



PEACE – THE ANTIDOTE OF THE HOUR!

Dear friend,

About 1.2 billion people in India just celebrated the nation's 71st Independence Day. As speeches were delivered around the country, by well-meaning leaders and ideologues, one cannot but reflect on the challenges that we are currently coping with.

Last week over 71 kids died due to a lack of oxygen supply in a government hospital in India's largest state of India. Reasons stated included an unpaid bill (past due of about two months) for \$71,000 to suppliers. Darjeeling district in North-East India has been shut-down due to communal violence with demands for a separatist identity for over eight weeks now. A solution is nowhere in sight. Flood waters ravage several parts of Bihar at the writing of this note; millions are displaced with no food, housing or clothes.

On the international scene, the on-going Qatar rhetoric and crisis, the North Korean threat and China's intrusion of India provide to any casual spectator adequate cause for heightened concern and worry.

Thoughts of yester-years

Recently, I woke up with thoughts from my childhood. Neil Armstrong's first steps on the lunar surface evoked international applause and excitement. And yet, there were challenges those years as well- the Vietnam War, the Iranian hostage crisis, the liberation of Bangladesh and more. The history pages of man's existence have sadly been dotted with repeated conflict and great tragedy every decade. Why does peace evade us? Why is there such turmoil and unending conflict and war?

Is there hope for tomorrow? A new India?

The prophet Isaiah prophesies about the coming Messiah, calling him the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6). His Kingdom which is today and at the same time not-yet, is ruled by the Everlasting Father on whose shoulders the Government rests. This hope of eternal safety and purpose provide relief and calm to those who live amidst tumultuous times and seasons.

His Word is surely a beacon light, an anchor to the weary soul, a compass to any earthly sojourner and a sure hope to all who believe in the certainty of an eternity with Him.

Let us therefore be encouraged for His Word reminds us... "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

And so we march on, undeterred, to be his co-laborers bringing transformation among His peoples, until our very last breath.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
God Bless!

Alexander Philip,
Executive Director, NIEA