

COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM & DIALOGUE

Fr. G. P. Amalraj

Introduction

- “Ecumenism is still a major concern for the Church in India” – 32 Plenary Assembly of CBCI
- It sees a serious lack of commitment to Ecumenical unity in the Church
- To make this effort more effective, diocesan level, local level Ecumenical ministry needed

Introduction

- Such grassroot level should aim at nurturing ecumenical relations
- Pope Francis too lays much emphasis on strengthening ecumenical relations
- The aim of such ecumenical relations should be one of forgiveness and reconciliation
- This should lead us to prayer for Christian Unity (weekly prayer)

Activities

- ◉ This Ecumenical journey in NE started in 1996
- ◉ The Joint Peace Mission Team (JPMT) has intervened in many regional conflicts
 - a) Bodo-Adivasi at Kokrajhar – 1996
 - b) Kuki-Paite at Churachandpur – 1998
 - c) Dimasa-Hmar at Haflong – 2003
 - d) Karbi-Kuki at Diphu – 2003

Activities

- e) Dimasa-Karbi (2004)
- f) Bodo-Muslim at Udalguri (2010)
- g) Khand-Pano at Khandamal Orissa (2010)
- h) Rabha-Garo at Mendipathar (2011)
- i) Rengma Naga-Karbi (2013),
- j) Naga (Lotha)-Adivasi (2014),
- k) Bodo-Adivasi (2015)
- l) The journey continues and recounted during the Regional Consultation on Peace on 31st August 2018.

Activities

- This was possible with visionary Church Leaders like Bishop Thomas Menamparampil, Bishop Nityananda Borgoary, NELC, Rev.L.J Sangma, CBCNEI, NEICC, CNI Church, Presbyterian Church of India leaders.

Activities

- The Inter Church Peace Mission (ICPM), changed to JPMT caught the attention of the Assam Government in 1996 which continued strongly till the Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi.

Activities

- This togetherness facilitated the formation of United Christian Forum, NEI by Regional Bishop's Council (RC) and North East India Council of Churches (NEICC) with Bishop Thomas Pullopillil as the Chairperson.
- The first consultation of UFC conducted at Don Bosco Guwahati in September 2017..

Activities

- The UCFNEI Meeting held on 28 Sep 2017
- It had two topics
- 1. The Socio-Political Situation in India
- 2. Challenges faced by Christians in North East India
- The following action plans were taken
- i) Considering that Meghalaya and Mizoram were going for elections, the UCFNEI resolved to make some relevant action for a peaceful election

Activities

- ii) Planed to organize Press Conference in Shillong and Guwahati
- iii) It appointed Mr. Allen Brooks as Spokesperson of UCFNEI
- EFINEI (Evangelical Fellowship of India) was unanimously accepted as member f UCFNEI

Future Plan

- Activate the Ecumenical commission in every diocese
- Initiate Formal Ecumenical Dialogues in every Diocese
- Common witnessing and Collaboration in Mission by sharing the personnel resources
- Joint Worship services
- Ecumenical Cooperation in the Dialogue with other religions

Future Plan

- ◉ More collaboration in undertaking social developmental programmes
- ◉ Networking for the promotion of human rights and social justice in every Diocese
- ◉ More expression of solidarity to face common problems faced by the Christian community

Conclusion

- What is presented is only a brief summary of the little that has been done.
- A lot more possible and a lot more needs to be done.
- The Christian communities should come together to support one another especially in the emerging socio-political situation.

Thank You!