila Santram was co-opted for Sunday School and as an ex-officio member of Pastorate Committee.

As decided in the meeting, a Bank Account, in the name of 'CNI Church, Noida' was also opened.

First AGM & Formation of Pastorate Committee

Subsequently, in 1989 or 1990, the first AGM was held. The AGM formally elected Cdr Neville Mullerworth, (Retd), Mrs Helen Harrison, Mr Rohit David, Mr Alex John, Capt. JA Peters, (Retd) Col P Dyes and Mr Anil Santram as Members of the first Pastorate Committee.

First Baptism & Confirmation

During the initial period of 3 years of house worship, the church considered and conducted Baptism and Confirmation of Youth during the Home Divine Services. The record shows that the first person to be Baptised was Alexander Massey, son of Capt. Austin Massey and Mrs. Nisha on the 19th of February 1989. At this writing, Alexander has become a smart young Major in one of the Elite Corps of the Indian Army. Record also shows that in the Confirmation Service held in the House of Mr CM Dinanath with Rt. Rev PB Santram, then Bishop of Diocese of Delhi and Rev Col Lawrence Massey as celebrants, Miss Ambika Nath daughter of Mr CM Dina Nath and Mr Rajiv Egbert, son of Mr Egbert were confirmed on the 27th of May 1990.



Women's Fellowship

With the vision for providing Christian service, the Women's Fellowship (WFCS), under the leadership of Late Mrs Georgina Kerr, was formed in 1992. Late Ms Usha Shukla, and late Ms Rosalyn Nair, (in addition to her part-time duties as the first Accountant-cum-Administrator of the Church), were nominated as office bearers by the women of the church. Subsequently, President, Secretary and Treasurer were elected during the Annual General Body Meetings of the WFCS.

Mrs Usha Shukla, Mrs Helen Harrison, Mrs Usha Dyes, were some who served as its President for many of the founding years with Mrs Kamna Cowasjee as its Secretary and Rosalind Nair and later, during the tenure of Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup, Shiela Solomon became its Treasurers. Mrs Manorama Lukose and Mrs Shanon Mukha, Late Mrs Lilly Abraham, Mrs Leena Nambiar served the WFCS as some of its presidents, while, Mrs Shirley Ramsey and Mrs Uma Stephen were Secretary and Treasurer respectively. At this writing, Mrs Veena Wesley is the President of WFCS.

Outreach Activities of WFCS

Sick and those in distress were visited and prayer and help were rendered to nearby poor Homes. Some of the Homes visited by the WFCS were: St Mary's Old Age Home, Grace Home, Najafgarh Old Age Home, Love India (Girls Orphanage, Delhi), etc. An eye operation of an orphan blind girl was financed, monitored and supported, and so was the treatment of a boy with crooked legs until he could walk. They also took an active part in other Christian Services. Currently, since last few years, CCN WFCS is supporting two girls of St. Michaels Church and orphanage. Support rendered to the Medical Camp organized by the Church during Silver Jubilee celebrations is also commendable.

Our Women Members participated in the 'Diocesan Fete' at Cathedral Church (Diocesan Ekta Utsav), with a 'Cake and Browne Stall', first time in 1989, barely a year after the inception of the church, (volunteered by the Cowasjees, Harrisons, Alex Johns and Santrams), and it was a remarkable achievement. The WFCS had earlier, participated in the Diocesan WFCS Fete at St. James Church right in 1989. Entire proceeds of the Ekta Utsav in 1990 was given to CCN towards construction of the Church. Santrams, Alex John family, Shiela Solomon, Cowasjees, Harrison's, assisted by Uma David, Usha Dyes ran the stall



till 1997, after which it was handed over to Manorama Lukose, Radhika Judd, Uma Stephen and others.

Participation in the Ekta Utsav is a regular feature as we continue it at this writing, with the addition of a second stall by our Greater Noida Congregation (CCGN), WFCS. CCN WFCS is an official Wing of the Diocesan WFCS, Delhi. Efforts of Mrs Lukose, Late Mrs Lilly Abraham, Late Mr Vincent Judd and Mrs Radhika Judd, Mrs Shirley Ramsey, Mrs Leela Nambiar and Mrs Veena Wesley, Wg. Cdr. Dennis Harrison & Mrs. Helen Harrison, Meshy Family, Wg. Cdr. Susheel Tressler, Cdr. N. A. Mullerworth, Grp. Capt. John and Mrs. Usha Shukla, and Mr. Anil & Shunila Santram need special mention. Year after year they made sure that the tradition set years ago by participating in the Ekta Utsav is kept up with great enthusiasm. WFCS helped the church in organising and distributing food on special events with Cakes for Christmas and New year, Love Feast on Maundy Thursdays, Easter eggs and Buns for Easter and organised morning breakfast to support their finances.

Allotment of Land

The Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, Rt. Rev. Maqbul Caleb, as a commitment towards the purchase of a plot in Noida, gave a Cheque of 1 Lakh in favour of CCN NOIDA, with advice to make regular liaison with NOIDA Authority to make progress towards the allotment of a plot of land. With the blessings of God Almighty a Plot of land, measuring 1446 Sq. meters was acquired from Noida by the Diocesan Society of Diocese of Delhi, CNI, on behalf of the church, in Sector - 29 Noida. This plot was taken over on the 20th of February 1990, from NOIDA Authority, after sustained liaison work done by Mr Rohit David. The allotted Plot was a corner plot with roads on two sides, with an irregular trapeziform shape. It has a waste-water drain (nullah) on the rear side. Therefore, 'the plot did not look too good', as opined out by Lt. Gen Eric G Kerr, one of the founding members, in his memoir. However, the church members were happy and thanked God for blessing the church with this plot of land.

Members during the initial period

By November 1993, Deena Nath & Ruth, Solomon, Victor Bendix, Veera Lepcha, Dr Mathews, Grp. Capt. John F Shukla, Advocate Jai Mangalwadi, Col Rajan, Lt. Col Victor Duraismi and Brig Rajiv Williams & Vineeta Williams



joined the Church and all of them jointly gave a further momentum towards Church development. The above names feature in the list of members created by Rev Dr Paul Swarup after he took over in 2004, details of which can be found in the relevant period.

In order to do justice to all those whom we could collectively recall having been with the church at the initial periods their names are listed here, alphabetically with a disclaimer that the authors, though have done their best to be as accurate as possible, there can be errors, omissions and commissions in the list that follows: Ms Shiela Bhalla, Mr Victor Bendix, Wg. Cdr. Ransford & Kamna Cowasjee, Mrs & Mr Rohit David and Reeta, Col. and Mrs. Victor Duraisami, Maj. Gen. Sunny & Shiela Diol, Col. & Mrs Percy Dyes, Mrs & Mr Egberts, Wg. Cdr Dennis & Helen Harrison, Mrs & Mr Alex & Kiran John, Mrs & Mr Judd & Radhika, Lt. Gen. Eric G Kerr Mrs Georgina Kerr, Mrs Veera Lepcha, Col Lukose & Manorama Lukose, Col Lawrence Massey and Khurshid Massey, Dr Matthews, Mr Jai Mangalwadi, Massey family, Cdr Mullerworth, Mr KG Minocha, Ms Rosalind Nair, Mrs & Mr Deena & Ruth Nath, Mr CM Dina Nath and Reeta Dinanath , Capt. JA Peters & Renu, Col Rajan, Gp Capt. Shukla and Usha Shukla, Ms Ruby Santram, Mr Anil Santram and Shunila Santram, Col & Mrs P D Shah, Mr & Mrs Solomon, Wg. Cdr. Susheel Tressler and Mrs Mrinalini Tressler, Col Tressler & Mrs. Dorothy Tressler, Brig Rajiv Williams & Vineeta Williams.

Re-christening of the church

In 1994, the church otherwise known as CNI Church was Re-Christened as 'Christ Church', Diocese of Delhi, CNI, at its present location at RC-1, Sector 29, Noida, (UP). Congregants grew to about 35 families consisting of 263 members and 65 communicants by 1994. Two services in the morning, one in English followed by one in Hindi and a Combined Service on the First and Third Sundays were held. Fifth Sundays were reserved for the Youth. Easter Vigil was held before Sunrise on a small hillock in Nandan Kannan Park in sector 15, Noida on the 12th of April 1998, for the first time.



Temporary shed to a regular church building

A small Temporary Asbestos Sheet Covered Single-Brick-Wall Structure was constructed at the Eastern Corner of the land allotted for the church, to accommodate about 25 -30 worshipers. The families pooled in their resources for this temporary construction and dedicated it as a Chapel. Divine service commenced in this Chapel on the 30th of May 1991. “Initial possessions in this first chapel were 8 folding Steel Chairs, 2 Wooden benches, a few repaired stools and a table the size of a Coffee Table on a raised Platform was used as the Altar”, wrote Gen. Kerr.

In 1993, as the number of worshipers increased and the temporary structure in which the worship was being conducted became inadequate to accommodate all, it was further extended. Under the advice and able supervision of Col. S. Rajan, an Army Engineer, who also had joined as a member of the church, this was achieved by breaking only the west-side-wall, leaving the main plot for the construction of the permanent church building. An Altar under the supervision of Lt. Gen Eric G Kerr was made with the wood picked from Col PD Shah, who was getting his house ready for occupation after retirement. “I was proud to go to this Altar”, Gen Kerr stated. (It is in this location the Present Multi Utility Complex located.)

The construction of the main building was delayed, and the Church was called upon to pay a fine for this delay to the Noida Administration and the extension of the date of construction. One more year passed and the plans for the construction of the Church building were still being discussed and finalized with the new Architects, the Methodist Engineering office headed by Mr Noel Vaghela, a very experienced and able Architect, and a specialist in the construction of church buildings.

It was in March 1996, Col Parvez Shah, (Retd), permanently settled in his Flat in Noida, Sector 29, after his retirement from the Indian Army, Corps of Engineers. We have drawn upon the memories of Col. Shah, Admiral Johnson and Mr Alex John for the span the period from 1996 to 2004, so far as it related to the Construction of the Main Church Building.



After due deliberations, the building plans, initially prepared by Mr Navin Das, and approved by the NOIDA Authority, were finalized, in consultation with M/S Methodist Engineering Services by the Pastorate Committee.

Foundation Stone laying of the main Church

12th November 1995 was the day on which the foundation stone was laid for the church building. On that day, Bishop, Rt. Rev. Pritam Santram presented an artefact, a 'Gold Ringed Piece of Rock from the Tomb of Jesus, embedded in a Highly Polished Marble of the size 2" x 2" x 1"'. It was presented to Bishop Santram when he was in England. This was displayed to the congregation, during the worship service on that day and was embedded deep in the plot as the foundation stone, in a ceremony presided by Bishop Santram. The elders and the PC decided that seven specific members should assist Bishop Santram. The younger people among the seven were Miss Kritika Santram, D/O Mr Anil and Sunila Santram and the oldest was Mrs Milred Clarke. Besides the above, Mrs Kiran Alex John and three others participated.

Maybe in remembrance of Jesus Christ pointing to Psalm 118:22, in Matthew 21:42 saying, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'", on the Easter Sunday the 30th of March 1997, according to Mr Alex John, this artefact was carefully dug out and used as a 'Corner Stone' of the main church building on the Alter side wall. This gesture indeed was meaningful and CCN must remember this all the time.

Design and construction of the main building

The construction phase covering a period of about 8 years from 1996 to 2004 and the related events as narrated by Vice Admiral Johnson, Col. Shah and Mr Alex John are reproduced here:

Vice Admiral Johnson, recalled the events of this period thus:



“Around that time an Architect named Das who lived in NOIDA lost his mother. Rev Col Massey was very helpful to the family in arranging and executing the last rights of the deceased. As a ‘thank you’ gesture, Mr Navin Das offered to design the Church Building and oversee its construction. His Sister Mrs. Kalyan Masih from Nebraska, USA had come down for her mother’s funeral. Being a devout Christian, she offered financial help from her Home Church in the USA. This was gratefully accepted. I think eventually about Rs 1.2 Lakhs was donated by members of Capitol City Church congregation at Nebraska, USA. As we did not have FCRA, the amount was received by us through the Diocese of Delhi, CNI. For personal reasons not known to me, somewhere along the line, the Architect Mr Das lost interest in overseeing the construction of the church building.

By God’s Grace, at this time, in March 1996, Col Pervez Shah retired from the Army Corps of Engineers to settle down in his house in Sector 29, Noida. He volunteered to take over planning and supervision of the construction and continued to do so till the main church building was completed. His suggestion to stretch the church building and a mezzanine floor to accommodate another 50-70 more worshippers were accepted and incorporated in the plans. Late MWO Solomon was appointed to assist Col Shah. Besides others who may have helped, the names of Wg. Commander (Rtd) Ransford Cowasjee (who handled the purchases) and Mr Alex John (now settled in Bengaluru) are worthy of special mention.”

The Pastorate Committee officially appointed Col Parvez Shah (Retd), as the Engineer-In-charge of the project in March 1997. Junior Engineer Mr Patrick of the Architect M/S Methodist Engineering Services was engaged to assist Col Parvez Shah on a nominal honorarium of Rs. 3500/- per month. This was in addition to the Architect's Fee paid to the firm.

Col Parvez Shah (Retd), started working for the new Church Building. The shape, size and actual location of the Church Building on the allotted irregular shaped plot of land were not very simple and posed considerable technical and legal problems. Here is what Col. Shah had to say about the details of the construction activities:

“The cost estimates made by the Architects for Phase-I of the Church Project consisting of main Worship hall, electrification and Architects fees worked out to Rs. 12.72 Lakhs while there was only Rs. 3.17 Lakhs in the Church building fund account. In addition, Rs. 4-5 Lakhs more were required for electric



fittings, pews, furnishings, boundary wall with the gate, staircase and other surrounding hard standings.

Financial help to the tune of Rs.1 lakh, towards the Building, was received from Diocese of Delhi at a later date. The complete onus of financial fulfilment came upon our small congregation consisting of only 49 families.

The drive for funds collection was led and organized by Rev Col L. Massey, Vice Admiral H. Johnson, Cdr Mullerworth, Mr K.B. Lal, Wing Cdr and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee, Dr Mathews, Col and Mrs Lukose, Maj Gen Diol, Mr Rohit David, and Mr. & Mrs Alex & Kiran John and was fully supported by each and every church member family. Due to acute financial constraints, the church could not afford to engage a composite construction contractor as the contractor's charge at least 20-25% of the project cost as their own consideration. The quality of work by such contractors also was in question. In the photograph are Mrs Kalyan Masih, Rev Col L. Massey and Vice Admiral Johnson standing in front of the temporary building of the church.

The financial requirements were put up to the Pastorate Committee with a request to permit Col Parvez Shah, and team to start the execution of the construction work of the Church building without further delaying the same.

Though the Church was in no position to raise the full amount of Rs. 15 Lakhs required for the completion of the construction work within the extended time frame, the construction had to begin as any further delay could have resulted in the cancellation of the allotment of the land. The Pastorate Committee permitted to start the construction work and the congregation started making their individual contributions and collecting donations for this Project. The construction work for the House of our Lord started in full swing in April 1997. A request was made to the Diocese of Delhi, CNI, for urgent financial help, but at that point in time, they could not extend any financial help as they were also having some financial problems.

It was recommended to the Pastorate Committee that the composite contractors will not be engaged for any of the works and only labour contractors will be hired for the project. Col Parvez Shah took the responsibility to coordinate, oversee and organize the complete requirement of supervision of work, provisioning of construction materials, ensuring of quality control and speedy execution of the project.

The Pastorate Committee approved the proposal and; the labour contractor, Mr Irshad from Bareilly, was hired. He had worked with Mr Vaghela and was



found to be very good, reliable and economical. He had his own team of masons, technicians, bar benders, operators and other support personnel required with him. They were good and reliable workers. This labour contract meant the Church team had to procure and provide all building materials including steel, bricks, cement, aggregate, sand and everything else. They also had to do the accurate accounting for materials and ensure quality control for each and every item bought.

On the same lines, but on item rate contract, the carpenter, Mr Philip from Delhi was engaged, and all the carpentry/timber work, including the making of pews for the Church, was done by him. This also meant that all the provisioning, accounting and quality control, and supervision had to be done by Col Parvez Shah, and his team. Similarly, the electricians, painters, hardware workers and all other workers were supervised, controlled and coordinated by him.

The work started in full swing and good speed, but now another serious challenge came up. The fund's flow was not matching the speed and progress of work resulting in most of the purchases had to be made on credit. It was very difficult and had to be managed and coordinated with requests and liaison with the suppliers, our fund providers and teams of workers. With God's grace, all our suppliers were helpful, and we did not face any serious holdups and supply crises. So much so that the only purchases made on down payment by account payee cheques were for Teak Wood which was bought from wholesale timber market, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, and electric materials, lights and fittings bought from the wholesale market, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

The requirement of these stores was worked out to the exact quantities, converted into wholesale units and procured by the Purchase Committee, consisting of Col Parvez Shah, Mr Alex John, Mr Ajit Massey, Mr Patrick and Wg Cdr. Ransford Cowasjee. Materials had to be sourced, bought and transported to Noida. This process though very laborious and tedious saved a considerable amount of money and good quality teak wood could be purchased for all the woodworks. In the same way, a lot of money could be saved for electrical fittings and materials of good quality could be purchased.

The construction team had to work very hard and with the full and wholehearted financial support, moral support and prayers of the congregation in December 1997 our main Worship Hall, boundary wall with the gate, interiors and almost 60% of our Pews were ready and the Church Edifice was consecrated to the Glory of God on 7th December 1997 by then Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi, Rt. Rev. Karam Masih.



Thereafter the staircase was also constructed. The congregation kept up with generous donations towards the manufacture of all but Five Pews. Most of these pews carry the names of the donors on it. The marble top Altar and Pulpit were made using the marble arranged by late Mr KB Lal. A beautiful teak wood Cross was placed on top of the Altar on the wall, which was donated by Wg Cdr. Ransford Cowasjee. The PA system was selected, procured and installed by Col. Lukose, with the help of the Sound Engineer of the Sound System Export Company. All other essentials were donated by the members of the congregation. Now with the grace of God and the generous help of congregation and able guidance of Presbyter-In-charge, Pastorate Committee and the most outstanding help and efforts of the fund-raising organization of the church, a complete the beautiful Christ Church Complex come up. We are proud of it and thankful to our God Almighty.

On completion of construction of the Church Building on 7th December 1997, Rt. Rev. Karam Masih, the then Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi, dedicated the same in the Service of our Lord Jesus Christ. The joy and happiness of all those who contributed to this cause were beyond words to describe. Praise to the Lord God Jesus Christ for His mercies.”

The then Leader of the opposition of Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, (who later became the Prime Minister of India) congratulated the efforts of the Christian Congregation of Noida, especially that of Rev Col Lawrence Massey, the Pastorate Committee, Building Committee and the Congregation as a whole, for their coordination, volunteer efforts and leadership. He wrote to Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, “I am aware this would not have taken place without the tireless efforts for Fund Raising by the entire congregation and without the coordination and leadership of yourself and the voluntary efforts of your pastoral and building committees...There are many lessons that can be learnt from this when people unite for a common cause and work with faith, anything is possible. I would like to wish to your congregation a Merry Christmas”

On a request, Immanuel Marthoma Church was given permission to worship twice a month, in our church till they constructed their own church building.

Services languages

The main worship service was then bi-lingual, in English and Hindi. On bifurcation, the first Hindi service was inaugurated and blessed by Rt. Rev. Santram, on 12 January 1992. Late Cdr. Mullerworth (Retd) and late Mr Kunj B



Lal, then DGM, DTC assisted Rev Col Lawrence Massey, in English and Evening Hindi Service respectively. The evening service was later discontinued for a few genuine reasons.

It may be of interest to the readers that, much later, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup combined the Hindi and English services into a bi-lingual service which was continued for several years even into the time of Rev. Kamal Mall, who succeeded him. However, after detailed deliberations by the PC and AGM, during the second AGM, after the new idea was introduced, separate services in Hindi (at 8 AM) and in English (at 9:45 AM) and combined bi-lingual service on 4th Sundays and on all Christian occasions were introduced.

On months with 5 Sundays, the services are led by, Sunday School children, Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship and Senior Member Fellowship on rotation.

Evening Praise and Worship Service, Introduced by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, continues to be held as bi-lingual services and has become very popular with Christian and also people from other communities.

Contribution by some of the elders in the ministry of CCN

Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey was assisted by the organist Lt. Col. Victor Duraisami, (who passed away in Bangalore, a few years back), and was supported by Lt. Gen. E G. Kerr, in conducting the morning services. Sunday School for Children was led by Mrs Shunila Santram and a Prayer Group was led by Mrs Pramila Lal. Mrs Manorama Lukose joined this Ministry in 1990.

As someone who has been associated with the church for decades, it would be appropriate to state here that Mrs Manorama Lukose continued to serve the Lord in various manners for many long years. Saturday after Saturday she helped prepare the church for the Sunday worship. For quite a number of years, she donated Flowers for the Altar till other volunteers took over. One could see her diligently picking fresh flowers and arranging only the good ones to be placed on the Altar. Guided by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, she would prepare (also donated) the Altar Linen in respective Colours and ensured that the caretakers are trained in preparing the Altar for each occasion and festival. Like many other members, she has liberally donated money and materials for the church Altar.



She took on the responsibility of organising and manning Cake and Brownie Stall together with Mrs Radhika Judd (late) at the Diocesan Ekta Utsav, taking it over from Mrs Kamna Cowasjee and team. She has served as a Pastorate Committee Member and as Secretary and President of the WFCS for many years.

Maintenance of the Church and premises

CCN then had meagre financial resources and could not outsource the maintenance and upkeep of the church. However, the sincere, and devoted members managed the maintenance of the church on their own. Wg. Cdr. Dennis Harrison mobilized the youth: Lukose boys, Dyes boys, Harrison girls, Alex's little fellow, and Cowasjee boys to keep the plot free of grass and to clean up the church premises, as remembered by Mrs Helen Harrison. (She is one of our founding members, Ex-Secretary of the Pastorate Committee and former Principal of Somerville School, Greater Noida, who, on her retirement has joined Epiphany Church, Gurgaon). The member families, on rotation, cleaned up the Chapel for Sunday Worship Services and took tremendous pride in keeping the Temple of God clean and tidy. Col Lukose, then a PC member, with his family planted Asoka droplets trees alongside the drain and created a garden and maintained it for about three years.

Church Caretakers & Security:

Since the days of the Extended Temporary Church, CCN engaged caretakers for security and general upkeep of the church. The past and present caretakers were Mr Goodwin, Mr Didar Massey, Mr Aman, Mr Daniel, Mr Rajan from Orissa, Mr Robin, Mr Daniel and Mr. George Kattamala. At this writing, it is Mr George Kattamala.

Mr Ramesh Thapa has been the main Security person since the time of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Later, Rev. Kamal Mall added Mr Ashok as the second security person as per a PC decision.

Mr Ramkhilawan has been the church part-time Gardner for decades.



Mr Mohit, who joined the church five years ago is responsible for general upkeep and maintenance of the church.

Garden Fete

First Annual Garden Fete of CCN was held on the 13th of November 1997 in a combined celebration of Anniversary. to raise funds for paying for Church construction bills and later in 1998 & 1999 for making payment towards sundry expenditures. Rt. Rev. Karam Masih, then Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, CNI, inaugurated the fete while Rev. Paul Swarup, then Secretary of the Diocese of Delhi, accompanied him and was there for the inaugural/ dedication service as well. Thereafter, under the leadership of Mrs Usha Dyes and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee, Garden Fete was held on three occasions in 1997, 1998 & 1999, the primary objective being raising of funds for church construction projects. Subsequently, Rev Dr Paul Swarup, made it a regular feature and Church Fete is being held, every year from 2004. These events greatly enabled the church to raise funds for the construction work, initially, and later for supporting the Outreach activities of the Church.

Noida Christian Welfare Association (NCWA)

It was in those days, NCWA, a Registered Body, comprising 5 Mainline Churches of Noida: namely, Christ Church-CNI, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Orthodox Syrian Church, Immanuel Mar Thoma Church and the Bethel Methodist Church, took birth, with Rev. Col Lawrence Massey and Mr Rohit David from CCN getting elected to its Governing Body. This idea was mooted way back on the 12th of October 1989, by all denominations of that period, under the Secretary-ship of Rev John Joseph, Evangelical Church. The newly formed NCWA held its 1st Governing Body Meeting on 21st January 2001. Its aim was the promotion of Christian Unity & Welfare and for organised representation for the allotment of land for a Christian Cemetery in Noida.

A name that needs special mention here is that of Dr Mathews of CCN, whose contact with the Principal Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, paved the way for the allotment of the land for a Christian Cemetery in Noida.



President of NCWA was to be a Priest, on rotation amongst the five mainline churches, and the Secretary from a church other than that of the President. It is noteworthy that the first Secretary of NCWA, Mr Rohit David, was of CCN. He gave a definite shape to NCWA. After a year of devoted service, Mr Rohit David handed over the charge to Col M L Lukose, CCN, who held the post from the time of the Registration of the NCWA on 27 May 2003 till the allotment of the Cemetery in June 2008, and its dedication on Sunday the 29th Jun 2008. All the systems were put in place and the Constitution for the Cemetery was approved in the First Annual General Body Meeting of NCWA and distributed to all by Col Lukose.

He handed over the charge of Secretary-ship to Dr Helen Sekar, and subsequently Mr, Anandkumar Peter, both from CCN, also pitched in their support to the NCWA as its General Secretary. As of this writing, Mr Abraham Daniel, CCN, a person with much association with other churches has been elected as the General Secretary of NCWA. Wg. Cdr. Reginald Mukha (Retd), Wing Commander Ransford Cowasjee and his wife Mrs Kamna Cowasjee are other names of CCN that should find mention here, as they diligently attended all the meetings of NCWA for all these years. Similarly, Dr, Mathews and the Massey Family, remained in the forefront of the Christmas Float and Procession. Our church continues to contribute as Presidents, and Members of the Governing Body and Cemetery Committee, as per its Constitution and with financial support as needed.

The first burial in the newly acquired Christian Cemetery was held on the 4th of March 2009 of late Rosy M Moukam, with burial conducted by Fr. John F. D'Cunha of St. Mary's Church.

Superannuation of Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey

During the eventful 17 years, Rev Col Lawrence Massey worked as an Honorary Priest. Often repeated Bible Quote of Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey was from John 15:4-5, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear the fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." He understood the inner meaning of the passage so well and had delivered a series of sermons based on this theme. We recollect that during those days when CCN did not have an organist, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey preferred the congregation to sing as opening hymns, the



evergreen hymns ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty’’, ‘Blessed Assurance’, ‘There shall be showers of blessing’ and ‘What a friend we have in Jesus’.

On superannuation, Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey handed over the charge of the church to Rev. Dr Paul Swarup in April 2004. By then the membership of the Church, from the initial 13 had grown to about 125 families with over 300 worshipers. On festival days people used to attend in troves and tents were to be erected for them.



Events between 2004 & 2011

An era of Spiritual revitalisation

The dynamic leadership of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup re-energised the life and ministry of CCN during the period from 2004 to 2011. Rev. Dr Paul Swarup is a scholar having obtained PhD in Old Testament Theology/Dead Sea Scrolls, University of Cambridge, UK – Faculty of Oriental Studies; Advanced level Biblical Hebrew from Hebrew University of Jerusalem Summer School; Th.M. Old Testament & Semitics from Princeton Theological Seminary, USA; M.Th. Old Testament from United Theological College, Bangalore; BD from Union Biblical Seminary, Pune; B.A- English Literature from Madras Christian College, Chennai. He is a linguist and a good administrator. He carefully chose the people who would help him in his ministry at CCN. He has the unique distinction of being the only Priest of South East Asia, to be selected for Translation and Revision of the NIV Bible. He is also a member of the Editors Group of South Asia Bible Commentary.

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup ushered in an era of refinements, improvements and order and system in all aspects of church life. He functioned strictly within the framework of the CNI Constitution and the Law of the Land. He set for himself and declared his Episcopal Vision and never deviated from it. Divine services witnessed spiritual upliftment. He did not tolerate any aberration in the theological ethics. It was during this period Rev. Dr Paul Swarup recommended to the Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi and installed 5 Lay Leaders, namely Vice Admiral H. Johnson, Anandkumar Peter, Col. M. L. Lukose, Brig. Rajiv Williams, and Mr Rohit David, thus encouraging the laity to conduct services and preach meaningful messages. He also inducted elders of good standing to the Pastorate Committee, after obtaining due sanction from the Bishop of Delhi.

The formal roster of church members:

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup prepared the first Members Roster, after taking over as the Presbyterian-in-charge. Names of worshipers, who till then had submitted applications for membership of the Church were included. It was a Computerised Register and as of 5th February 2006, it recorded a total of 388 Members



including Children of 123 Families; featuring 312 Communicant Members. (Incidentally, when he handed over charge to Rev. Kamal Mall, after serving CCN for 7 years, the church had about 215 families and over 600 individual members on the roles.) The fact remains that not all filed applications to become members, and many just continued to worship without putting in any written application for membership. Some of these faithful regularised their membership subsequently. At the same time, some of the faithful who did not file an application but whose names featured in some early documents were listed as joined the church as on the 13th of November 1988.

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup handed over this task of preparing and updating of the Church Roster to Mr Stalin, a young enthusiastic engineer who put in much time in the service of the church, and Mr Anandkumar Peter, who is computer savvy, to expand on the details of members, and to create an identification number system for families and members. This was done going back to the file maintained of membership applications by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, carefully filed in chronological order. It is cautioned here that this record also suffers from the same deficiency as those who were worshipping regularly in the church but did not submit a membership application may not have been recorded. This computerised record is being regularly updated, recording people in the order of approval of membership applications by the Pastorate Committee, by Mrs Christy Franklin, the Church Administrator, even at the time of this writing.

Spiritual initiatives from 2004 to 2011

Bible Study Groups during Lent

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup introduced Study Groups of our congregants residing in various sectors of Noida, Mayur Vihar and Ghaziabad. He took pains to make preparations for creating study materials and questions for the groups to use well in advance, based on the topic decided for the year. He would also select suitable people to lead each group and train them to handle the Bible Study in their respective groups. This has become a regular feature in CCN since then and participants look forward to these study sessions. While Mr Peter assisted, amongst few others from outside CCN in preparation of study notes, Church Administrator, Mrs Christy Franklin, managed the printing and distribution of the study materials and scheduling of venues for each week. The study material prepared on the theme 'The Holy Spirit' was later published as a book by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup



Annual Spiritual Retreats for members

Another valuable programme for the spiritual upliftment of members in the form of an Annual Spiritual Retreat was started by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Voluntary participants, numbering about 50 were transported to out-station location, (initially at the Himalayan Torch Bearers, on the way to Missouri) and three days of in-depth discourse and discussions were held. Besides Rev. Paul Swarup, Bishop Santram, Mr Peter and Co-presbyters and Deacons in service were regular resource people in those years. Participants returned spiritually refreshed from these retreats.

Vacation Bible School

The first VBS (Vacation Bible School) in CCN was conducted from 8th to 14th June 2009, under the initiative of the then Hon. Treasurer Mr Anandkumar Peter, as its Director, ably assisted by Mrs Christy Franklin, Mr Shibu George, and Mrs Aruna Romulus for administrative functions and dedicated teachers including, Mrs Valentina Muthumani, Mrs Ruth Nath, Mrs. Manorama Lukose, Mrs Vineeta Williams, Ms Margret Meshy, to name a few, with the guidance and monitoring by the Parish Priest, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Mrs Christy Franklin continues to render help for VBS year after year. Children of the church and those from churches in Noida and of other denominations and even from other faiths attended the Vacation Bible School and it became a grand success. VBS has since then become an Annual-Event with an ever-increasing number of participants, touching 175 or more. Praises are to the Lord for His blessing of this ministry. Mr Peter remains committed to this ministry and teaches Senior Students every year and holds devotion sessions for the teachers and volunteers.

Mr Joseph Immanuel, his wife Preeti, their children, the team from Trans-Yamuna Youth for Christ and the CCN Youth both boys and Girls are an immense blessing to VBS from the very first VBS onwards in conducting Praise and Worship segment of VBS. During the time of Rev. Kamal Mall, Mr Joseph was elevated as the Director VBS, which position he continues to hold as at this writing.

Wednesday Prayer Cell



Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening was introduced. Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and his wife Mrs Nina Swarup made it a point to attend the prayer cell on a regular basis. People with illnesses from all faiths attended the prayer cell and special prayers by laying of hands was performed. His prayer had helped those in sickness and in distress. Some of the families of other faiths who experienced the blessings and obtained peace joined our Church. Wednesday meet continues till date. Mrs Manorama Lukose has been assisting the Pastors for many years. Later Miss Stella Miller, Mrs Leila Varki, Mrs Rita Gill, Mrs Roma Das and Mr. Ronny Das and Deacons and Priests associated with Christ Church have taken the lead in these Wednesday Prayers.

Evening Praise and Worship Service and Choir

An evening Praise and Worship service was introduced in 2008 by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Mr Peter assisted him in the conduct of the service. Books of the Bible were selected and studied on Sunday evenings. The Service would begin with singing praises to the Lord for 20 minutes, followed by the reading of the passage from the selected Book of the Bible and the message was delivered based on this passage for another 30 minutes. The Book of Jeremiah was the first to be taken up by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup followed by Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians by Mr Peter. This continued till Rev. Bani joined as an associated Presbyter when he also joined them in the conduct of the worship.

The choir received a boost when Mr Martin, an accomplished Organist joined as a member of the church. He supported the Evening Worship Service also regularly. Mr Ronald Das joined the Worship Service in the evening who was entrusted with the task of deciding suitable Praise & Worship songs for every Sunday. Mr Das who is a good singer and a guitarist, later joined by his wife Mrs Roma Naomi Das, began to lead the Service. The couple continues to conduct the Evening Service in CCN. Ms Stella Miller, Mr Joseph Immanuel, Mrs Preeti Joseph, Dr Leila Varkey and Mr Alex John, present Youth Leader, take great interest in the conduct of the Praise & Worship service on rotation. Col Lukose also took an active role in the Evening Service, occasionally.

The visual presentation of the message was introduced during this service when the first Video Projector was received as a gift from an anonymous source which was replaced by a new projector contributed by Dr Mrs Helen Sekar. Mr Peter assisted in the preparation of PowerPoint slides. And later, these days this is being done by Mrs Roma Naomi Das.



Expository Bible Study

One day workshop was conducted for all those who were interested in the Expository Methods of Bible study. During the workshop, the participants were encouraged to preach on the passage they studied. All the interested participants were given an opportunity to preach during the evening Service. New Testament book of Romans was studied chapter by chapter during this time.

Church planting at Greater Noida

Recognising the fact that Greater Noida was without a CNI church, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup planted the seed to start a Worship Service in the premises of YMCA, Greater Noida in the year 2009-2010. This was started as an extension of CCN. Services were conducted by Rev Samuel John Sekar and Rev. Bani. Mr PJ Chauhan, who had taken up residence in Greater Noida and a member of YMCA facilitated this effort. He inspired CCN members resident in Greater Noida, to regularly attend the Sunday Service at Greater Noida and to arrange and prepare the YMCA hall for the worship. Subsequently, He had organised Retreats & Seminars cum Picnic at the YMCA location. On 18th September 2011, the then Parish Priest, Rev. Kamal Mall arranged the Formal Dedication cum Inaugural Divine Eucharist Service presided over by Rt. Rev. Sunil K Singh, the then Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, CNI, at the Auditorium of YMCA, Greater Noida, thus formalising the existence of Greater Noida Christ Church extension.

Short Workshops and Spiritual discourses

On National holidays such as Independence Day and Republic Day, short-half day spiritual workshops and spiritual discourses were conducted after hoisting the National Flag and reciting the National Anthem. Members attended these workshops in good numbers.

Training by the Haggai Institute in Evangelism

Initially, some of our members were sponsored by the church to attend a 3 days' workshop conducted at the Methodist Church in Lodhi Road. Later, as a



measure to help larger participation, CCN, as initiated by Mr Peter invited the Haggai Institute to conduct the Workshop in our Parish Hall. A second workshop at CCN especially for the Hindi congregation was organised by Mr Rohit David. Several members benefited and were awarded Certificates of Participation by the Haggai Institute.

Ordinates & Associate Pastors

Rev. Samuel John Sekar after another year of service at CCGN was transferred to St. Stephen Chapel, Delhi. Mr. Derik Daman Rogers was trained for 6 months under Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. He was ordained as a Deacon and was transferred to Ambala. Soon in the year 2008, Rev. Bani joined CCN as the Co-Presbyter. After Rev. Bani was transferred to Kalka, Dn. Varun Alfred and subsequently Dn Sachin were also trained in our Church and after a year of service at Greater Noida and Noida, they were ordained and transferred as Priests to various churches under CNI. Rev. Lomesh Chand, a missionary by trait, was posted as a Co- Presbyter to CCN in 2017 and worked as Presbyter –in- Charge of CCGN. He did a lot of missionary work in and around Greater Noida, Noida and adjacent areas before he was transferred to Ashirwad Church, Mayur Vihar in April 2018

CCN Outreach efforts

As the church grew internally, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup decided to look outward to engage with the society through various outreach programmes.

Non-formal education for unschooled children

Then a member of the Pastorate Committee, Dr Mrs Helen Sekar, (Ministry of Labour, Govt of India) as part of her assignment in her organisation had conducted a survey in various pockets in and around Noida, on children engaged in rag-picking. The survey revealed that nearly 1000 children of migrant workers were forced into this work and were never offered an opportunity to attend a school like other children. CCN decided that such children along with other children in localities of Noida would be the best target for imparting non-formal



education. In November 2007, an Outreach Programme known as Chalera Project was initiated.

In 2007, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup identified the neighbouring Slum Cluster in Village 'Chalera' for the outreach work. Programme Coordination was entrusted to Mrs Kamna Cowasjee who identified about 70 children for this purpose and shouldered all the responsibilities efficiently, overseered by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and Mr Peter. Dr Helen Sekar offered her support to the programme for several years. The seed funding for the project which helped us to start the project came from the Mustard Seed Foundation, USA, for three years, sourced by Mr Peter.

Initially, the programme was conducted for half a day in the Chalera Village Chowpal. In 2008 some of these children were upgraded and the segregated into groups who attained Class 1 Standard/ Proficiency and were moved to our Church Complex, utilizing funds donated by M/S Jindal's, through Brig Williams. (Incidentally, Brig. Williams is the present Director of Outreach programmes and runs it assisted by Mrs Christy Franklin.) On attaining proficiency of Class 3 / 4 Grade, some of these children were admitted to nearby Public Schools, with some of our church members sponsoring and providing full financial and counselling support. All children were provided with uniforms, books and refreshments.

Subsequently, its plans and programmes, having been revised, and all children were moved to Church Building Complex. The Church has been generating and spending approx. Rs 9-10 lakhs each year for this outreach project, by way of Salary for Teachers, Books, Conveyance and Aids for Children, Rent for the premises etc.

From 2016 onwards, Elementary Education is being provided to these children steered by Mrs Poonam Runda and efforts are made to get them admitted preferably in Govt. Schools.

Women's Empowerment through Vocational Training

In 2009 a Tailoring Training Unit was established for the women of nearby Harijan Basti. On completion of successful training Merit Certificates were issued to them by M/S Usha International, the Sewing Machine Company. Now the Tailoring and Empowering Unit has also been moved to the Church Building Complex.



Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting facility

In 2009 CCN decided to allow the Alcoholic Anonymous Group to conduct meetings with a view to de-addict them from Alcoholism, once a week at the Sunday School Room of the Multi Utility Facility. Spiritual inputs were also offered and imparted by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, to the participants and as a social gesture, refreshments were provided by the Church during their meetings.

Theological Education Support

Committed to furthering Theological Education, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup initiated the creation of a fund for this purpose. Besides the contributions by church members, it was decided that all 'Denial Contribution during Lent' be dedicated for this purpose. Since then CCN has been supporting financially 3 to 4 Theological Trainee Pastors at Bishop's College Kolkata and Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, recognised in imparting Theological Education and Training of priests and award of Degrees. Rev. Bani, one of our priests, has also been granted financial assistance to pursue BD programme at Bishop's College, Kolkata.

Deaf Fellowship

Another blessing of God, during the tenure of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, was the establishment of a Deaf Fellowship in our Church, under the leadership of Mr Zorin Daud Singha and his family in June 2008. Their children, especially, Angel, Asha and Michael Singha translated the service for them in sign language. New Members of this group were baptized, confirmed and added to the membership of the Church. Sign language translation of the Divine Services has become a regular feature at CCN Services. This Fellowship, under the guidance of the Rev. Kamal Mall, has grown to over 75 strong. They are proud to be members of our Church.

Financial Management and Control

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup chose Anandkumar Peter, a Chartered Management Accountant by profession, a new member of the PC, to assist the then Hon. Treasurer, Col. M. L. Lukose in streamlining the accounts, finance and enforce internal checks and control in the financial management of the Church during



2005. Mr Peter took over from Col. M. L. Lukose as the Hon. Treasurer after Col. Lukose completed his tenure and has been the Hon. Treasurer for several years in two stints. He continues to oversee the accounts, quarterly reporting, and annual audits, besides the preparation of Annual Budgets.

The ensuing period saw a tremendous increase in the revenues of the church with member contributions and donations, both in-house and external sources showing manifold growth. This, in turn, helped CCN to invest in capital projects and various other projects initiated by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup.

Audit of the church accounts by an external auditor, Mr George Koshi of M/S Koshi and Koshi was done for the first time for the Financial Year 2005-2006 during the treasurership of Col. Lukose, assisted by Mr Peter in line with the financial prudence policy of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Mr George Koshi has been auditing our account free on a Christian Service Basis for years.

Construction of Multi-utility Building and Parish Hall

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup went into an accelerated drive to generate funds for the building projects. Conducting Annual Garden Fete was revived, first during his time in November 2004, right from the very first year of his joining the CCN and thereafter every year in November or December. It is notable that barring a contribution of Rupee 1 lakh by the Diocese of Delhi, CCN generated funds for both the building projects, Parsonage-cum-multi utility facility and the Parish Hall, totalling to over Rs. 65 lakhs.

Multi-utility Building

After the Parsonage cum Multi- Utility Complex was built, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, till then living in a rented flat moved into this Parsonage with his family consisting of his wife Nina and son Daniel. They were the first occupants of this Parsonage. This Complex also accommodated a hall for Sunday School and residence for a Caretaker at the rear. The Wash Rooms for the congregants attending Church Services are situated in this building. The Foundation Stone of the Parsonage was laid on the 27th March 2005 by Bishop Karam Masih, then Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi, CNI and the building was dedicated to the Glory of God, also by him on the 8th of January 2006.



Parish Hall and the Steeple Complex

The Multi-Purpose Parish Hall, on the first floor of the Church building, was then constructed during the time of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. Its Foundation Stone was laid on the 22nd April 2007 by Bishop Karam Masih and consecrated on its completion on the 30th March 2008 by the then Bishop, Rt. Rev. Sunil Singh. The vertical extension to the main church building consisted of a large parish hall with a stage, a tall Steeple containing the specially fabricated Church Bell, a storeroom and a Pantry on either side of the stage, and similar two rooms on the in-between floor. One of the rooms is assigned as a guest room for the visiting clergy, and the other as a workroom for the Presbyterian-in-charge. Presently, the Presbyterian's office is being used by the Tailoring unit. A separate bath and toilet were also constructed under the rear staircase for the use of the visiting clergy.

Church Bell

A Brass Bell was donated by Brig. Rajiv Williams and family which was functional in the Church until the new steeple was built. Need for a larger bell arose. Dr Matthew, then a regular contributing member of the church organized and financed the fabrication of the Church Bell which was installed in the top room of the Steeple. The Church complex had a new look befitting its vantage location. He had been beautifully decorating the Church on Festivals of Easter and Christmas, with fresh flowers, till he changed residence to New Delhi. On installation of the new bell, the old bell was donated to a church in Sattal, with the consent of Brig. Williams, through the good office of Rev. Murch.

Baptismal Font

For purposes of adult baptism CCN constructed a Baptismal pond at the rear of the Church. Till then CCN did not have a Baptismal pond. Adult candidates for baptism had to be transported to Turkman Gate church for baptism. This was remedied by creating a marble laid Baptismal pond /Font on the side of the church building. For child baptism a portable font is available in the Church



All these were made possible through the dedicated co-operation and participation of the parishioners ably guided and inspired by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. CCN felt a new spiritual vigour and its congregation continued to be highly motivated.

Diesel Generator

A 24 KVA Generator was installed in the Complex to ensure uninterrupted power supply during worship and other functions, a laudable effort by the then PC members, especially Mr Victor Franklin, Mr Shibu George and Mr Rohit David, with the support of the Treasurer Mr Peter who organised the funding.

Church Website

The church website, www.christchurchnoida.org, was launched with the help of Mr Anandkumar Peter, who continues to update and maintain it for CCN even at the time of this writing. Rev. Dr Paul Swarup encouraged and motivated him and personally worked with him on the contents of the website and guided him on the design and layout of the same.

Weekly Flyer

A well designed and informative Flyer was introduced during this period for each Weekly Divine Service and for special occasions. It also listed the names of people who were sick or in distress and needed prayer support from the parishioners apart from birthday and anniversary greetings, appreciation and regular notices on upcoming events of the Church and the Diocese.

Fellowships & Sunday School

Much attention was paid for the progress of Women's Fellowship, Youth Fellowship and the Sunday School. To encourage these Christian Spiritual and Service Activities, fifth Sundays of the month were dedicated to them. The Fellowship members conducted the morning service and delivered the message.



The Fellowship members participated in all church activities, especially in the Annual Fete, apart from their respective meetings and activities.

Church Choir

CCN Choir received shot in the arm when Mr Martin a highly talented organist joined the church, after the departure of Col Victor Duraisami. Mr Martin, besides attending the morning Service would diligently attend the evening Praise & Worship Service. He would join the Carol Singers with his Accordion. When he visited Canada on an official trip from his office, appreciating his talent at the local church there, and the contributions he is making in the Indian Church, CCN, the Canadians donated a Church Organ for the use of CCN. It was shipped to India at their cost and was in use at the church for several years.

After Mr Martin got transferred out of Noida, Mr Richard Muthumani, though not an organist, assumed as the Choir Director. He was assisted by his wife Mrs Valentina Muthumani and used a talented young schoolboy Wilson as the organist. Choir organisation became formal at this stage. Mr Ravindran Sunder Singh, an organist joined the Choir and later took over as Choir Master and continues to be the Choir Master of CCN, till now. Choir conducted Canticles and special programmes during Christmas season and other occasions.



Events between 2011& 2018

Rev. Dr Paul Swarup, after an illustrious, satisfying and fruitful stint of 7 years, and having sown the seed for the Greater Noida Congregation, handed over charge of the church to the incoming Presbyterian-in-charge Rev. Kamal Mall, in April 2011. Rev. Kamal Mall gave further impetus to all the activities established by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. His motto being, “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, And Your glory above all the earth;” - Psalms. 108: 5.

Rev. Kamal Mall pastored the church to further heights. He believed in greater participation of the younger generation and the women of the Church, in all the ministries and other activities. Though he did not formally renew the licenses of Lay Leaders, who were earlier installed, he continued to utilise their services. After bringing in few people as Bishops Nominees to the Pastorate Committee in the initial years, he decided not to recommend names to the Bishop for the nomination in the later years. He inducted more young people and women in the Pastorate Committee and involved them in all the activities of the Church.

During his second year as the Presbyterian-in-Charge of CCN, Rev. Kamal Mall was elected as the Treasurer of Diocese of Delhi, CNI, first for a period of 3 years and then for a further period of another 3 years. The congregation was so proud that their priest has been so elected, faced the absence of the Priest from the Parish with patience. It was indeed a challenge for him to manage the dual portfolio, but he tried to balance it as much as he could. However, the joining of Rev Lomesh Chand, with good evangelical traits, as Co- Presbyterian, though at the fag-end of his tenure at CCN, filled up whatever vacuum was felt by the congregation, both at CCN and at Greater Noida. It goes to Rev. Kamal Mall's credit that he pursued the efforts of his predecessor Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and took the spiritual activities of both the congregation to further heights.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

CCN celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the year 2013 with the motto ‘Arise and Build’. Celebrations were planned and initiated with great gusto and conducted through a period of the whole of one-year 2013, under the able stewardship of Rev Kamal Mall, and the enthusiastic co-operation of all parishioners. Rev. Kamal Mall proved his leadership abilities and organisational capabilities during the conduct of these events.

The Silver Jubilee team consisted of – members: Convenor --- could be mentioned with photographs in same order



Medical camp

Silver Jubilee celebrations started with a Medical Camp held at the church premises, on the 28th of April 2013, ably organized and overseered by Dr Kanishk Williams, a member of our Church, equally ably supported by Mr Sachin Daniel. Women's Fellowship (WFCS) and the Youth Fellowship actively participated as volunteers supporting the Medical Team from St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi. Needless to say, that Doctors, including Dr Mrs Lucky Chandekar, Dr. Vinita Daniel and Dr Deepti Cecil and paramedics who were members of the church, were at the forefront of the activities on that day.

More than 700 men, women and children were provided medical examination, advice and prescriptions by specialist doctors of St, Stephen Hospital, Delhi, consisting of Cardiologists, Orthopaedics, Physiotherapists, Dentists, Dieticians, Gynaecologists, Oncologists and Paediatricians. Quick lab tests were conducted to detect blood sugar.

Main beneficiaries of the Camp were members of NCWA, our Church, villagers from nearby localities and even passers-by. In certain cases, medicines were also given. WFCS of the Church under the leadership of Mrs Manorama Lukose, assisted by Mr Jeremiah Jai Babu provided refreshments to all participants throughout the day.

The Camp was inaugurated by Shri Dr. Mahesh Sharma, local MLA and owner of Kailash Hospital, Noida. And the concluding ceremony was presided over by Former Naval Chief of Staff Admiral Sushil Kumar, a member of our Church. His closing words were inspirational to the Medical Team and participants. He distributed mementoes and certificates to all members of the Medical team.

Tree Plantation

Tree Plantation was organised on the Easter Sunday of 2013 at the Church garden by the congregation, after the Divine Service. Bishops, priests, women and the congregation took an active part in planting trees in the Church compound. Three decorative trees were planted along the front boundary by Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey, Bishop Santram and Re. Kamal Mall.

Maha-Sangati



Maha-Sangati, with a special motto, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands; Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing. Psalms 100:1-2., was organised and led by Mr Sachin Abraham Daniel. Multiple activities were held on 15th August 2013, after the customary celebration of National Flag Hoisting and Singing of National Anthem and the usual celebrations associated with it. Highlights of Maha Sangati were:

- Initial ‘praise and worship’ by the entire congregation of over 300;
- Competitive items by 4 Groups- “Marvelling Marks, Rocking Peters, Thundering Johns and Dashing Daniels;
- Fancy Dress by church children;
- Quick Bible Reading competition;
- Bible Quiz;
- Group Songs, wherein Bishop Santram and Pastor also took part;
- Skit by Deaf Fellowship

Maha Sangati culminated with a social lunch.

Sports Festival

A Sports Festival was conducted, over a period of 2 months, under the leadership of Dn. Varun Alfred, in the CCN premises. Games and sports organised included: VolleyBall, Throw Ball, Badminton, Tug of War and in-doors games such as Chess, Sudoku, Carom, and Arm Wrestling. Teams carried the same group names as in Maha Sangati. It was a surprise to see the then 82-year-old Mr. Vinay Cecil, father of Dr. Deepti Cecil participating in the Badminton competition. Members of Deaf Fellowship also participated in the games. Mr Suhail Titus was the all-rounder Referee.

Women’s Retreat

A Women’s Retreat was conducted on 13th July 2013 at our church under the leadership of then President of WFCS, Mrs Shannon Mukha. Chief Guests-cum-Resource persons were Mrs Sherilyn and Mrs Vineeta Shaw. The retreat started with a Prayer by Rev Kamal Mall and a devotional song by Mrs Neeta Mall, and daughters Michelle and Minhael. Speakers from our church were Mrs Manorama Lukose and Dr Mrs Helen Sekar. Members of 12 Churches and Institutions of Diocese of Delhi, CNI & NCR participated. The participants were recognised with prizes and mementoes given away by Mrs Lily Abraham (Late),



former president of WFCS and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee, convenor of Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

Men's Retreat

A Men' Retreat was conducted on Saturday the 14th September 2013 in our Church under the leadership of Mr Luke Chandekar. Highlights being discourse by Rev. Mohit Hitter on, "Arise and Build: The Role of Christian Men in Building the Family and Society". Song Competition, Solo Song and Bible Quiz. Social Lunch of Chinese Cuisine format was also served to the participants of 12 Churches of NCR.

Inter-Denominational Children Festival

An Inter-denominational Children Festival of children drawn from all the NCWA and other Churches was also conducted in our Church in 2013, as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, under the able stewardship of Mrs Roma Naomi Das. 98 children participated in Bible Quiz, Bible Verse Memory Competition, Short Skits on Biblical themes, Slogan Writing etc. Mr Joseph Immanuel and the team of Youth for Christ (YFC) engaged the Children in Praise and Worship and the children enjoyed it to the maximum. Youth volunteers and elders and Priests of the NCWA Churches participated in the whole event. 33 children of our church and 40 of Immanuel Marthoma church participated in it; the rest of the participants were children from other churches of NCWA. Childrens Fest has become an annual activity since then, taken up by NCWA

Vacation Bible School

2013 Vacation Bible School was held under the banner of Christ Church Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Somerville School International. Children of other Churches and Faiths apart from those of CCN attended in large number as usual.

Silver Jubilee Logo Competition

There was a 'Silver Jubilee Logo 'competition amongst the Youth. Mr William Massey & Mr Philip Nath jointly won the competition their design



having been approved and used for the Silver Jubilee events, especially for the Brochure Cover.

Silver Jubilee Souvenir

A Souvenir was brought out on this occasion of the Silver Jubilee with Mrs Kamna Cowasjee as the Convener and Chief Editor supported by Mrs Roma Das and others including Dn Varun, Mr Sachin Daniel, Dr. Kanishk Williams, Ms. Margret Meshy, Mr Philip Nath, Mr Vinay Ralph, Ms Angel Singha, Ms Stella Miller and Dr Mrs Helen Sekar. The Silver Jubilee Logo created by the creative efforts of Mr William Meshy & Mr Philip Nath adorned the Cover Page of the Souvenir.

The Souvenir was a unique one with several articles bringing out the memories of 25 years of existence of CCN. The authors of this book acknowledge with gratefulness, all those who contributed articles, as much information has been reproduced in this book. This souvenir was released by Bishop of Delhi Rt. Rev. Sunil K Singh during the evening service celebrations on 13 November 2013. All Bishops, present and past and Priests of Diocese of Delhi participated in the grand service held in the evening. Governor and Chief Minister of UP were also magnanimous in greeting and appreciating the good work and progress of CCN in 25 years.

Our newsletter, the Scroll

The first edition of our quarterly Newsletter, titled as 'The Scroll' was also rolled out on the 13th November 2013. The Scroll was conceived and proposed by Mr Anandkumar Peter and strongly supported by Rev. Kamal Mall and was duly approved in the AGM, thus fulfilling a long-cherished dream. Rev. Kamal Mall and Mr Peter created an editorial team with Mr Peter heading it as its Chief Editor. The First Edition dated 13th November 2013 was distributed to all the guests and members during the Silver Jubilee Finale. The Scroll continues to be published at regular intervals with the help of Resident Editors Mr John Solomon, Mrs Lukose and Mrs. Kamna Cowasjee.

Grand Finale



The Celebrations culminated in a grand finale Divine Service lead by the Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, Rt. Rev. Sunil Singh and several members of the clergy, including the Founder Presbyterian Rev Col Massey and the second presbyter, Rev. Dr Paul Swarup in attendance. Rev. Dr Paul Swarup delivered the key message. Every activity saw the leadership and managerial capabilities of Rev. Kamal Mall. **This should be added to the earlier part of the write up on finale – or that brought down --- repeat to be avoided**

Senior Member Fellowship (SMF)

Conceptualised by Mr Peter and duly supported by Rev. Kamal Mall a proposal to form a Senior Member Fellowship of members of both genders above 60 years of age, was duly approved in the AGM. Mr Abraham Daniel was nominated as its Convenor. The fellowship primarily visited many house-bound members of the church. Conducted a film show on St. Peter & St. Paul, hosted a short discourse on the Passion of Christ. At this writing, the Fellowship is being managed by Brig. Rajiv Williams and Mrs Kamna Cowasjee as its Convenor and Co-convenor respectively. It has been streamlined with an annual quarterly programme to include visit to old-age homes as apart from ongoing home visits, celebrating of Defence Sunday and conjointly holding stalls in the annual fete.

60 Minutes in the chair

As part of the efforts of SMF, a Bible Study programme was initiated by Mr Peter known as 60 Minutes in the Chair. Classes were conducted every alternate Saturday in the Sunday School Room. 12 participants regularly attended the programme which lasted for about 6 months. They were provided with the necessary printed lessons and were tested in the form of crossword quiz.

Contribution by Youth for Christ

We will be failing in our responsibilities if we do not mention the great support Mr Joseph Immanuel and his wife Preeti have rendered in the life and ministry of CCN. They were on 'call', so to speak, making arrangements and



conducting the Praise and Worship during VBS right from the first VBS, preaching by both Preeti & Joseph, serving at the Altar during services and function as resource persons at Family retreats etc. Mr Joseph now serves on the Pastorate Committee as a member.

Church choir

Rev. Kamal Mall and Mr Rabindran Sunder Singh as the Choir Master revived the church choir which was in disarray, due to various reasons. Since then the choir has done very well till date.

Bifurcation of church services

With the growing number of worshippers both in Hindi and in English segments, Rev. Kamal Mall, after obtaining the consent of the PC and the General Body, bifurcated the Morning Service into Hindi Service, to begin at 08:00 AM and English Service, to begin at 09:45 AM. on Sundays. He made sure that the congregation stayed united by ensuring single Pastorate Committee for both these services and conducting Combined Service on the last Sunday of every month and on all occasions and festivals. The practice of conducting the Service by the members of Senior Members, Women, Youth, Sunday School Children on the fifth Sundays, in rotation continued.

Evening Praise & Worship Service

Rev. Kamal Mall also introduced Eucharist on all Third Sunday of the Month during the evening Praise and Worship Service which resulted in the increase in the number of participants.

Sunday Evening Praise and Worship are being conducted, with the continued guidance and Pastoral oversight by Rev. Kamal Mall and Rev. Lomesh Chand, and presently Rev. Sunil Ghazan, with the active and dedicated support and participation of Mr Ronald Das, Mrs Roma Das, Dr Mrs Leila Varkey, Miss. Stella Miller, Mr Immanuel Joseph, Mrs Preeti Joseph, Mrs Veena Wesley and Col ML Lukose. Average attendance during the evening service stands at about 50 worshippers, including University Students and those from other faiths.



Wednesday Prayer cell

Wednesday Prayer Meetings in the Church continued to be held under the able guidance of Rev. Lomesh Chand, co-Presbyter and Pastor in-charge of Greater Noida Parish, and now Rev. Sunil Ghazan. Mrs Rita Gill took an active part in leading the Wednesday Evening Prayers especially when the Priest was not available. Over 60 people, including those from other faiths, attend this prayer session every week.

Dedicated Sunday's and events

Defence Sunday

CCN dedicated one Sunday as 'Defence Sunday' by the Services Veterans, who are members of the church, coordinated by Brig Rajiv Williams, in February 2016. All the retired defence service officers took part in the organisation of the events of the Sunday and participated proudly displaying their decorations. All present were enchanted by the Pipers and Naval Band playing the favourite hymns, arranged by kind curtesy of the Former Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sushil Kumar, a member of our church. Defence Sunday was celebrated for the second time in November 2018 as part of the Thirty-Year celebration of the establishment of the Church. It has been suggested that this be made an annual feature in November first week every year.

Special Services

Sunday Services dedicated to 'Tribal and Adivasis', Bible Sundays, Leprosy Sundays etc. are being celebrated. Seminars and workshops on Christian Themes were a regular feature. During Easter, Christmas and New Year, CCN conducts Midnight and Sun Rise Services. On Maundy Thursdays, the Church conducts Feet Washing and Love Feast Services and on Good Fridays, three-hour Mid-Day Services are conducted ever since the time of Rev. Paul Swarup. Lenten Prayer Meetings are held at various homes by various Church group members during the Lenten Season.

WFCS



WFCS witnessed a renewed vigour under the leadership of Mrs Veena Wesley as its President. They are an active part of Diocesan WFCS. Several activities were introduced and WFCS participated and helped in all the events of the church. She was instrumental in implementing the concept of 'Handful of Rice' as conceptualised by Mrs Thapliyal. They support two children from a Home in Jangpura and visit old age Homes once/twice every year. WFCS now manage their accounts and their savings has shown a steep increase.

Spiritual, mission and missionary support

Rev. Kamal Mall continued to support those pursuing theological studies at renowned seminaries, instituted by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. He also extended financial support to two evangelical workers, one of CNI sponsored and the other IEM sponsored. Rev. Kamal Mall believed in supporting other churches and people in need of finances and also in extending financial support to the Diocese of Delhi. Churches at Khekra & Barot have been recipients of this largesse, apart from Greater NOIDA.

CCN diligently supported children of the parish needing financial support for education and members and staff requiring medical treatment.

Greater Noida Christ Church

During the tenure of Rev. Kamal Mall, ably helped by Dn Varun and Dn Sachin and Rev. Lomesh Chand, CCGN saw exponential growth. Divine Services are being conducted at the Chapel of St. Thomas B Ed College, in Knowledge Park III, in Greater Noida, with the kind permission accorded by Rt. Rev. Sunil Singh, Bishop of Diocese of Delhi, CNI and continued support of Bishop Wari Masih, the current Bishop. About 18 Families and around 60 individual worshippers regularly attended the Divine Service under the Pastoral care of Rev. Lomesh Chand. Initial incubation was under the able guidance of Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and subsequently by Rev. Kamal Mall, who took it as a serious mission, and now being taken forward by Rev. Sunil Ghazan

Positions of pride

It is a matter of great pride for CCN that under the leadership of Rev. Kamal Mall, several members of our church were elected to the Diocesan Bodies. These



are Rear Admiral Ramsay, Diocesan Executive Council, Mr Victor Franklin- Finance Committee, Brig RE. Williams- Stewardship Committee, Mr Prateek Jaswant – Law & Procedure, Dr Mrs Leila Varkey- Christian Life and Evangelism and Dr Mrs Helen Sekar –Court of the Diocese. It is notwithstanding the fact that our Priest was also the Treasurer of the Diocese.

Infrastructure & other implementations

Rev. Kamal Mall as the Treasurer of the Diocese of Delhi ensured the revival of integration of our annual accounts with that of the Diocesan Society, a long pending request to various Bishops.

The PA system was replaced with a modern system for quality of sound reproduction through the relentless efforts of Mr Victor Franklin (who was two-term Hon. Secretary) and Mr. Shibu George and Mr Prateek Jaswant, the Hon. Treasurers with Mr. Victor Franklin

This team was instrumental in the landfill and re-construction of rear wall projects. Needless to mention here that Wg. Cdr. Ransford Cowasjee, in-charge of Church maintenance supervised the work under difficult climatic conditions.

Wg. Cdr. Ransford Cowasjee also conceived separation of the electric connection of the Main Church building and the Multi-Utility Complex. He made sure that this was fully executed despite the delays at the Noida Electricity Board.

During his term as the Hon. Secretary, Mr Victor Franklin, duly supported by Mr. Anand Peter, Mr. Shibu George and Mr Prateek Jaswant respectively as the Hon. Treasurers during their tenure, mooted the idea of further strengthening the accounts, administration and projects framework of the church by bringing out an SOP in the form of a handbook on 'Policies & Procedure', approved by the PC. They were wholeheartedly supported by Rev. Kamal Mall. Mr Franklin sought the help of Mr Peter who functioned as the Editor and producer of the handbook. Others who contributed were Brig. Williams, Mrs Veena Wesley, Ms Michele, Wg. Commander Ransford Cowasjee, Mrs Kamna Cowasjee and Mrs Christy Franklin. The handbook was duly received in the AGM and sent to PC for implementation. The implementation has since been done by the efforts of our 4th and current Presbyterian-in-charge Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan in September 2018.

Air-conditioning of the main church building was another major project undertaken by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer duo, Mr Victor Franklin and Mr Prateek Jaswant with the unwavering support of the Presbyterian-in-Charge, Rev. Kamal Mall. This project was successfully executed.



Maintenance Committee

Though a committee was formed by the Pastorate Committee, it was virtually a one-man show by Wg. Cdr. Ransford Cowasjee, then a two-term member of the PC. All projects and tasks assigned to the committee were executed under his able supervision. He visited the church almost on a daily basis to monitor the work even when the weather was not favourable. At time of printing the committee comprises Col. PD Shah, Mr. Jeremiah Jayababu, Mrs Veena Wesley. The committee is looking after the maintenance work of the church, under the provisions of the AGM approved 'Policies & Procedure of CCN'.

Church Administrator

Mrs Christy Franklin, an MCA and dedicated member of our church was inducted as the Church Administrator by Rev. Dr Paul Swarup in the year 2009. She was trained by Mr Peter in the maintenance of church accounts on Tally. He continues to mentor her and help her prepare quarterly accounts and annual audits under the supervision of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Prateek Jaswant. Rev. Kamal Mall mentored Mrs Christy on other administrative matters. Mrs Christy handles the entire burden of Church office and outreach and willingly accepts additional responsibilities, especially during VBS, Fete and various festival seasons. She is an asset to CCN.

Transfer of Rev. Kamal Mall

On transfer, Rev. Kamal Mall, after an eventful period of 7 years, handed over charge of the church to Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan, our 4th Presbyterian-in-charge. CCN and various entities in the church gave Rev. Kamal Mall and his family a grand farewell. The farewell function organised by the Church was so well attended that church was overflowing. Many offered tribute to the great work done by Rev. Kamal Mall and the unforgettable contribution of his wife Mrs Neeta Mall and their very active daughters, Minhael and Michelle during Family Retreats, VBS and Youth Programmes. Rev. Kamal Mall with his dedication and innovative approach would join the 'Hall of Fame' of CCN along with Rev Col. Lawrence Massey and Rev Dr Paul Swarup.



Events from July 2018 – November 2018

(30th Anniversary of the church)

The New Shepherd

Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan took over the charge from Rev. Kamal Mall on the 17th of June 2018. Rev Ghazan is a visionary and is guiding the Church Spiritually. Being in the transition period, he had the opportunity to take part and bless the children of VBS 2018, held at Somerville International School, and at the Grand Finale held at CCN on 24 June 2018, by the Church, under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs Mall.

Photo Page 8 of Scroll 23 Sep

We look up to him for our Spiritual Growth and Peace. Since his taking over he is feeding us with Daily Spiritual Guidance for “Happy Living” through the WhatsApp Group he has created, the message he disseminates through Weekly Flier, his Sermons on Sunday Worship, and his special sermon to commemorate the establishment of CCN on its 30th Anniversary. He is a believer in preserving Church history and a great supporter in bringing out this booklet

Photo Rev Sunil Solomon

Ministry of Rev. Sunil Solomon Ghazan

Since the First Week of his taking over as Pastor-in-Charge Rev. Ghazan commenced visiting families and the Sick. He believes in being a hands-on pastor and is available to the parishioners 24x7. Mrs Saroj Solomon Gazan, his wife, is a silent support, and very accommodative and hosted a ‘Thanksgiving Service and Dinner’ to the Parishioners on Friday the 8th August 2018, on her birthday. She regularly attends the Morning Hindi Service and has exhibited great enthusiasm and interacts with the parishioners.



Office for the Pastor

In order to have regular contact and interaction with the parishioners, Rev Sunil Ghazan, on his joining CCN, organized an 'Office of the Pastor-in-Charge' on the ground floor of the Multi Utility Complex, dividing the Sunday School hall into two parts. The Office was dedicated by Bishop Santram and declared open on 19th August 2018, after the Divine Service, a veritable proof of his availability

Independence Day 2018

Independence Day was celebrated on the 15th of August 2018, in a special and befitting manner, with a Praise and Worship Service in the Church, followed by the 'National Flag Hoisting' in the Lawns of the Church. Children of our Outreach Project participated with great enthusiasm in the event and performed on the occasion. Sweets were distributed. Rev. Sunil Ghazan invited Brig Rajiv Williams to Hoist the National Flag. The function was well attended, including Senior Defence Services Veterans of the Church. At the time of writing, the Church had a flag-hoisting ceremony on 26 January with Rev. Col. Lawrence Massey hoisting the flag.

Kerala Flood Relief

CCN organised a Special Sunday Service on 26 Aug 2018 as the 'Kerala Flood Relief Funds Collection Programme' and sent the proceeds to the Diocese of Delhi for onward delivery to the Flood-Stricken Kerala through CSI. Service was conducted by the Youth Group, while the celebrant was Rev Sunil Gazan.

WFCS, under the leadership of Dr Mrs Lucky Chandekar and Mrs. Veena Wesley had organised a Flood Relief Programme and on two instalments sent essential medicines, through Indian Air Force aircraft on relief duty and subsequently through a Relief Train organised by the Bar Association of Supreme Court of India, in response to a call from Hon'ble Justice Kurian on behalf of Kerala Christian Association in Delhi.

Tribal Sunday



CCN conducted a Special Service on 'Tribal Sunday' on 30th September 2018, during which Christians of Tribal Regions, now residing in Noida, actively participated, along with our Members.

It may be noted that Tribes existed from Old Testament Era. One may recall the 12 Tribes of Israelites, descendants of 12 sons of Jacob as we see in Joshua 1: 12-13. Some Tribes became affluent, and some were not; some were strong, and some were weak. Sons of men in Old Testament Era were considered as arrows in the quiver of a soldier. Ps 127.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes for the year 2018-19 for both Adults and Youth have commenced after the Divine Service from 21st October 2018, by Rev Solomon Ghazan. Participants were free to interact with the Pastor and asked questions on observing 'Local Traditions' in a modern Christian environment; especially the obligations of those recently converted from other Faiths to Christianity.

NCWA Events

Rev Ghazan has shown great interest in Unity - Programmes of NCWA, with a view to revive our participation.

NCWA inter denominational Children Festival, for the current year, was conducted in our Church on the 13th October 2018. Thanks to the Organisers, Mrs Preeti Joseph, Dr Lucky Chandekar, Mr Joseph Immanuel, Youth Group, Elders, and the Pastorate Committee Members.

As mentioned elsewhere, CCN had played important role in the functioning of NCWA. Mr Abraham Daniel is the present General Secretary of NCWA and has been instrumental in organising the Children's festival.

As part of the NCWA Christmas Programme and Christmas Float, which could not be conducted due to political turmoil in the state, we conducted an Ecumenical Worship Service of all the Major Member Churches of NCWA on the 16 December 2018, in our Church.



Defence Sunday

Duplicating --- can be added to earlier report

4th November 2018 was observed as Defence Sunday under the aegis of Senior Member Fellowship. Service was in two parts: usual Divine Service followed by a Remembrance Day Ritual. Thanks to Brig Rajiv Williams and the Defence Personnel of the Church for the efficient planning and conduct of all the events of the day.

Photo

Sports Festival

Sports festival to commemorate the 30 Years of Spiritual Journey, under the able leadership of Mr Jeremiah Jai Babu, Mr Alwyn Theodore and the Youth Group, was also held from 28 October to 4th Nov 2018 for Children, both Boys & Girls of age groups from 6-10 years and for common groups of women and men. Winners were felicitated.

Photos

Greater Noida extension of the church

Rev Sunil Gazan, presently, takes care of the Spiritual needs of CCGN also, due to the transfer of Rev. Lomesh Chand. Both CCN and CCGN have great hopes and expectations from Rev Sunil Solomon Ghazan in maintaining the tempo of development created by his predecessors Rev. Dr Paul Swarup and Rev Kamal Mall.

30th Anniversary of the Church and Garden Fete

As usual the Anniversary celebrations with the Garden Fete was celebrated with Full Gusto on the Sunday the 11th November. Apart from the Chief Guest Mr. Thomas T Roy, Secretary cum Treasurer of Lott Carrey Baptist Mission, we were happy to honour Rev Col Lawrence Massey, the Founder Priest, as a Guest of Honour, a unique treat by the Present Priest In Charge. The Fete was blessed by the Bishop of Delhi Diocese, Rt. Rev Warris Masih.



In addition, the actual 30th Anniversary Thanks Giving Eucharist Service was conducted on 13 November 2018 with Cakes and Refreshments.

Christmas 2018 and New year 2019.

Christmas 2018 was celebrated with much pomp and show and greater devotion. Carol Rounds, Candle Light Service combined with nine lessons and Carol, Christmas Tree, Christmas play by Youth & Sunday School Children and the Deaf Fellowship, in particular, followed by Bonfire and Christmas Dinner was rather Unique. Chalera Outreach Under privileged Children Programmes also dominated the Festival.

Carols around Bonfire with Pot Luck Dinner hosted by the Priest In Charge was an additional feature, enjoyed by many.

Christmas Midnight and Morning Eucharist service were attended by many including People from other faith. A meaningful Crib with an Electronic Controlled Santa Clause added to the Show. Non-Christians thronged the Church, its Lawn and the Road till about 10 PM and the visitors were briefed and controlled by the dedicated Teams under Mrs Vineeta Williams. The Programme culminated with Watch-night Midnight and Covenant Eucharist Services of the New Year, all of which were well attended by the Congregation.

St. Paul wrote:



**“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God gives the growth.
1 Corinthians Ch, 3: v 6 & 7.”**



[BACK COVER PAGE WRITE-UP]

History of any church is an integral part of the spiritual and cultural heritage of the parishioners. As time passes, finer details of the development of the church tend to get obliterated from the minds of people. As the congregation gets older and passes on, information about the people, events and timeline is lost to the newer generation.

Christ Church, Noida of the Diocese of Delhi, Church of North India, has completed its 3 decades of existence and many who were part of this journey are still around to recount the events of the period. A serious attempt is made in this book to present, as accurately as possible, the narrative about this church. The textual narratives are embellished with memorable photographs.

It is hoped that the new generation of the congregants will keep up this tradition and update the history of the church as often as possible. A softcopy of the book is, maintained in the archives of the church to facilitate this.

Christ Church, Noida is a vibrant church and is ever mindful of our Lord's caution as quoted in Revelation 3:19-22 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. 20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."