



Church of South India - Diocese of Vellore

Old No. 1/A, New No. 3/1, ANNA SALAI, VELLORE-632 001

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Rt.Revd.H.Sharma Nithiyandham

Bishop in Vellore &
Head of All Diocesan Institution

30.03.2020

To
The Presbyters / Deacons
Officers of the Pastorates
Brothers and Sisters
CSI Diocese of Vellore

Dear Friends in Christ,

May our Mighty Father and Savior protect and save us all, as we go through one of the most uncertain times in the history of humanity.

I am making a plea to you to kindly allow me to be 'heard' and understood as though I am next to you physically and speaking to you. God when He has blessed us sufficiently, He expects all Christians to be helpful. For He gives some people, a special ability to be helpful. Not all are blessed to the extent of being able to be helpful. This is called the 'gift of helps'. I reiterate, only a few are blessed so.

Can you reflect for a while and figure out any recent opportunity you would have missed where in you could have helped without conceding a huge financial loss?

Some who have grabbed the current pandemic crisis to volunteer to part with their valued wealth, utilizing the fittest ever moment to help the grief -stricken humanity (in INR) are

1. Azim Premji 34% Wipro shares valued 52,750 cr.
2. Tata Sons & Trusts 1500 cr.
3. Anand Mahindra 500 cr.
4. Pay TM 500 cr.
5. ITC 150 cr.
6. Indian Defense Forces 500 cr.
7. Reliance Group opens India's First COVID 19 Hospital in Mumbai.
8. CSI St. John's Church generous contribution 15 lakhs

Individuals:

1. Akshay Kumar 25cr.
2. Three Tollywood actors in excess of 1cr. each

Remembering Dr. IDA SCUDDER's speech during First Medical Graduation in 1922, "You will not only be curing diseases, but will also be battling with epidemics, plagues and pestilences and preventing them. Face trials ... until you win"..... Look at the marvelous way the Scudders founded world renowned CMC Hospital as well as SMH, readying in the most meticulous and admirable manner to battle the virus!



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What then is our calling now as collective churches of CSI Vellore Diocese?

Are not there many 'gifted' churches and individuals among us for whom this is the fittest moment to open their hearts and volunteer to support the corona fighting Hospitals and become corona warriors themselves?

This is the greatest hour of need to fight the corona war with all resources, be it the resources of the State, the wealthy, the Church and the Congregation.

Our Moderator, The Most Rev. A. Dharmaraj Rasalam calls for church's collective responsibility to reach out to the displaced 'Zarephites' among our congregations due to the lockdown with 'medicines, food, water and facilities like firewood to cook'.

My beloved ones, thousands of such Zarephites who are construction laborers abound at the gypsy colonies at Kongarampet, Kannamangalam and Vandranthangal who are vulnerable and starving. Let us reach out to them and execute "Mission Elijah", as appealingly urged by our Moderator.

My earnest plea goes out to all our churches and congregations to come forward to also donate to our Hospitals. Spare your buildings, complexes and premises for use in this massive war.

Become a Jesus corona warrior and defeat the pestilence. The receiver is blessed and the giver too is blessed. Giving is twice blessed.

Kindly respect the Government order on 144 till 14th April and stay at home. Stay blessed in the fight against corona.

May the Risen Lord be with us and keep us to be the channels for those who need resurrection from the deadly COVID 19 pandemic.

In His service,

H. Sharma
30/3/2020

Rt. Rev. Sharma Nithiyandham,

CSI Bishop in Vellore.

BISHOP IN VELLORE

C.S.I. DIOCESE OF VELLORE

Cc :

Moderator and officers, CSI Synod

Officers of the Diocese

Director, CMC, Vellore

MS, SMH, Ranipet

