

Lutheran World Service India Trust

Special Devotion – “Call for Global Day of Prayer to end Famine”

May 22, 2017 at National Office

As more people in the world face famine today than at any time in modern history, the World Council of Churches (WCC) together with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) along with other faith-based partners and networks called for a Global Day of Prayer to End Famine on 21 May 2017, in response to the hunger crisis.

A special devotion was held on Monday, May 22, 2017 at the LWSIT National Office as part of this worldwide prayer event for over a billion people in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen, who are on the brink of famine. But, famines are much more than a simple lack of food. They are the result of conflict, drought, poverty and global inaction, and in most cases they are preventable.

The devotion was started with the hymn “*What a Friend we have in Jesus*” followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Sukhendu Biswas of St. Mary’s Church, Bhawanipur. The Bible readings were taken from Ezekiel 37:1 onwards which talks about the “Valley of Dry Bones” and Matthew 27:35. The first scripture reading talks about a valley full of bones and how Ezekiel, through the guidance of God’s prophesy, spoke life into those dry bones. In a similar context talking about the famine in Africa, it is hoped that the global prayer chain will revive those whose “bones are dried up and hope is gone”.

Rev. Biswas also shared about famine in the Bible – when all the people when to Egypt and Joseph had built storehouses to provide relief and food grains for those affected by the famine. He shared about how famines lead to instances of cannibalism out of desperation and thus our prayers should be for good sense to prevail so that the weak and the vulnerable are not preyed upon. Even though famine may be a man-made disaster God’s intervention is necessary in order to remove all the trouble and bring peace. Prayer alone can solve all problems; it can bring heaven and earth together. He concluded his reflections with the following two quotes – “*Nature is the signature of God*” and “*It is good to think well but divine to act well*”.

After the reflection there was a screening of a short musical video titled “We are the World”. The video was followed by a prayer in Hindi. There was also an offertory while singing the hymn “*All to Jesus I surrender*”.

The prayer points were shared by Philip Kr. Bag and each staff silently prayed over them. Rev. Biswas gave the thanksgiving and closed with a word of prayer.



Rev. Sukhendu Biswas



LWSIT National Office staff at the Global Day of Prayer to End Famine on May 22, 2017