



# NEW DELHI YMCA

# NDY TODAY

5

OCTOBER  
2020

CONNECTING PEOPLE

VOLUME - 4  
PAGE-1

**Mark S Clive**  
General Secretary & CEO

Even as there was a tinge of sadness, the fortnight gone by was fruitful. In a Special Meeting on September 29, the members voted in favour of extending the term of the present Board by a wide margin. The need for the meeting arose in view of the Corona pandemic due to which the Annual General Meeting could not take place. In an online pool, conducted by a Government-approved agency, members gave their consent to extend the present Board's term till the next AGM. This ended the uncertainty hanging over for some time and will help smoothen the working. I extend my gratitude to the President Mr Jovial Vaghela, the Board and the members for the same.

After months of silence the Tourist Hostel is buzzing with activity. Several visitors are back and many events are also being held to bring back the usual business.

As far as hospitality sector is concerned, Sattal Campsite is emerging as a success story. Past week it ran to the full capacity with tourists from Delhi, Punjab, Agra and other places. This also included corporate booking promising good business in the coming months. Uttarakhand Government's lifting of earlier mandatory Corona test for visitors has helped tourist boom in the State.

The Fitness Centre is operational in full swing and gradually members are joining back. Captain of the national basketball team Padmashri Prashanti Singh is a regular at the Fitness Centre.

To give momentum and extra boost to the work in challenging times, Secretaries and Executives participated in a daylong brainstorming workshop.

The workshop, "Reenergise New Delhi YMCA" was an open platform for Secretaries and Executives to come out with fresh ideas to make New Delhi YMCA a happening and financially viable place. Directors of different institutes also gave presentations, suggesting steps to lift the image of New Delhi YMCA.

A touch of sadness also marked the fortnight. We lost Mr Nirmal Singh, a dear member after a prolonged illness.

Another member, Mr Jacob Mathews lost his mother.

On behalf of President, Board, members and the extended New Delhi YMCA family I extend my deep sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families.

God bless all

#### Kids on the right track at Nizamuddin School

As part of awareness drive and instil a sense of respect for people around young students, a novel method was adopted at the Nizamuddin School. Nursery Children learnt acted as 'professionals' to learn about the value of 'People who help us' as a part of their lesson.

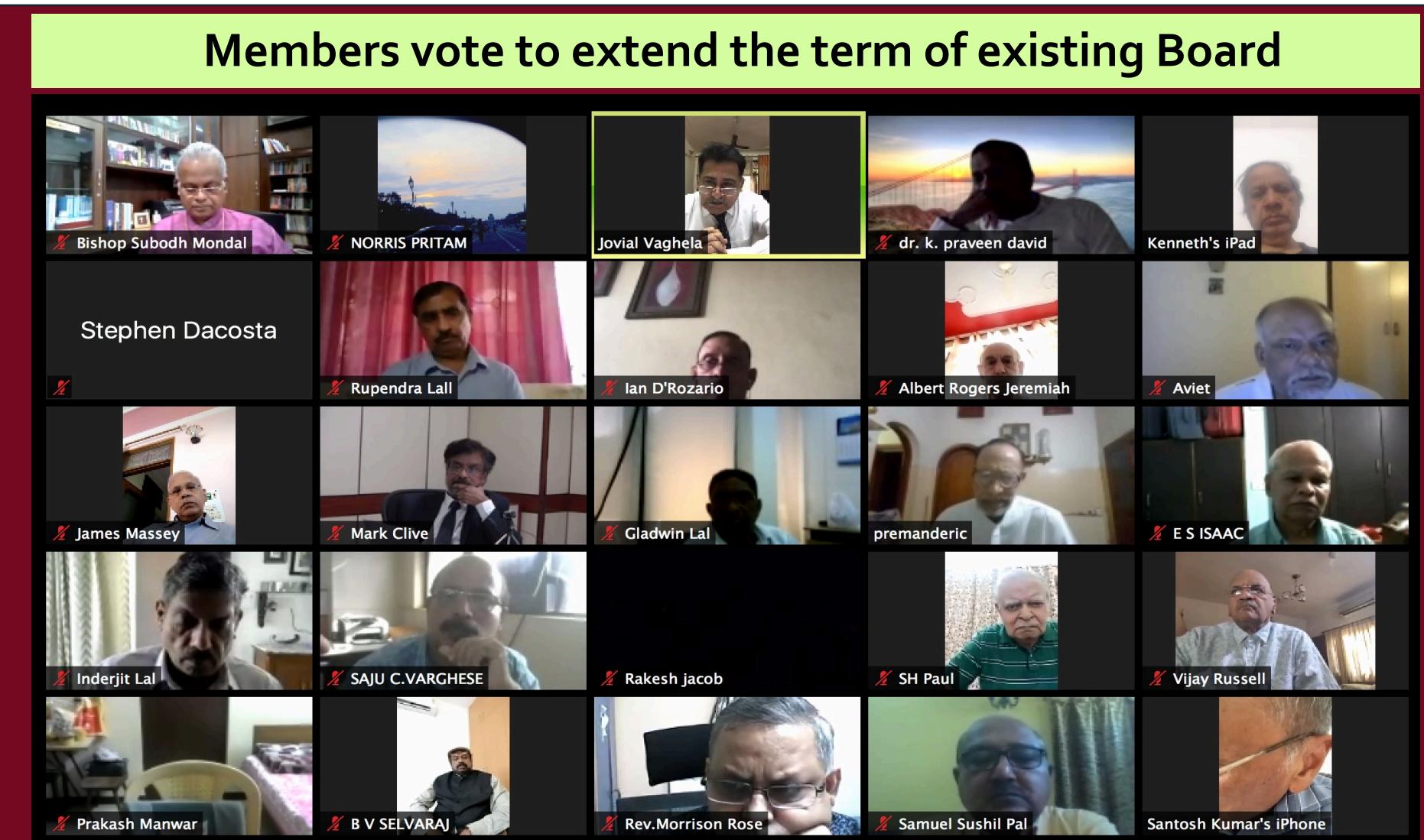


#### "Prayer Fellowship"

The Department of Christian Emphasis, is organising "Prayer Fellowship", on Saturday, October 10, 9:00 am onwards (Online) You, your family and friends are cordially invited for the same. Zoom login details are given below.

Meeting ID : 988 8171 5680

Passcode : 420898



In a Special Online meeting and E-Voting on September 29, 2020, members favoured to extend the term of the existing Board till the upcoming ABM to be held as soon as possible after 1st April 2020

In the meeting held on Zoom platform, President Mr Jovial Vaghela explained the need for the special meeting to the members. The President said that after the smooth changeover of leadership at New Delhi YMCA (installation of Mr Mark Clive as General Secretary & CEO) the Board discussed and decided to hold the Annual Business Meeting. "With all the deliberations the Board took the cautious call that holding physical meeting would not be conducive in view of the health of the members. So we decided to go for the online mode of election."

He said there was no choice but to come to the general assembly to ratify the particular decision of going for election. In the mean time suggestions came that since four-five months were already over and fresh elections would require couple of more months, it would shorten the term of the new Board. So it was suggested to extend the term of the existing Board till the next ABM.

Therefore the Board decided to take the matter to the membership. And 21-day notice was served for the Special Meeting for members to decide between the two options.

The two options were already circulated to the members and on September 29 the members had to vote to decide which option they favoured.

#### The two options were:

Option 1: To extend the term of existing Board of Directors (2019-2020) to hold their positions till the upcoming ABM to be held as soon as possible after 1st April 2021

Option 2: To conduct the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and hold the Elections using Video Conferencing (VC) facility or Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM)

Following the meeting the E-Voting was held conducted by the well-known external agency, Right2Vote a mobile-based voting platform that allows you to create and manage your own election.

#### The following was the result as declared by M/s Right2Vote Infotech Pvt. Ltd.

Total Membership : 447  
Required Quorum: 112  
No. of Ballot: 153  
OPTION – 1: 133  
OPTION – 2: 20  
Invalid : NIL

As per the result, it is clear that Members have voted to extend the term of existing Board of Directors (2019-2020) to hold their positions till the upcoming ABM to be held as soon as possible after 1st April 2021.

#### Safety for Teachers Conducting Online Classes

Greater Noida Programme Centre of New Delhi YMCA on September 19 organised a Webinar, discussing technology for online safety of teachers, classroom safety and reporting online abuse. A very useful and interesting webinar was held in collaboration with Viva India.

Gary Kamaal (Dir Viva) moderated the discussion.

The following were the expert panelists:

- ❖ Mr Tejal Singh (Founder STAD Enterprises)
- ❖ Ms Deepti Kamaal (Head: Elementary School, Metro Delhi International School)
- ❖ Ms Neel Kamal Silota (British School, New Delhi)
- ❖ Ms Simmil Malhotra (K R Manglam World School)
- ❖ Ms Manisha Bhandari (Advocate Delhi High Court)

Five hundred participants attended the webinar on Zoom platform while over 1,000 watched it on Facebook.

#### IMS Webinar great hit

Even as online classes are in progress in full swing the various units of HPDP Department are organising webinars to momentum going.

The latest in the series was a webinar organised by The Institute of Management Studies. The guest speaker was Dhiraj Dev Phukan, an internationally acclaimed entrepreneur and an MBA with over 14 years of experience in sales, marketing and wide variety of event services.

A visiting faculty in Entrepreneurship, Business Automation and Digital Marketing, Dhiraj explained to the students the finer points of how to start a start-up and digital marketing/sales.

The Q&A session at the end of the webinar was a great hit with the students.

#### Workshop to reenergise New Delhi YMCA



Secretaries, Executives and Directors of various HPDP units put their heads together to find ways to revitalise the New Delhi YMCA. In a one-day freewheeling workshop on September 30, titled "Reenergise New Delhi YMCA" they explored new strategies for revenue generation and image building of the New Delhi YMCA.

Mr Mark Clive, General Secretary & CEO in his opening remarks said "today the priority is to reenergize New Delhi YMCA—to act rather than react. There are many ways to lead, but regardless of the type of business or geography, actions can form a path to emerge stronger from the crisis."

While inaugurating the Workshop the President, Mr Jovial Vaghela went a step further. He congratulated the GS and CEO Mr Mark Clive for conceiving the idea of workshop and said "I will add you have to proact then react. We need to proactively think and act."

The workshop, moderated by Assistant General Secretary Sarveet Singh was a successful venture. It offered an open platform to everyone to share their views and suggest ways to improve the institution.

It was a chance for self-retrospection, which many participants did and threw new ideas.

The deliberations were centred on broadly under three sectors – Education, Hospitality and Programming.

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#### 'New Delhi YMCA important milestone in my life'

Dear YMCA,

It was a few years ago when I started my journey on the path of journalism with the YMCA. To be precise I did Television Journalism course in the year 2005-6.

The day I stepped in to the beautiful New Delhi YMCA campus, it became an important milestone in my life. Not only did it instil in me the ethics of journalism but also made me cross paths with people who changed my life completely. From New Delhi YMCA I went to United News of India (UNI) for a short stint and then to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Later I shifted base to Singapore.



So when I started getting YMCA newsletter it was like going down the memory lane. Seeing and cherishing some known faces and getting to know some new ones.

As the tag line of the YMCA newsletter says, 'Connecting People', it did let me connect with the people there while sitting here in Singapore. YMCA has always been active in community services. The newsletter is making YMCA's efforts reach far and wide.

It is also engaging the new crop of journalism students to hone their skills.

I feel extremely proud that a product like the YMCA newsletter is coming from my Alma Mater.

• DEEPTI KARKI (Now Mrs Deepti Adhikari)

#### Kids Corner

##### Mobile Photo Competition

Hey kids! It's your time now. Take out your mobile phone and shoot to fame. Just pick up a subject in your surroundings or day-to-day life and click to let the world know your creative talent. Also write about 25 words on why you selected the subject or topic. The competition is open to children under Class VIII

A panel of professional photographers will judge your work. Best three entries will be published in the Newsletter with your name. So hurry up and mail your entries before October 20, 2020 to [info@newdelhiymca.org](mailto:info@newdelhiymca.org) In the Subject write Mobile Photo Competition. Also remember to write your name, address and mobile number.

##### My Favourite Teacher

Please explore the hidden writer in you! Just think about your favourite teacher in the school and tell why he is your favourite. Say it in 200 words and mail it to [info@newdelhiymca.org](mailto:info@newdelhiymca.org) A panel of professional journalists will judge your work. Best three entries will be published in the Newsletter with your name. The deadline for sending your work is October 20, 2020. Please remember to write your name, address and mobile number.

#### Members Speak

##### ERNEST JOSEPH:

Thank you Mr Clive for launching NDY Today, the digital newsletter of New Delhi YMCA. It is very informative and interesting. I will be grateful if you could include news of various churches and Christian institutions in Delhi.

##### NATHANIEL LAL:

Dear Sir, thank you very much to inform

##### ALOK MICHYARI:

Dear Mark, greetings to you. I have gone through Volume-3 of the NDY's E-Newsletter and must congratulate you and everyone else behind the online publication of this wonderful news bulletin produced by NDY. The efforts being put in to make this E-Newsletter more relevant, readable & refreshing are commendable indeed. Colourful and comprehensive coverage of both local and global events makes the Newsletter all the more interesting, informative and insightful.

Further, despite various challenges NDY is facing during these trying times, your commitment to publish and popularise E-Newsletter is profoundly praiseworthy. Kindly keep it up

#### In Memoriam

Words cannot express sadness. May the comfort of God help you through this difficult time

We mourn the passing of NDY member Mr Nirmal John Singh on September 21. Mr Nirmal Singh, former Head of Emergency & Administration, CASA, was 68.

\* \* \* \*



Mr Jacob Mathews bereaved: New Delhi YMCA mourns the passing of Mrs K K Lillikutty, mother of NDY member Mr Jacob Mathews.

#### Tributes to NDY member Nirmal Singh



Family members of late NDY member Nirmal Singh organised a Thanks Giving service in his memory at Heinz Hall on Saturday, October 3. Some Board members and GS & CEO attended the Service at the Hall while the President Mr Jovial Vaghela joined in live streaming.

NDY members Mr Noel Vaghela, Mr Joel Prem, Mr Alok Michyari and Mr Raja Jacob were among those who paid tributes to their colleague and friend Nirmal Singh. Mr Michyari also spoke on behalf of New Delhi YMCA. Mr Norris Pritam also attended the Service.

#### Musical Evening For Members

The Department of PCT is organising a Musical Evening for New Delhi YMCA Members, well wishers, friends and colleagues on Saturday 10 October, 18:00 hours onwards. You can present songs, ghazals and poetry.

If you wish to participate kindly send your name (Maximum two songs) to the undersigned by mail to [sytc.newdelhiymca@gmail.com](mailto:sytc.newdelhiymca@gmail.com) or [gladwinlal@newdelhiymca.org](mailto:gladwinlal@newdelhiymca.org) For details contact Mr. Sandeep Paul - 986877545 or Mr. Philip Harold-999498089

GS & CEO Presents NDY Coffee Table Book to Vice President



Mr Mark Clive, Gen Sec & CEO presented a copy of the Coffee Table Book, 'Proud Moments' to Vice President Mr Aloke Michyari. Vice President Norris Pritam has authored the book, which is a historical perspective of New Delhi YMCA. Members can collect their copies from the General Secretary's Office during office working hours.

'People are in desperate need of pastoral care' FINAL



During a webinar on the many effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church of Norway fielded reflections from pastors and Church leaders in diverse corners of the world.

The presentation was part of a new webinar series, produced by Rev. Dr Einar Tjelle, on the local and global realities of COVID-19. Tjelle is head of Ecumenism & Interfaith Dialogue for the Church of Norway and the Council on Ecumenical and International Relations.

Rev. Dr Elfiere Dörr, a pastor with the Lutheran Church in Romania, said during lockdown, "We were not allowed to go out, and now people are in desperate need of pastoral care. "There are people who are telling about their psychological situation, full of fear, and the doctors' waiting lists for psychological care are full," she said.

Marianne Ejdersten, World Council of Churches director of communication, said, a church in a time of vulnerability is even more relevant.

"God's presence in the world precedes everything else. It is in God that we live, touch and exist. The mission of the church is to provide space for that presence at all stages of life."

Role of religious leaders in peace-building

A group of inter faith leaders meeting on South East Asia Freedom of Religion or Belief (SEAForB) endorsed the role of religious leaders in peace-building and conflict resolution.

Addressing the September 25 on-line gathering of 6th SEAForB, Myanmar Cardinal Charles Maung Bo said, "We must be clear that in pursuit of dialogue we must never sacrifice the beliefs, customs and values that we each cherish in our different religious traditions."

Creative Solidarity with the Palestinian People

As churches across the world observed the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, they were reminded of God's infinite love yet confessed to feeling overwhelmed by dark forces, too.

From morning prayer services—shared in-person and online—to quiet reflections, to special webinars, people of good will expressed their solidarity and prayerful concern for their sisters and brothers in Palestine and Israel.

On 22 September, members of the Methodist Church and the Union of Interested Churches in Stockport, Manchester, Britain, observed an evening of "Creative Solidarity with the Palestinian People."

The World Council of Churches hosted an online ecumenical gathering on 14 September reflecting on the theme "Creative Solidarity in Common Fragility." The special service included prayers, songs, and Biblical readings that reflected on the vital importance of realizing peace in the region.

Jesuit University offers course on religion for global citizenship

Jesuit-run St Xavier's University, Kolkata, is set to introduce a foundation course on religion for undergraduate students starting this academic year.

"The Foundation Course on Religion offers to all undergraduate students the academic exercise to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of religion as an essential dimension of human experience and life," Jesuit Father Felix Raj, vice chancellor, said.

The course is designed to enrich students' perspectives in the context of India's civilizational heritage and to empower them for global citizenship.

"An academic exposition to the world's religions inculcates unique cultural sensitivities among students. It opens students' mindsets and aptitudes to a multicultural and international way of being that transcend the boundaries of the conventional and the everyday life," he explained.

Further, it enables students to equip themselves with critical thinking, communication competence, interpersonal awareness, and intercultural literacy and connectivity necessary for success in an ever-evolving global society.

"The academic objective of studying religion is to facilitate students to see and appreciate the goodness embedded in the beliefs of all people within their distinct religious heritages, whereas in the essentials they are interconnected that calls us to create a culture of harmony," said vice chancellor.

Fitness Centre open to public



A popular venue for fitness freaks in the Capital, Fitness Centre is reopened after more than five months of closure. Old members are gradually coming back while many new people have also joined the facility.

Among the old members, Indian basketball team's captain Prashanti Singh is also back at the Fitness Centre. Prashanti is the only Indian woman basketball players to have been honoured with a Padmashri. She is also a recipient of Arjuna Award. Many Doctors and other professionals have also joined the Fitness Centre, which is open at 6 am. In view of Covid-19 pandemic, all safety measures are in place at the Fitness Centre.

World YMCA Grant for National Movements



The YMCA Solidarity Fund of the World YMCA is supporting 27 National Movements around the world with over \$460,000 approved for distribution. Those grants are estimated to be helping to sustain about 380 YMCA jobs.

The YMCA Solidarity Fund was established in April 2020 with an ambitious goal: to offer institutional support to national YMCAAs who are struggling due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many YMCAAs around the world have been affected. Many YMCA operations had to be put on hold. Their income was drastically cut, and the priority was to ensure that staff could be retained and that rent for premises could be paid on time. As YMCA Madagascar shares: "the grant allowed us to keep our staff and pay our rent during the 5 months of lockdown when our sources of income were in deficit". With the financial assistance YMCA Cambodia provided children with learning materials while the schools were closed, and their families received visits from YMCA staff to provide on going help.

YMCA Sierra Leone distributed food items and facilitated micro-grant payments to 550 vulnerable women. They also installed 15 hand-washing tanks.



President Honours a Catholic Nun



President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the National Services Scheme Award for the year 2018-2019 on Sister William Parmar. A Catholic nun, who has promoted "Clean India Campaign" in Manipur, Parmar was among 42 people who got the award from the President.

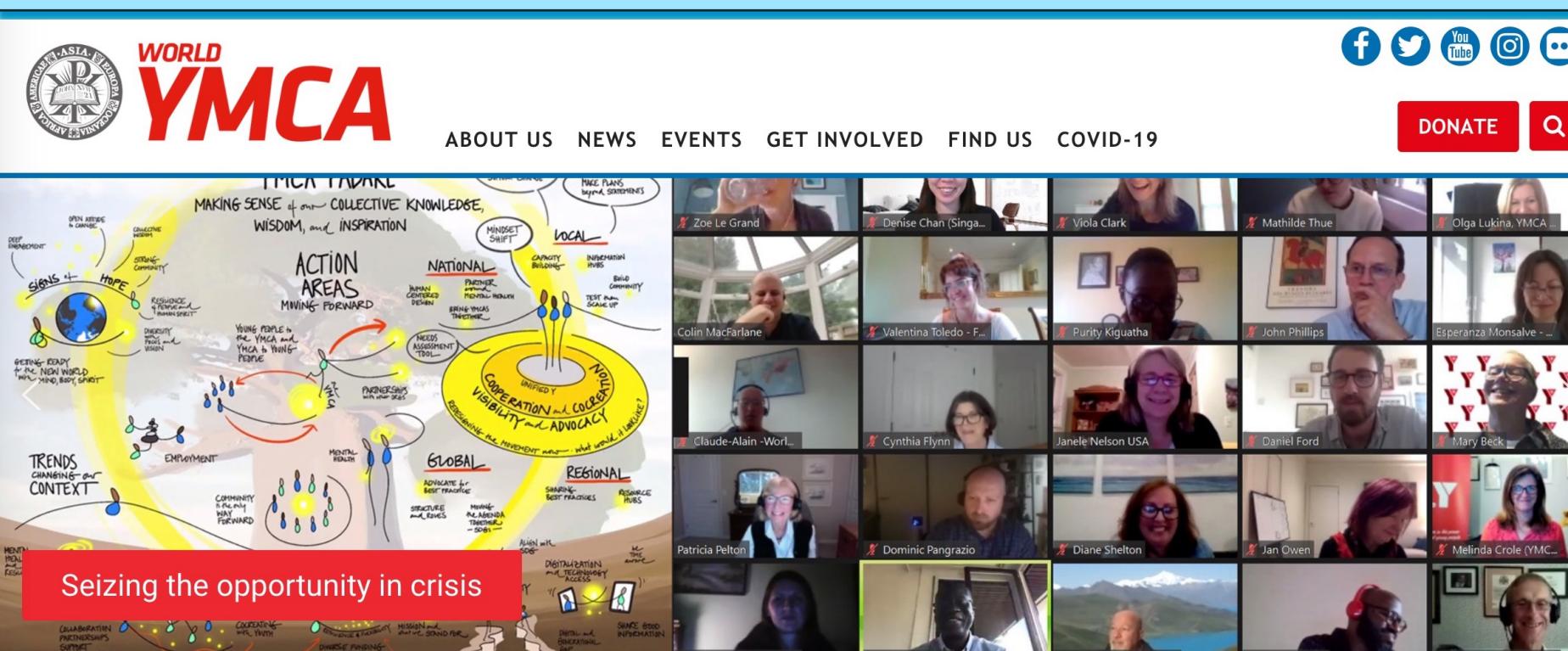
Sister Parmar is a member of the Carmelite Sisters of Charity. She is the program officer of the NSS unit 1 of Don Bosco College Maram in the Senapati district of Manipur. She was selected for the award under Program Officer/NSS Unit Category.

The 39-year-old nun currently serves as Assistant Professor at the Salesian college with additional responsibility as NSS program officer.

Sister Parmar has conducted literacy programs and planted 19,900 tree saplings in the village, some 85 km north of the Manipur state capital of Imphal.

She is also a registered organ donor and has donated blood eight times. She also strives to transform nearby villages through cleanliness drives, health-immunization programs, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns, social awareness rallies, adult literacy programs and malaria eradication programs among others.

The nun has helped local people to build public toilets, urinals, waiting sheds, drainages, compost pits and water ponds.



The trainers of the East Jerusalem YMCA in Palestine published videos on their social media to keep connected to the local community and support them.

Carlos Sanvee, Secretary General of the World YMCA, said: "I am proud of the collective spirit shown by the global YMCA community in the face of real challenge. What counts is our unshaking commitment to the service we offer to young people and to wider communities. We have rallied round those who were struggling, and will continue to do so."

YMCA-YWCA joint fundraising in Shanghai

The Shanghai YMCA & YWCA have launched fundraising projects during the Internet giant Tencent's annual philanthropic "99 Charities Day" campaign.

The "99 Charities Day" is China's first Internet charity day, first created by Tencent Holdings on September 7, 2015 together with public welfare organizations, famous businesses, and celebrities.



The Shanghai Hua Ai Charity Foundation and the National Council of YMCA & YWCA cooperated in the three-day campaign. Donations are designated for children with autism, migrant workers' children, and very young children, according to the Shanghai YMCA & YWCA.

The National Council of YMCA of China released a project to cultivate the self-care and social skills of children with autism. Meanwhile, special "tearooms" will be established in communities where they can live and work.

The National Council of the YWCA issued a program on improving the safety of children aged four to six. To avoid children's accidents such as drowning, falling from buildings and burns, more secure community environments will be set up by two kindergartens and surrounding police and fire fighter stations, communities, and volunteers. Young children will learn more about security.

The Hua Ai Charity Foundation aims to connect the children of migrant workers with urban children in Shanghai via football games. In this way, they can grow with those urban teenagers.

Online Green Christian Festival

A three-day Online Festival, (Oct 23-25) promises to entertain, inform and inspire. Combining creativity, debate, poetry and prayer, the Festival will be held on Zoom.

It will kick off with a panel discussion: "Re-imaging a better future" featuring Bishop James Jones, Cleo Lake (Green Counsellor), former Lord Mayor of Bristol, Melanie Nazareth of Christian Climate Action and environmentalist and green business leader Sir Jonathon Porritt.

Anglican priest and writer, Reverend Frances Ward will explore how ancient Christian spiritualities of "unknowing" can set people free to commit radically to the present moment, and to find the promised land. Workshops will explore both practical and political action, featuring Rebecca Willis, expert lead at Citizens Assemble UK and Rachel Mander, Faith Outreach Officer at Hope for the Future, the UK's national specialist in climate lobbying.

The Presentation of Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition movement, will set some imaginative challenges. This is followed by an interactive evening exploring poetry and environmental activism, with readings and discussion from eco-poets Caleb Parkin (Bristol's City Poet) and Carrie Etter (Reader in Creative Writing, Bath Spa University).

Green Christian was formed in 1981, and formally constituted in 1982 when the vision was to share green insights with Christians and Christian insights with the green movement, explains the website of the movement.



Pope signs new encyclical in Assisi

Pope Francis on October 3 signed his new encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*, during a visit to Assisi, an Italian town associated with St Francis of Assisi.

In his first official trip outside Rome since the pandemic struck Italy, the Pope celebrated Mass at the tomb of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi.

"*Fratelli tutti*," the encyclical's opening words, means "All brothers" in Italian. The phrase is taken from the writings of St. Francis, one of the major inspirations for Pope Francis' third encyclical, on fraternity and social friendship. The text will be released October 4, St. Francis' feast day.

The pope stopped off en route to Assisi to visit a community of cloistered Poor Clares in the Umbrian town of Spello. It was his second private visit to the community, following a surprise trip in January 2019.

Members of the Poor Clares of Santa Maria di Vallegloria visited Francis at the Vatican in August 2016, when he presented them with the apostolic constitution *Vultum Dei quaerere*, outlining new norms for women's cloistered communities.

The pope arrived in a rainswept Assisi, making a brief stop to greet another community of Poor Clares in the town, according to ACI Stampa, CNA's Italian-language news partner.

He then celebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi in the Basilica of St. Francis. ACI Stampa reported that those present included religious representing various branches of the Franciscans, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, pontifical legate for the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, local Bishop Domenico Sorrentino, and Stefania Proietti, Assisi's mayor.