Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Seeking spark of God’s light in every creature, today some children/elderly/youth/women are on streets because there is no room in refugee inns, can we see the spark of God’s light in every creature.

Help me, Lord that religion is not to be confined to the Church or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in your presence. So, may my every word and action have a moral content. Susanna Wesley

Fasting can be an experience of practising and being attentive to the presence of God. It can represent a struggle to feel God being present, and it reveals an acute awareness of God’s presence like never before. We can discover a realisation or a reaffirmation that God is in all of ‘this’, in all the diverse experiences of life, death, sickness, healing, isolation, physical distancing, struggle, despair, loneliness, solitude, looking out for your neighbour, personal sacrifices, economic sacrifices, awareness of others whether they are too close or too far away. We attune ourselves to both our own experiences, the experiences of our family friends and colleagues, and the experiences of a world of people. This involves the whole self because God wants your whole self to participate in his mission in the world.

Therefore, fasting is a time for extending prayer, for yourself and others specially for children/elderly/youth/women who are on streets struggling to live each day. As in the sermon on the Mount (which is focused on fasting), the only thing to remain to be said is that of adding good deeds to our fast – giving alms and helping those in need.

Fasting and prayer, whether structured, literal, spiritual, or however we feel we can mark the time, is most of all an attentiveness to others – being alert and making ourselves aware of the obvious, the surprising, the unexpected, the longed-for the presence and moving of God, in a world and in peoples so terribly impacted by their circumstances. This is a calling for all people of faith and goodwill.

Look kindly on our world, our God, as we struggle with one another. Look Kindly on your Church, driven by the same necessity; and may the light we have seen in Jesus illuminate and brighten all the world.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. Psalm 107:1-3
Risen and revealing God, you walked with us for a long time before we knew who you truly were. We talked about this world as if we were the ones who saw it clearly. Now that we more fully recognise your continued presence with us, give us eyes to see the beauty that surrounds us, as well as the problems we have too long ignored. And may our hearts then burn with your illuminating and catalysing fire that we might see the world that you envision. Amen.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.\(^5\) They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. \(^6\) Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. \(^8\) Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, \(^9\) for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:4-9

God of tumult, God of peace: more will change in the weeks and months to come. Further landscapes of our normal will be shaken to the ground. Gradual movements will accelerate, market trends will shift, and they will sweep away much of what we know. And so, we pray for what we need: the reassurance of your strength in the midst of our community; and the life that returns in fuller resurrection after what we love is laid to rest. Amen.

Yours in His Service,

THE REVD. SHAILESH DENNIS LALL
GENERAL SECRETARY
THE SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA