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Baptist News

A quarterly news letter of the
COUNCIL OF BAPTIST
CHURCHES IN NORTH EAST
INDIA

The Council comprises Assam Baptist Convention, Arunachal Baptist Church Council, Garo Baptist Convention, Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention, Manipur Baptist Convention and Nagaland Baptist Church Council.

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Being Guardian of His Assets:

Guardianship is a privilege given to each one of us by God in our own capacities to nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and self-centeredness. The stewards of God rejoice in the blessings that come to others through His faithfulness. Each of us has been gifted with abilities and talents from God to be applied for His greater Kingdom. Have you received the gift? Have you acknowledge your responsibility as a steward of God? We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for the proper use of everything that has been given to us. We are solely responsible to God's ownership handed over to us by faithful service to Him and our fellow men with whatever position or status or capability we have been blessed with. We call ourselves Christian but we are too hesitant to take up the responsibility of carrying our cross. It never will work that way. You must truly surrender to Christ and become his servant, to receive his reward. If you make yourself an en-

emy of God, knowing that he is the victor, then you have no one to blame but yourself on the judgment day as you choose to serve the world. For those who have accepted the Lordship of Christ are his disciples and servants. As Christians we are to become good and faithful stewards with the resources He has given to each one of us have been blessed with.

This issue has interesting coverage on the 65 Annual General Meeting held at Tura Town, Meghalaya from 24-26 April and many more new things. We have a very intriguing column added for the first time for our readers. We are making the best we can to connect a link to our readers and add life to our newsletter. For this newsletter will never be as valued as it is without the readers. We have this special column ***“We the Readers: The Mouth Piece”*** created for the reader-contributors who will not only read us but can now send their articles on any topic and that way we could bridge our relationship stronger. I look forward to a very positive respond from all the readers. I believe this issue will be of great amusement and a blessing to all of you.

Remain bless.



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi
General Secretary, CBCNEI

Report of the General Secretary, CBCNEI during the 65 AGM, TURA (May 2014 to April 2014)

as reported by Dr. Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI

I thank the Lord for giving me the grace, strength and wisdom to serve the Council ever since I took charge of the General Secretary office on 27 May 2014. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Officers and Executive Members of the Council for giving me this privilege. I take this opportune time of taking these responsibilities as the will of God. The last one year has been a period of transition and learning. I have learned many new things and still have much to learn. This report will not include the departmental reports of CBCNEI.

World Mission Conference: On the invitation from the International Ministries, I along with Dr jolly, represented the Council and participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop from 19-21 July 2014 followed by the celebration of 200 Anniversary of the American Baptist Churches or International Ministries at Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA from 21-25 July 2014. A meeting with the faculty and staff of Judson University was organized with Dr. John Sanquist on one of the days and shared the great need of support from

the Churches and Universities in USA. We also had organized Table Talk during the lunch time briefing about the ministries of CBCNEI and encouraged the delegates to support our ministries. Dr. Anjo Keikung represented India and presented the Peace work done in Nagaland through the cooperation of the IM in the Asian night. I visited North Dakota through the kindness of Ruth and Brian Skar on 26th July 2014 and attended the Worship Service at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Minot on 27 July 2014 to share about the ministries of CBCNEI and the NECU Project. I gave one Bible Study at a Christian Home for the Aged people in Simi Valley, LA. I was also able to share about NECU Project at the Faith of Christ Church which belongs to the Conservative Baptist Church on 7 August 2014.

A Meeting of Diverse Spiritual Traditions in India: The Council was invited in the meeting convened and sponsored by His Holiness Dalai Lama, the Spiritual Leader of the Tibetan in Exile from 18-22 September 2014 at New Delhi. As the General Secretary, representing the Baptist in NE I highlighted the issues of Violence and discriminations against the North East people in Delhi and other Mega cities in India especially the racial discrimination. This Meeting of the Diverse Spiritual Traditions was for *Promoting Human Values & Inter-religious Harmony* at Delhi. Christian participation was good where His Eminence Oswald cardinal Gracias of the Catholic Church, Dr. Paul Dinakaran from Jesus Calls Ministry, Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas from CBCI also were among the main speakers.

The meeting instigated the participants to recognize that the altruism, self-discipline and compassion are common to all faiths and that they are the bedrock of the shared future of our diverse local communities and inter-dependent world. The participants appreciated that religious harmony is imperative and that the diverse shared values continually

unite us and enrich us all. As the outcome of the Meeting a declaration was drafted and adopted by the participants.

New Appointments:

a) New Chaplain for WM Hostel: Mrs. Neiseweno Sirie of Medziphema was unanimously selected to be the new Chaplain of the White Memorial Hostel with effect from 1st January 2015. The hostel needs certain amount of renovations and development. She is doing well in her assigned duty.

b) Assistant Editor, Baptist News: Miss Lichanbeni M Tungoe, daughter of Mr & Mrs Mhathung Tungoe of Wokha Village Baptist Church has been appointed as the Asst. Editor of Baptist News from 15 March 2015. She is working out well in her assigned duty.

CBCNEI Strategic Planning Consultation: Strategic Planning Consultation for one and a half day program was organized on 22-23 October 2014. Mr. Sundar Sangma, Dr. Bamin Tada, Mr. A. K. Goldsmith, Rev. Amos Humtsoe and the Rev. Bonny Resu were invited as consultants and resource persons. The consultation made several recommendations to the EC for approval.

Handing over of ICH : After much deliberation and process, the management of ICH had been handed over to ABAM on the 16-17 February 2015, with the Rev. Dr. Anjo Keikung, General Secretary of NBCC, the members and important leaders from ABAM. MOU has been signed and it is running on well.

Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace Reference Group of WCC: I participated in the Reference Group of Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace of the WCC from the 21-27 February 2015 held at Bossey, near Geneva, Switzerland which was a part of observatory process in approving our membership

application by Central Committee Meeting in 2016. This group was organized as the outcome of the WCC General Assembly held at Busan, South Korea in 2013. The purpose of forming this Reference Group is to discuss issues facing our world today and advise the General Secretary of WCC to forward recommendations to the General Assembly for approval and implementation.

India Mission Leaders Meeting: The India Mission Leaders Conference was held at our CBCNEI Campus from 23-25 March 2015, with delegates from all over India. The purpose of the Conference was to implement the IMS Declaration to recommend the formation of Baptist Partner Commission on Human Trafficking to enlighten and empower churches to tackle the root causes in reducing vulnerability and prevalence of trafficking in our regions and to engage in the rescue and restoration of the victims; the formation of Baptist Womens' Forum to promote women leadership and gender equality in ministry; and also the formation of a Baptist Youth Forum to empower the youth to engage their generation in their quest for identity.

I participated in the Goodwill Mission Team to meet NBCC and KBES leaders with JPMT on the conflict that took place at the Assam-Nagaland Border with the arising issue between the Tenants and the Landlords from 6-8 April 2015. A meeting was held with both with the NBCC Leadership on 6th April and 7th April with the Lotha Hoho, Youth Hoho and Women Hoho with KBES leadership. Whereby, the Lotha Hoho wills to resolve for peace if the Assam groups are willing to discuss. The JPMT had a meeting the other group from Assam on the 5 May 2015. Please continue to pray for the problem.

First NECU Council Meeting: The first North East Christian University Council was held at Hotel Tragopan, Dimapur on

11-12 April 2015. It is a historic meeting where Dr. Anjo Keikung, Honorary Chancellor presented the first budget and reported about the land and building for NECU. On 12th April, we visited some local churches and introduce NECU for the support and cooperation. Dr. A. K. Lama was assigned to preach at Lotha Baptist Church, Rev. Taku Longkumer was asked to preach at Angami Baptist Church, Nagarjan and I spoke at the Sumi Baptist Church, Purana Bazar, East Dimapur.

Official Visit to Constituents: My first time official visit to NBCC Headquarters was on 19th August 2014 for meeting with the General Secretary and staff of NBCC. I was honored with a gift and had meaningful discussion on the hosting of the India Mission Summit by the NBCC. On 20th August, I proceeded to Kyong Baptist Ekhumkhu Sanrayotsu (KBES), Vangkhosung, Wokha for a brief meeting with the Rev. Chibemo Kithan and with the Principal of Whitter Theological College. I visited Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM), and Impur Christian Hospital on 20-21 August 2014 where a meeting was held with the Executive and staffs of ABAM to discuss about the handing over of ICH management to ABAM and visited Shalom Bible Seminary on 21st August 2014 on my return. I had a breakfast fellowship with the Pro-Chancellor of NECU, Mr. Huzo Mero and discussed about how we can raise fund for the project. I also visited KABC and participated in Pastors' Workshop at Diphu, 14-16 Nov 2014. Participated in the IMS Coordination meeting was held at Imphal on 8-10 December 2014 and spoke at the KBC Centenary at Tajungvaichung 11-14 December 2014. I also participated at the NBCC AGM from 4-8 February 2015 where I was invited to speak and say a word of farewell to Dr. Anjo Keikung and Miss T. Narola Longkumer. I also visited ABCC and spoke at the Adi Baptist Council AGM at Pasighat, 12-15 February 2015. Spoke at the

KABC AGM held at Dongkamukam from 13-15 March 2015 together with Mr. Vikato Shikhu, Finance Secretary representing CBCNEI. Finally I also participate at the MBC Quinquennial Celebration at Ukhrul from 27-29 March 2015 as a speaker on the theme "Called to Holiness in the Workplace."

In conclusion, I would want to thank Dr. Kavito Zhimomi, the President of CBCNEI for all his valuable advice and guidance during the last 12 months of my ministry. I extend my thankfulness to all my colleagues for their cooperation and valuable suggestions and to all my staff for their faithfulness, cooperation and support, without which my work as the General Secretary would not have been successful. Last but not the least, I thank God, once again, for granting me the grace, strength and wisdom to carry out all my responsibilities.



Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

ROMANS 12: 12



How I was called by God

(This testimonial is based on the Baptist News interview of Mr Swapnil Sanjay Nirmal, a B.D student on internship to CBCNEI from Union Biblical Seminary, Pune)

I am very glad and thankful to Baptist News editor for giving me this privilege to testify about my life to others.

To begin with, I was born and brought up from Parbhani , Maharashtra into a Christian family where my parents were just nominal Christians and I never knew my own identity as a Christian. I grew up confused with my religious faith having no one except my grandmother to teach me about God and Christ. It was my grandmother who would always tell me about Jesus and would advise me to attend Sunday School and Church. As a little boy, I followed what my grandmother told me but that did not last longer than the year when I was in my VII standard. I not only became a rowdy angry young man but became worse when I began to drink more and come home drunk and got into habitual trashings and fights even with my family.

My helpless mother even told me that she will pray to God to take my life away. My only ambition during that life was to be the most powerful don. To be the master power of all, I begin to fight and vent my anger on anyone who came my way. I had countless number of enemies in every corner of my place. Until one day when I was badly trashed by some twenty boys of my age. This incident forced my dad to consider my broken life and he started to take me to his work place but things did not seem to change much.

It was only during my B.A 2 year when I personally encountered Jesus and He touched my life completely through a friend who believes in Jesus though he was a non-Christian friend. It was this curious friend of mine who would always ask so many question about Christ to which I always fail to give an answer. He knew I was born in a Christian family and he was so eager to know about Christ from me but having lost myself in the world, I could not recall anything about my faith in Christ. Something changed and I felt so embarassed every time am unable to answer and tell my friend about Jesus. Something urged me to decide that I should read and know about Jesus so that I would at least be able to answer my friend. I begin to read the Bible and it was after a long time, I attended Church service with my curious non-Christian. I felt too uncomfortable on my first day service after a decade. Gradually, I began attending services and follow up youth meetings and I even started praying. My life seemed more better as I begin to step closer to God in prayer and share all my problems to Jesus in my prayers. I felt a drastic change in my life and I could feel the newness in me and I came to know many people and had fellowship in Christ. Our pastor Vincent Raj and his family had been the role model in bringing about transformation in my life. I was no longer the angry young man and I even started praying for

my father. My answered prayer was the first greatest miracle I have witnessed. I decided to dedicate my life and service to God and pursue theological studies after I was baptized on 19 November, 2011. Yet, my father wished I could follow his footstep and join Police department. At this juncture, I did not really want to go against his wish for all the long years, I have been a troublesome son to them so I decided to keep his word and went for physical test and even cleared with high marks. The day before I went for written test, I called a pastor to pray for me. God wanted me to serve Him and I was able to convince my father to go for theological studies. God called me from the darkness to light in a very peculiar way, He called me out to testify His unfailing Love and serve Him all my life. I am pursuing my B.D in Union Biblical Seminary, Pune and after my graduation, if it is God's will I wish to start an independent ministry to help the needy, the broken and the frustrated souls in bringing them closer to God and give them an answer in Christ.

Keep me and my family in your prayers. God bless all.



To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

JAMES 4:8

Responsible Stewardship: The Parable of the Pound



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary

In the parable, found in Luke 19:11-14, the nobleman who became King is Jesus. The servants are his disciples. The money (pound) is any spiritual gift, ability, or resource, asset, property that we have in our life to be used for the work of the kingdom of God (Vs 11-14). There are mainly three points that we can cite from this parable. First, we learn that there are two types of people in the world. Second, that there will be good accounts. Thirdly, we learn that there will be bad accounts.

The two types of people in this world as found in the parable are either an enemy or a servant of the king. Whether you work and live for yourself, the world, or the devil, all three masters are equally the same because it will bear the same punishment. There were those who said *"we don't want this man to be our king."* And those who shouted *"NO! Not Him!"* when Pilate offered to release Jesus. They had rejected Jesus as king and made themselves the first enemies of the cross.

Many have followed in their mould ever since. Today some are infuriated with the notion that Jesus is King. Sadly, enemies of the cross today remind us of what was said in Psalm 2:2, *"The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying 'Let us tear off their bands and cast away their ropes from us.'"*

The cross is too much for some to carry not because it is heavy, after all, we know his yoke is easy and his burden is light, but because it bears shame, scorn, and persecution. And it also requires a huge responsibility which becomes too much for some to bear. By rejecting their king, they hope to escape responsibility for his pound but they also escape the reward. Yet of all these they will never escape punishment. They didn't want Jesus to be their king then, and many people don't want Jesus to be their King now. Reject or receive Jesus as king, either way, He is king! We are his father's entire creation and that Father made His son a king and we are His subject. Thus, whosoever take up the responsibility of being his servant, will be responsible for what the King gives him.

The other group of people are the Servants of Jesus ". . . Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with." Vs 15. All of us here have been given something to use to benefit our king and we have to give an account of how we used our talents, resources, capacities, asset and properties for I believe that God has given only few of us a platform to share the ministry of God in our own capacities.

According to the parable, there are two good accounts. We can note that each servant was given one pound. No one can say *"If I had more, I could have done more."*

When you cannot be faithful with the little given to you than you can never be faithful with much. What would they do if the Lord showed them someone who had done way more with way less and they had done it under worse circumstances? No excuse will avail you on the last day. Let's look at the first account of a good servant. The Good Account Commended (Luke 19:16-17) *"and the first came before him, saying, 'Lord, thy pound has made ten pounds more'". Vs 16* Every servant has been given an equal resource, but the faithful servant takes what is given and increases it for his king.

This first one who came was more focused and applied himself to his business than the other. The Lord said "Well done, thou good servant." Those who do well, will be rewarded. *"Because thou wast found faithful in a very little, have thou authorities over ten cities" Vs. 17.*

We tend to focus on the servant putting ourselves there, but see the kindness and love of the king, He owe nothing to the servant , but he graciously gives the servant who proved he was responsible to rule over ten cities . In the parable, it was among enemies that the servant had to be productive. Fig trees surprisingly produce fruits in the harsh desert where it is hot during the day and cold at night. Those that can be fruitful in the most unaccommodating places on earth will make for the best rulers in Heaven. They may have had trouble in this world but their king, their saviour, has overcome the world, and they will, someday, reap the reward of their faithfulness.

"And the second came saying, Thy pound, Lord, hath made five pounds'" Vs 18. This servant may not have earned as much as the first, but he earned more than what he was given. And *"he said unto him also, be thou also over five cities" Vs 19.* And our Lord being kind and gracious gave

him control of five cities. Indeed he was productive and I find that there is a lot of satisfaction in doing a lot with a little. You may be able to do a lot with much, but watch me do a lot with a little. We are just as grateful for the small fruit trees as we are to the big ones for it bears the same sweet fruit.

Now in the next verse we see the Bad Account Condemned (Luke 19:20-21). "And another came saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I kept laid up in a napkin" Vs20

Here the unfaithful servant justified saying "for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that which thou layedst not down, and reapest that which thou didst not sow." He kept the old pound safe for years as he knew how strict his master was. He did nothing with it nor spends it or loses it. What would it matter if he did lose it? He didn't do anything with it so the effect was the same. We are meant to do something with what we have been given, not just to keep it wrapped up and tucked away. Imagine Jesus showing you an image of what you were supposed to do and an image of what you did. There will be those who will be reminded of their unused gifts. They might have had the gift of knowledge but never taught anyone, the gift of a great testimony and never shared, the gift of singing but never inspired anyone, the gift of many resources but never sheltered the homeless nor fed the hungry, never started a ministry nor anything to get good returns out of the resources and properties given to them. They squandered their money, for the love of the world, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Some were given certain skills but never made good use it.

This servant then tries to justify himself in his omission, which made the matter worse. "For I feared thee, because

thou art an austere man: thou takest up that which thou layedst not down." He takes out what he did not put in and reap what he did not sow" Vs 21. We read in Proverbs that the fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom. If he feared the Lord, then why he did nothing to avoid his master's wrath or disappointment?

He then insinuates unfairness saying "You take out what you did not put in" and "reap what you did not sow" The master did sowed one pound into this man, who did nothing with it but attempts to blame his master for it. His master replied, 'Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicket servant. Thou knewest that I am an austere man, taking up that which I laid not down, and reaping that which I did not sow". Vs 22-23 The master asked why he didn't put the money on deposit, so that he could have at least collected it with interest on his return . This wicked servant is called out for his laziness. If he knew his master was an austere and shrewd businessman then why didn't he take the pound (money) to the bank to draw interest? "And he said unto them that stood by, "Take away from him the pound and give it unto him that hath the ten pounds".

Vs 24-25. Many people today think it's unfair to reward those who have more, but is it fair to reward those who do nothing? Everyone objected "He already has 10!" Then Jesus answered: ". . . I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away" Vs 26. If a person uses their gifts industriously for God and can take a rupee and make it ten, he can be trusted to take hundred rupees and make it a thousand.

"But these mine enemies that would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me" Vs 27.

This is a very serious thing to be grasped that God is going to do for those who reject and oppose his lordship and kingship.

In conclusion, I would want to say that many people want to be called a Christian but refuses to carry their cross. It never works that way. You must truly surrender to Christ and become his servant to receive his reward. If you make yourself an enemy of God, knowing that he is the victor, then you have no one to blame but yourself on judgment day, for choosing to serve the loser. For those who have accepted the Lordship of Christ are his disciples and servants. As servants we are to become good and faithful stewards of the resources He has given to each one of us. We are also responsible as a church that we utilise the resource and assets He has given us for productivity. God will surely judge us individually and as a group if we do not utilise the gifts and resources wisely but He will reward us with better and greater responsibility if we are wise.



For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 COR 5:10

Yearly Report of the Mission Secretary during the 65 AGM, Tura. (May 2014 to March 2015)

as reported by Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary

I take this opportunity to thank the Lord for giving me the privilege to serve Him through the Ministry of the Council. I am also grateful to the Mission Board members and the Executive Council for vesting confidence on me by extending another term in spite of many limitations I have. With the help of God, and your support, I shall try to deliver the best I can during the next five years. I also expect your advice, suggestions and support as you have done in the past.

Most of the Plan of Actions (POA) laid down by the Mission Board every year during Board meeting is carried out with all sincerity. With the help of the Secretariat, staff and fellow Board members, there has been hardly any action that is not implemented. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of them.

Research work:

It has been almost two years now and the research work is still in progress. The main objective of this research work is to have clearer picture of where our missionaries are working, and identify new mission fields for our churches. This will also include the list of our partners and areas of their specialties so that our churches will benefit through our partnership. We plan to finish this research within this year.

Neighborhood Leadership Training:

Much importance was given to the Neighborhood ministry this year as we plan to handover the ministry to Assam Baptist Convention Mission Department. Leadership and Discipleship training was conducted three times in Barpeta to help new believers grow in maturity and become witnesses. Thirty nine needy families from Barpeta, Dhuburi and Kokharjar were helped by giving them she-goats to enhance their family income. During this period over 50 adults received believers' baptism.

Pre-field and infield Missionary training Program:

A Five days training on relearning and unlearning for both in field and pre field Missionaries was organized to better equip them for greater impact in mission fields. Who are you? And what are you doing? were the two questions put forth on the opening day of the training program. All together 37 Missionaries from various Associations working in different parts of India and some from neighboring countries participated in the training program. Mr. Awor Tuithung and Steve Johnson were the resource persons. The training dealt on the techniques of Oral Inductive Bible Study (OIBS), Bible storytelling, Shepherding the sheep, and Imperatives of Discipline. Group discussions and practical demonstrations were the daily activities of the training. In line with the teachings of the resource persons, each individual were given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Testimonies from the participants speaks volumes as they shared it was worth investing time, money and energy for this training. Certificates were given to all the participants on the last day of the program.

Leadership Training on Mission.

A two-day Mission leadership training was conducted for the Chandel church leaders in Dimapur during 25-26th

October, 2014. Over hundred leaders attended the program. The focus was on streamlining of missions and how to be more effective missionary sending churches.

Cross Cultural Missionary Training program:

The Cross Cultural Missionary Training program was conducted during 10th November till 15th December in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. There were thirteen Missionary candidates and leaders who attended the program. The training included;

1. CROSS-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT TRAINING beginning from 10th November till 12 in Bangkok Thailand,
2. LECTURESHIP ON MISSIONS (- Missionary Formation - Cultural Anthropology- Cross-cultural Communication - Team Building & Missionary (Leadership) Development - Member Care & Counseling from 12 to 20th November at the Karen Baptist Women's Centre, Chiangmai, Thailand.
3. FIELD EXPOSURES & RESEARCH ON MISSIONS begins from 21st November till 15th December in Thailand, Laos, & Cambodia.

Lotha Baptist Churches Mission focus:

Being aware of Kyong (Lotha) Baptist Churches Association as one of the largest Associations under NBCC, and not having fulltime Mission department at the Association level then (now they have appointed) and yet churches are greatly involved in Mission and Evangelism, in consultation with Rev. Andrew Semp, the Director of NMM, along with my staff I visited the Association and met the Executive Secretary Rev. M. C. Kithan and his staffs. During the meeting they were encouraged to organize Mission Consultation to strengthen the Mission work of the churches through the Association. The importance of streamlining of mission at the Association level was highlighted.

As the outcome of this meeting, the first ever Mission consultation of the Lotha Baptist churches was held on 11-12 March 2015 at Lotha Baptist Church Dimapur, where most of the Missionary sending churches gave their reports and shared their experiences in mission. Special focus was given on the need of streamlining the mission of the churches for greater impact.

Reach Guwahati City:

In collaboration with the Guwahati Christian Forum, we were able to conduct strategy planning consultation of all the mission leaders and church pastors based here in Guwahati. A total number of 123 leaders came together to envision reaching Guwahati city for Christ. They were challenged from the book of Ezekiel, focusing on their responsibilities as "Watchman of the City" appointed by God. Many suggestions were received for further implementation.

Other programs :

Apart from these programs, I was able to attend as Resource person in at least fourteen (14) other mission related programs organized by our member Churches, Associations and Conventions.

Upcoming program/ Plan of Action 2015:

1. 7-10th May: Mission Consultation for Krima IV at Damalgre Baptist Church, GBC.
2. 18-21st May: ABAM Mission Consultation focusing on "Advantage of Mission Partnership" and "Streamlining of Mission for greater impact".
3. June: Missionary Pastors Training: 1-7th June at MBC, 12-14 June at KABC, 16-18 at ABC, 20-23 at GBC, 25-27 at NMM.

4. August, 2015: Cross Cultural Missionary Training Program
5. 1-3 October: Mission Leadership Training program on "Global Trends in Mission" and "Understanding Ethnicity and Diversity in Mission".
6. 15-25 November'15: Mission Leadership Training on "Effective Mission sending church" through field visits.

I once again thank you all for your fullest support be it physically or morally in the mission work of the Council. We need your constant love and encouragements through your prayers and I want to request you all to continue upholding us in your kind prayers as we faithfully seek out for that which is lost and disciple them to be a lasting fruit.

Mission Leaders Training

Date: 1 - 3 October

Venue: CBCNEI Conference Centre, Guwahati

CBCNEI Mission Department will be organizing a training program on "*Understanding Ethnicity and diversity from Mission's perspective*" and "*Global Trends in Mission*" basically for Mission Secretaries and Mission Leaders of all the Conventions and Associations under the umbrella of CBCNEI from October 1-3 at CBCNEI Conference centre Guwahati.

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Cross-cultural Training Program

Date: 10 - 21, August

Venue: CBCNEI Conference Centre, Guwahati

Mission Department CBCNEI will be conducting a training program on "Cross-Cultural Training Program" for pre-determining missionary candidate. The training will be centering mainly on *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)* also called Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

This is a certified course specifically for Missionary candidates opting for oversea missions across the many countries.

Kindly note:

- 1. Candidates to manage their own food and lodging expenses during the training. Training fee is sponsored by CBCNEI.***
- 2. Limited seats: only 20 trainees will be enrolled on first come first serve basis.***
- 3. Last date for confirmation of the training is 30th July 2015.***

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Guardianship of His Assets

Pastor Thensem Singson, Chaplain Satribari Christian Hospital, Guwahati

Text Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

As I was reading this particular verse several times, three important words struck my mind which I would like to name it as C3. (Creator, Creature, Creation)

Creator-God Himself the maker and designer who had made every thing .

Creature-Human being, given great responsibility to support upon His property

Creation- Garden of Eden which has already been fashioned and designed.

God gave Adam great responsibility upon His creation, the Garden of Eden with a condition, a choice. Adam has freedom to move and enjoy the fullness of life but the

condition and the choice is not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. All that he has to do is to nurture and take care of the garden. But if he fails, there has been a negative consequence put for him by his creator.

Similar message was given by the preacher to the young people with condition, "Rejoice, Young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things." Ecc 11:9.

God is not to be blamed when things goes wrong but it is human being who is to be blamed, because when God made man He also has given knowledge to know good and evil. He gave man the responsibility to take care of His creation.

Today, we are placed in different areas according to our calling. Where could our Garden of Eden be? Can it be the Councils, Conventions, Associations, Medical institutes, Churches etc?

To cultivate is to nurture and help grow; farmers cultivate crops, fundraising professionals cultivate donors, and celebrities cultivate their images. No matter what is being cultivated, the word implies a level of care that is important in gardening. Sometime friendship comes naturally and sometimes you have to cultivate them. To cultivate anything requires an attention to detail an understanding of what is being cultivated, and a lot of patience, kindness, faithfulness and self-control. Cultivate does not mean motionless, when we cultivate something it also requires vision, competency, hard work and sacrifice. We are placed to cultivate His field, it is not ours that means He will come back and verify the production. Let us remember the Apostle Paul's encouragement words "Therefore, my beloved brethren,

be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." 1Cor 15:58.

To take care means a concerned, serious responsibility, attention, assistance. I remember a statement that I have come across "The moment when you started to care. That's the moment when you started to cry". It is true when leaders care for the community they shed their tears not because of the heat of the sun but for the love and concern. Nehemiah's heart was broken when he came to know that Jerusalem wall was broken noticed by the king Artaxerxes. Nehemiah was concerned for the people and the land given to them by God and they failed to take care and protect it. A true leader sheds tears when things go wrong against God.

Therefore, let us never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things may occupy the biggest part of their hearts. Jesus says, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to the one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Matt 25:40. Let us not forget to make a difference in someone's life; we don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. We just have to care.

In conclusion, let us remind ourselves that in all that we do, we are responsible and accountable for it, no matter how big or small, 'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.' 2 Cor 5:10.

May we heed and take this great responsibility seriously and fulfill the task that has been given to us.



Profile Sketch of Mr Knudsenberg Cheran Momin

President of CBCNEI

Mr Knudsenberg Cheran Momin, son of Late Habitson Koknal Marak was born on Good Friday the 30th of March, 1951 at Tura Christian Hospital. Being born into a second generation Christian family he was well grounded and brought up in a decent Christian surroundings. He grew up attending Sunday school regularly as a boy and never ceased attending Sunday service. He was baptized in the month of February, 1962 at Tura Baptist Church. He got his initial education from Tura Government Multipurpose School, Tura (1961-69) and later pursued his higher studies from Assam Agricultural University (1969-73). In 1973, he joined the service of Soil and Water Conservation Department, Govt. of Meghalaya and retired as the Director of the department in April, 2009. The Meghalaya Government still utilizes his services as the Secretary of the Special Purpose Vehicle Society, Shillong and as member of the State Institute of Rural Development, State Biodiversity Board etc .

His association in the Church is also commendable. Being a member of the Evangelical Students Union he was involved in many student Organizations and Church activities back then. He was one among

the pioneers of the Evangelical Union in Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Later from 1984 till 1985, he participated in the administration of the Church in different capacities. He was elected as the President of the newly formed Krima No XII, Shillong in 2014 and became a co-opted member of the Executive Committee of CBCNEI for two years from 2012-2014. Currently he is serving as the President of Meghalaya Chapter of the Society in the Soil Conversation Society of India. As the new President of the Council we are very confident that his influence will continue to encourage us.

We the CBCNEI warmly wish him the best in this term of office.



As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 PETER 4:10

NECROLOGY 2014-2015

And I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on: Yes, said the Spirit that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13

Nagaland Baptist Churches Council:

1. METHASIEO LEVI- (ABCC)
2. THEZIENYÜ- (ABCC)
3. REV.D.N.SOHO- (CBCC)
4. THEZÜ SHUPAO- (CBCC)
5. RÜDASA- (CBCC)
6. PUEZO SHAKHAMO- (CBCC)
7. LONGSHEN- (KBCA)
8. KHYABEMO LOTH- (KBES)
9. REV.SUCHAMO KIKON- (KBES)
10. CHUMBEMO LOTH- (KBES)
11. REV.ASHEMO YANTHAN- (KBES)
12. PHILIP OVUNG- (KBES)
13. MENLONG- (PBCA)
14. NAMLIM- (PBCA)
15. REV.SUKHALU SHOHE-(SABAK)
16. REV.SHIKAHO JIMO- (SBAK-NITO MOUNT)
17. MRS.DOLIVI SUMI- (SBAK-NITO MOUNT)

18. MRS. ELICA SUMI- (SBAK-NITO MOUNT)

Manipur Baptist Convention:

1. REV. MAKANMI RIMAI- STNBA
2. REV. K. RINGSHI- MBC

Garo Baptist Convention:

1. REV. KENMENARD R. MARAK - KRIMA-1

Assam Baptist Convention:

1. Rev. Pramod Singh- (SBA)
2. Kumud Singh Tati- (SBA)
3. Rev. Pranip N. Sangma- (KABS)
4. Rongsar Ao - (NDBA)

God, our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and returned to you in glory.

May all your people, especially those we remember today, who have gone before us in faith share his victory and enjoy the vision of your glory forever, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN LITERATURE CENTRE DURING THE 65 AGM, TURA (2014-2015)

as reported by Rev T.P Mordecai, Director, Christian Literature Centre.

Praise be the name of our Lord Jesus whose love never fail. I thank the CBCNEI Executive Council for giving me the privilege to serve in this ministry as the Director of CLC. It has been almost a year since I joined this ministry and I have been receiving immense support and encouragements from everyone and that strengthens me in carrying out my responsibilities. I would like to highlight the annual activities and functioning's of the CLC.

1. CLC Publication of Books, Song books and Bibles:

Since April 2014, CLC have been reprinting and releasing number of books. We have printed and released 1000 copies each of the following books: Nehemiah's principle of leadership and development by Dr V. Leno Pesiese, New way of thinking Christianity by Dr Shimreingam, Developing the Heart for ministry by Dr Bann Makan, Baptist Distinctive by Dr O.M Rao, The Mighty works of God by Dr FS Downs, Jishu Khrista wui Mirin kala Awui tamkachithei by Dr JH. Thumra, Baptist Hymnal and 32000 pieces of CLC bookmarks. We have printed the 2014 diary and calendar of CBCNEI and the centenary diary of KBC (MBC).

2. Account management training/seminar 1-2 August 2014: Account management training/seminar for all the branches was organised and conducted at Dimapur, Nagaland. Accountant and Mr Kundan Kumar Keshri, Qualified Assistant. It was a fruitful training as tally has been introduced to CLC accounting.

3. India Mission Summit 2-5 October 2014: As CBCNEI delegates six members from Guwahati, Imphal and Dimapur branches attended the Summit at Kohima. The Dimapur branch opened CLC book stall and there was a commendable sales of books.

4. Farewell program of Rev K. Mahangthei 20 October 2014: An official farewell program of Rev K. Mahangthei, the former Director was organized at Imphal during the board meeting and thereby another farwell program was conducted on 15 November by all the branches of Manipur Baptist Convention.

5. Imphal branch on Charity/Donation and Contribution: CLC Imphal branch have been reaching out to schools/institutions through donations and contributions for the School ministry. The reports of the total donations made this year is **₹ 3, 25,000 (Three lacs twenty five thousand)**

6. Dimapur Branch Programs: Extension of CLC outlet at Chumukedima is still in progress and this outlet will be the centre point for supply of religious books, school text books and stationeries. This branch have contributed

₹ 38,234 (Thirty eight thousand two hundred and thirty four) as charity and donations to schools, mission and to individual.

7. World Book Fare at Delhi 14-22 February 2015: I attended this fare along with Mr Manab Gohain, Guwahati Branch Manager. We had a opportunity of meeting many

publishers both from India and abroad during our four days stay.

8. CLC contributions to CBCNEI Ministry in 2014-2015:

1. 350 copies of CBCNEI Diary 2015 and Calendar.
2. ₹ 2, 00,000.00 (Two lakhs) only to the ministry.

This year 2015-2016, CLC is looking forward to increase its contribution to CBCNEI from Rs. 2, 00,000.00 to Rs. 3, 00,000.00 plus Rs. 50,000.00 for Youth Fest at Dimapur in October, 2015.

In conclusion, I want to thank God for the abundant blessing and guidance in making CLC progress year by year. I also want to thank the CBCNEI leaders, members of the CLC Board of Directors, Convention, Association, Churches and individual for your utmost cooperation in CLC ministry. At the outset, I extend my gratefulness to all my staffs who are working tirelessly with their heart and soul to promote CLC ministry in making it grow bigger and wider. It is because of them CLC ministry is growing year by year. We also request all of you to kindly print yours Bible, song books and that ways help each other and the CBCNEI ministry to serve more for the extension of God's Kingdom.



But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

JAMES 3:17



The Guardian Angel to the Maidens

(an excerpt from the article submitted to Baptist News by Mrs Neisewheno Sirie, Chaplain, White Memorial Hostel)

It has been almost half a year I have started my hostel ministry. I thank the Lord for His abundant providence in my life and for bringing me in the circle of so many young girls who are uniquely talented and gifted in so many ways. I feel younger in spirit being their mentor experiencing the many new things and fantasies in their world of dreams, ambitions, plans, careers and so on.

As I started mingling with them and began to know them individually and became very much a part of their world, I realized that I have to groom these girls to let them know the innate qualities they have and help them discover it.

Changes are inevitable in life and to bring about good change in order to be a responsible and useful person at times there are needs to confine oneself fully and abide by certain new rules or strategy that have never been practiced in one's life before. When we read the life of Esther in the Bible, we can see that in order to be a presentable woman in the sight of the king she was put in the king's harem, to learn all the qualities that please the king. Even though she has come from a very different and humble background, she fully submits herself to learn the entire requirement that is needed in the king's court.

Likewise, Kate Middleton was also trained to be a perfect royal fit for some months before she was married to Prince William. It is not easy to become someone great.

Working among these girls of differences, I realized that this ministry is a challenging one. In fact, I realized how big a responsibility I have shouldered because to nurture and tackle these young generations is not at all an easy task. These girls have come from different regions of North East India with big dreams and visions. They have come with much hope and with more higher expectations from their parents to educate themselves in different streams of studies. Each of them came here with a purpose and God has placed me here as their chaperon in helping them realize their dreams and see them fly out in different colours. Our great ideologist Mahatma Gandhi



opined that “By education, I mean an all- round drawing of the best in child and man in body, mind and spirit.” Yes, I believe education is not only to receive a good grade academically but it also includes the learning of the real value of life and most importantly learning to be sociable with others.

Each day I learn something new from them and experience life of varied taste with them. I began to learn that I have so many adjustment and changes to make on my side to cope with them. At times, I have to act like a young lady when I talk

to them in order to go along with their conversation. There are occasions when I am obliged to go along with their taste of fashion (even though I may dislike it), appreciate their talent to encourage them and make them feel spirited, accept their decision with fair and justified solution even when they come with different opinion, allow them to express their thoughts and views, and spare time to converse with them about the things they like and to know them personally. To be a mentor of these youngsters, we must be wise enough to let them accept the life that pleases God.

Indeed they have so many dreams and aspirations to be accomplished but the primary principle in their life begins from knowing their day to day life relationship with those around them and their surroundings. They must learn to develop a sense of sensitiveness, humbleness, tolerance, generosity towards those around them. Integrity in life and work must be instilled in their mind. And all these can be instilled only through the wisdom from above. One must be patient and tolerant in order to learn new things. It is also the duty of someone who is their tutor or their supervisor to learn new things and convert it in their context to lead them with the fast changing world. We need to update our knowledge in order to get along with their mindset and standard of understanding.

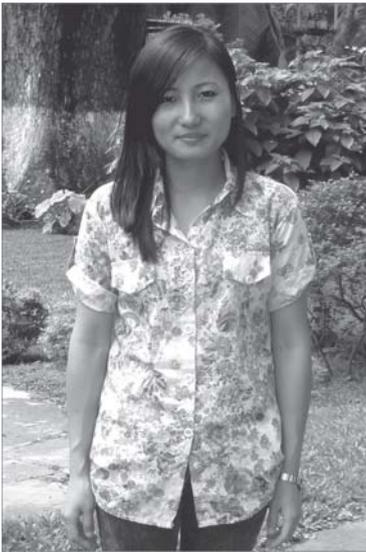
Juggling the life as the chaplain of this hostel is a new way of learning many things about different type of personality. Entering into the hearts of each of my girls and tackling them accordingly through prayers is what I am learning everyday. It gives me unwavering strength from unknown source seeing my girls growing strong spiritually, mentally and physically. To work with the youth, our mind and soul must be forever young. Always ask God's wisdom to nurture someone to be a God fearing person.

"Teach them the decrees and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform". Exodus 18:20



Voice box

*Ms Keringgumle Hau
B.D 2nd year, Union Biblical
Seminary
(2015 Interns to CBCNEI)*



It was just a month being a partial part of CBCNEI but having learnt about the varied ministries of CBCNEI and getting to see even the working staffs those from secular background so dedicated and hardworking was indeed a real inspiration and an encouragement to me. I was placed to do my internship at CBCNEI

for a month and was allotted to help in the canteen, Conference Centre and the Library week- wise. My work experience here has helped me learn more practically about the struggles

and challenges people have to undergo in carrying out ministry.

I got to encounter many different people from all walks of life and learnt anew about people and more about serving the Lord through service to man. And to me there could be no other better place than a campus like CBCNEI to spread the gospel through action and faith. I have been blessed and inspired with profound experiences I will never forget and I believe this ministry will bring in greater changes. God Bless CBCNEI.



*Mr KC Dindu
B.D 2nd year, Union
Biblical Seminary (2015
interns to CBCNEI)*

I was the luckiest to be placed in the archive where I encountered many priceless books and documents written by the pioneer missionaries. During my leisure after

work, I use to settle myself at one corner and get engrossed in reading. Giving a hand in arranging

the books in the archive helped me realize the tough work load of those staffs working in my college library. It always seemed too easy for the librarian to sit and take care of the books but it is not really easy. I was also placed in the canteen where I learn much more about patience and humbleness in serving people. Thank you to CBCNEI for the great learning experience. May CBCNEI be like a tree planted by the river bearing fruits in seasons and whose leaves stays fresh and evergreen. Long live CBCNEI.



Ms Imlisangla Ozukum
B.D 2nd year, Union Biblical
Seminary
(2015 interns at CBCNEI)

I was a little hesitant the first time I landed in CBCNEI, a total new world where I was placed to work at the canteen. It was a challenge for a shy and not too open minded girl like me to cop up with new situation but soon as I start doing internship at the canteen, I realized that God placed at the right place because I needed to learn patience and tolerances.

Team work and the fun in workplace is what I experienced at the canteen. I learnt to enjoy recollecting the silly shouts, the small grudges we had while we were too busy serving and later laugh about it.

Learning to adjust with different types of people and serving people helped me realize that my position in a ministry whether I achieve a higher position or less high, all that matter is serving the people diligently with sincerity. I believe that a leader is not the one above any other but the one who represent all.

CBCNEI have a very committed and hardworking staffs who finds joy in what they do. God bless all.



We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this things, at whatever cost, must be attained.

Marie Curie

BRIEF REPORT OF JUSTICE AND PEACE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNCIL (2014-2015)

as reported by Mr Atungo Shitri, Secretary Justice and Peace.

1. Geneva Call Program at Chiangmai, Thailand May 2014: The secretary attended a program organized by Geneva call to encounter with human rights situation arising out of non state actors' violation (militant groups). The follow up of the program is ongoing.

2. Interfaith dialogue and reconciliation program at Imphal: May 2014: This consultation is a follow up of the April 2012 interfaith dialogue, which was held in Manipur University. The theme focused was on Reconciliation with broadened definition to include issues of religion, disability, gender, race and ethnicity, and class. In focusing on the theme "Interfaith Dialog and Reconciliation," the aim was to address the question of whether and how interfaith dialog could help shape people's commitment toward reconciliation. The purpose of this year's conference was to contribute to the understanding and promoting of friendship and dialog among the diverse members of our society with different beliefs.

3. CLC Land Purchase: June 2014: The secretary went to Dimapur to help CLC finalize the land purchase for resource centre at Toulovi, Dimapur. The land is finally purchased after assessment and completing all legal requirements.

4. CLC Constitution and service rules June-July 2014: The secretary was entrusted with the final revision of the CLC constitution and service rule which is now completed.

5. Relief assistance for victims of Karbi-Rengma Conflict August 2014: The Secretary, with the help of KABC, NKBA and WRBA with funding from IM, NEICC, ABPF and MBC had conducted relief assistance to the victims of Karbi-Rengma conflict. Altogether 1035 affected families were given rice and salt as per their desire.

6. Consultation Meeting for the Assam-Nagaland Border Conflict: August 2014: The secretary invited ABC, NEICORD, World Vision, CASA and ARLDF for a consultation to assess the situation and work on peace and reconciliation and rehabilitation program. Mr. Benard Marak, the ES of KABS was entrusted to collect information and be part of the peace negotiating team to visit the affected areas and meet with the victims. A goodwill mission team (JPMT) will be visiting the

7. Solidarity Peace Prayer Visit to Assam-Nagaland Border September 2014: In order to show solidarity the peace committee decided a solidarity peace prayer fellowship visited Nagaland-Assam border in between September 9th to 12th 2014 to pray for them. The peace committee of the Council consists of Mr. Bernard Marak, Rev. Kari Longchar and Rev. Amos Humtsoe, Mr. Sukumar Momin and Mr. Atungo Shitri visited Uriamghat in Assam and Ralan area Nagaland and met with the victims of the border strife. Prayer fellowships were conducted and shared the love and forgiveness of God to them.

8. ICH, Impur October 2014: The MOU of management outsourcing agreement between the Council and ICH, Impur was drafted. The status report of the assets and finance and statutory compliance completed and MOU signed.

9. Seminar on Domestic Violence, CTC, Alijen November 2014: The secretary presented a paper on domestic violence from Naga Customary Law/Practices in a consultation meeting of theological scholars and civil societies representatives.

10. Seminar on Religious Liberty in India, Tezpur November 2014: The secretary was invited to speak on religious liberty issues in India by the FMPB missionaries' consultation meeting at Tezpur. The meeting was attended by FMPB missionaries from the NEI region.

11. Biblical Peacemaking Seminars at ETC and OTS, November/December 2014: The Justice and Peace Ministries of the Council organized Biblical Peacemaking Seminars at Eastern Theological College, Jorhat, Assam and Oriental Theological Seminary, Dimapur, Nagaland in collaboration with Partera International, Canada from 24 November 2014 to 6 December 2014. The training has one key objective: to emerge with a sense of ourselves as peculiarly Christian Peacemakers, children of God.

12. Peace Prayer Fellowship with BBKA Leaders at Tukrajhar January 2015: The Peace Committee of the J&P Ministries visited BBKA mission compound to have a peace prayer fellowship with the BBKA leaders. The committee also visited two camps of both the affected communities. (Bodo and Adivasi) The follow-up of the fellowship is to organized peace seminar at Kokrajhar.

13. Poster campaign for Peace at Tuensang District March 2015: The Peace and Justice Ministries of the Council in

collaboration with the NBCC Youth Department organized Poster Campaign for Peace in Tuengsang District Nagaland on 4th-5th March 2015. The Purpose of this peace campaign was to appeal to the two warring Naga communities, Chang and Yimchunger tribes, who are predominantly Baptist Christians, to seek justice and peace as mandated in the scripture. The words printed on the posters and banners are verses on peace from the Bible.

14. Peace Initiatives-Dimapur Incident March 2015: On behalf of CBCNEI and NBCC the secretary met with leaders of Muslim Committee of Nagaland with an effort to diffuse tension and backlashes in other part of India. Consultation meetings were also organized at Mission Compound, Guwahati involving church leaders, faith-based NGOs and other like-minded civil societies to proactively engage in peace making in the region.

15. Peace-building Initiative in BTAD March 2015: A seminar on "Peace Building" was conducted on 23rd and 24th March 2105 at the campus of Kokrajhar Town Baptist Church, Kodomtola. The two day seminar was organised by Boro Baptist Church Association and Inter-Church Peace Mission (ICPM) initiated and supported by the CBCNEI, APBF and ABC. All together 79 participants were present with 4 female participants from various churches as well as civil societies.

16. Peace Initiatives with JPMT March 2015: The General Secretary and the J&P Secretary participated in JPMT joint effort on peace building with the NBCC and KBES.

17. India Mission Leaders Meeting: Paper Presentation on Religious Liberty March 2015: The secretary presented a paper on Religious Liberty issues in India with special reference to North East India.

18. **CBCNEI Meetings February-March 2015:** The Secretary organized peace consultation meetings comprising of churches, faith-based organizations and like-minded NGOs to discuss about practical involvement in nation building through peace initiatives.

19. **Religious Freedom in India Seminar, Goa April 2015:** The Secretary along with 3 local pastors representing the region attended the seminar. The Seminar was organized by Alliance Defending Freedom, India-prospective partner of the Justice and Peace Ministries in religious freedom project in the NEI region.

20. **Other CBCNEI Assignments 2014-2015:** The Secretary has drafted the ETC Constitution Amendment Review. The CBCNEI Hospitals Nursing Schools Admission Policy is also drafted and submitted for scrutiny by the Medical Board.



When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

PROVERBS 16:7



To Serve and To Guard

Mr Lima Longkumer, Lecturer, International Theological College and Seminary.

Who owns this earth? How do we respond as Christians and what does the Bible tell us about our role?

George Rosendale said to the citizens as caretakers of the land. When he talks about land we say it is our land. Actually it is not our land. Each family within the tribe has certain responsibilities in caring for the land. He has made an admirable attempt extracting from the scripture. This guardianship when he writes, that God gave humankind responsibility for the land. Commenting the Christians what God said ***“cultivate it and guard it”***.

The Earth is the Lord’s property. He has placed human beings here as His property manager and His stewards. A run-down house suggests a negligent property manager. A badly maintained earth points to careless human stewardship.

As seen in Genesis creation account, immediately after saying ***“let us make man in our Image, in our likeness”***, God explains why we share His image; Let them rule... over the earth” (Gen. 1:26). Again in Genesis chapter 1 we

will see that the story runs directly from ***“Let us make humankind in our image”, “Let them have dominion”***. The first two chapters of Genesis contain teachings with profound relevance of ourselves and our world today. In the first chapters of Genesis, twice in three verses, God speaks of human ruling over other living beings. In the second instance, after creating Adam and Eve, God blesses them, saying ***“Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living things that moves upon the earth.”*** What does it mean for humans to subdue the earth and have dominion over other creatures?

While on the surface the words of these verses appear to give people license to degrade and subdue the earth. But on the contrary it does not convey the message as we think or assume. Rather it teaches us that ***“if he does not merit than God says he will be taken down, and if he acts in our image and likeness then he will rule, if he acts not in our image and likeness, then he will be taken down”***. We should understand this verse about dominion as teaching us that humans have a disposition to dominate, but that is not the purpose for which God created us, rather it informs us of the nature that God implanted in him

The second chapter of Genesis includes a second story of creation that focuses on human being in the Garden of Eden. God places the human being in the Garden of Eden to work and to guard it. The two significant Hebrew verbs used to describe human being's mandate. The first' Le'ovdah literally means "to serve It". Human being is thus both master and servant of nature. The second- Leshomrah- means "to guard it". This is the verb used in later biblical legislation to describe the responsibilities of a guardian of property that belongs to someone else. This guardian must

exercise vigilance while protecting, and is personally liable for losses that occur through negligence. This is perhaps the best short definition of humanity's responsibility for nature as the Bible conceives it.

The scripture teaches us that we will only prosper and take the opportunity to rule the earth if we behave righteously. This includes the spiritual discipline to use our resources wisely, and subdue with a sense of moral responsibility. In our context to day we have demonstrated our ability to subdue the earth which we are suppose to be the guardian.

To our ears "rule" and dominion may sound harsh and severe. But Genesis 2:15. Softens us in the context of attentive guardianship. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Which suggest, Gardening is the paradigm for work. Man was the representative of the whole human race. And therefore, gardening represents all work in our context today. Through our work we are responsible for managing the smallest or the largest amount of the task. Being paid is a benefit of our work but, not the point of it. We may work mostly with people or mainly with things. Either way, one of our core callings is to help extend God's gift to us make the earth liveable for the people, animals, and plants that God has put here. Work is rearranging the raw materials of a particular domain for the flourishing of everyone. Remember that each one has been given a responsibility in our capability . We have to carry out that assigned duty diligently and seek God's wisdom. We are the chosen disciples sent out to feed the thousands.



NEWS FLASH

Medical sponsorship interview (April 7)

A total number of 86 candidates applied for sponsorship exam for medical studies under CBCNEI for this year. Every year CBCNEI offer a medical study sponsorship to CMC Vellore and Ludhiana for eligible candidates who qualify in the interview. The interviewers

were Dr K.S Jacob, Professor CMC Vellore, Dr Lucita Momin, Medical Secretary, Mr Pawan Bhuyan, Property Secretary and Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary. 56 candidates were short listed for the online written exam out of which 6 were selected for the final round of interview.



Candidates submitting their medical forms

Extension Counter of Imphal at Khuman Lampak (April 17)

The Extension Counter of Imphal at Khuman Lampak has been completed. The

The Extension Counter had been dedicated by the General Secretary MBC, Revd. Dr. W. Konghar location of the bookshop is just opposite to ISBT / Stadium Road, First floor, Area of 702 sq ft.



Inauguration and dedication of the rural Boy's Hostel of Harding Theological College Tura (23 April)

Rev Don Ng, President of American Baptist Churches inaugurated and dedicated the Rural Boys hostel base-

ment funded by Baptist International Ministries at Tura. Rev Don was the theme speaker of the 65 AGM of the council at Tura.





Library and Archive renovation (May 5)

The Library and Archive have been renovated for systematic maintenance under the guidance of a senior Librarian Mrs Toshinaro from Eastern Theological College, Jorhat. The librarian briefed the basic rules in book keeping to the librarian of the council and extended her kind helping hand

in the arrangement and categorization of the archive.





Mission Consultation for Krima No IV (May 8 - 10)

The Zone wise Mission consultation was held at Damalgre Baptist church, Tura under Garo Baptist Convention Krima No. IV. The consultation was focused on “**Mission Opportunities and Challenges**”. Many Pastors and Mission leaders attended the program and we were all blessed.



Mission Consultation of Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM) (May 19 - 20)

members of local churches attended the program. The main focus of the consulta-

A special Mission consultation for Pastors and Mission leaders and Board members of Ao churches was held at ABAM headquarter Impur. Hundreds of Pastors and Mission Board



tion was on “The importance of Partnership and Streamlining in Mission” for greater impact in the mission work. In the end of the consultation, resolutions were adopted for streamlining and partnership of the churches. We were all blessed through the program.



Retirement of one of the senior most staff Mr April Sangma. (June 3)



senior most staff who long served in the council for 35 years. Mr Sangma first joined as Assistant Caretaker in 1980 and retired this year. His rendered dedicatory service had been greatly appreciated and will always remain irreplaceable. We extend our prayers and best wishes to him and his family. May almighty continue to shower His blessing in abundance to his family.

The council bade farewell to Mr April Sangma, one of the





North East India Transformation Congress(NEITC) (9 - 10 June)

The planning meeting for organizing North East India Transformation Conference initiated by the Evangelical Fellowship of India was held at CBCNEI conference hall. The meeting was chaired by the Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI and Rev Dr Richard Howell, General Secretary Evangelical Fellowship of India. The meeting proposed to the

gathering of 600 pastors, church leaders, social activist and journalists in 2016 to discuss all the issues faced by North East churches and society at present days. The research consultant was Dr Leaderwell Ponggap. Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi has been officially appointed as the Chairman of NEITC.



Yearly Report of the Property Secretary of the Council during the 65 AGM, Tura. (May 2014 to March 2015)

Mr Pawan Bhuyan, Property Secretary, CBCNEI

I thank God for His grace and continued guidance that enabled me to carry out the responsibilities of the property department of the Council during the period 2014-15. My appreciation and gratefulness also goes to all my colleagues & staffs for their support and encouragement. Here I give below the highlights of some of the activities of the department during the period.

- 1. Leased Land to CASA at Guwahati:** On completion of the final lease period in May 2014, CASA did not vacate the premise and again requested the Council for continuation with the lease. The executive committee in October 2014 deliberated on the issue and decided to accept the request on condition that CASA comply with the enhanced monthly rent and sign the agreement within three months. Accordingly the lease agreement was executed on January 20, 2015 for a period of five years till October 2019.
- 2. 1st floor construction Jubilee Complex Phase II, Panbazar:** The construction of the 1st floor could not be started in 2014 as the provision within the department budget could not be made. Nevertheless, looking at the pressing need for additional revenue income, fund was located in development account heads and

the executive committee subsequently approved it. The construction has started in March 2015 and is expected to complete within six months.

3. **ETC Land at Jorhat:** The work on alteration of annual patta to permanent period patta of some portion of the ETC land within the campus is still in process and hopefully it will be completed within this year. (*The work is almost over*)
4. **Sale of encroached land at Tocklai near ETC, Jorhat:** The process of sale deed execution is still going on as some buyers are poor and struggle to pay for stamp papers and registration fee.
5. **Sale of Land at JCMC, Jorhat:** The progress is slow on the part of the hospital management and recently the hospital is of the opinion to keep the land instead of selling and construct staff quarters to protect the boundary. However the Board of Trustees decided to continue with the sale process to earn revenue for boundary fencing and asks the hospital to submit the quarter construction project in detail that will be located in some other area.
6. **JCMC campus Boundary wall construction:** The boundary wall at the back of the hospital near the maternity ward is completed. There are still more areas to be fenced which the hospital could not take up due to financial constraints. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has asked the management to plan ahead and incorporate in the budget to construct the boundary wall in phase manner.
7. **CLCRC Project at JCMC, Jorhat:** The farming project of the Council through the Hospital in partnership with Asian Rural Life Development Foundation (ARLDF) in

Christian Leprosy Clinic area is in progress but slowed down due to financial constraints.

ARLDF is in the process of channeling the fund through CBCNEI. However the land is in utilization and with the next phase of the financial grant, the project will expand and will be self sustainable.

8. Campus Development works: The headquarter campus at Panbazar, Guwahati has under gone some developmental activities during the year:

- Additional deep tube-well boring with submersible pump installed for un-interrupted water supply.
- Conference Centre footpath and the surroundings in new block and new dorm buildings are upgraded with concrete and cement blocks for easy passage and rain water drainage.
- Common toilet in conference centre Annex building was renovated with RCC structure, tiles and sanitary fittings for durability and easy sanitation.
- Part of old building was renovated and converted into staff quarter.
- Semi permanent staff quarter constructed for essential staff.

9. CBCNEI Panbazar Campus Development: The proposed project for self reliance building construction near the riverfront was discussed with the Board of International Ministries during April 2014, when Rev. Ben Chan visited us. They have checked the site and took the drawing and the budgetary estimate to further look into the prospect of funding the project for a convention centre to be jointly operated by BIM and the Council. Unfortunately, they have informed that since BIM is helping the

NECU (*North East Christian University*) project financially, it would be difficult to take up two major projects at the same time. The secretariat is contemplating on the development options of the Panbazar campus, which will be further discussed in the Development Trust committee.

10. Development of the unused Satribari Christian Hospital Campus: In the year 1998, the then Property Association of the Council decided to dispose off in sale, the areas behind Nichols School field and behind the hospital. Most of the areas were sold except the part of the area near the field which could not be settled as there was no approached road to the plot. Now the government is clearing the backside road and cleaning the waterbody with the wholesale fish market removed completely. Hence our back campus is exposed and vulnerable for encroachment from different quarters. The secretariat acted immediately to protect the land and to continue with the earlier decision and develop the land jointly with developers, instead of selling the land so that better revenue could be earned. A prospective developer & builder is identified and the secretariat had thoroughly gone through the proposal and the company profile for high end construction for optimum output and found to be satisfactory and move forward. The Board of Trustees discussed on the proposal and felt to have one more developer to compare with the present proposal and gave two weeks time to come up with a decision considering the vulnerability of the land. As another developer could not be contacted by the trustee as suggested, the members finally consented to move forward with the proposal in hand and place it in the executive committee for final approval. (*The Executive Committee & the AGM has approved the pro-*

posal)

11. Kangpokpi Mission land, Manipur: The Kangpokpi Mission land is under lease for 99 years. Few years back, it was decided to obtain permanent allotment (pucca patta) as the lease arrangement does not give full right to the owner. The Manipur Baptist Convention was entrusted to pursue the matter with the government. Although the matter was in process with the government secretariat, in recent times it has slowed down and almost stuck. The hospital ADMC has discussed on encroachment issues along the boundaries and request permission to dispose off the vulnerable areas in sale and protect the other areas with the sale proceeds. Therefore the Board of Trustees decided to entrust the hospital ADMC to pursue the matter for permanent land allotment with the government in consultation with the convention and also requests the hospital to submit the detail of the vulnerable land area proposed for sale with the selling price, to the Council for further action.

12. Impur Christian Hospital: For effective functioning of the hospital, the Council has handed over the management of the Impur Christian Hospital to the local association, ABAM under the NBCC on February 17, 2015 for a period of 30 years. However, the land and the property still belong to the Council.

In addition to the above work, I am also engaged in the Conference Centre complex as the overall in-charge, maintaining about 25 tenants in the Panbazar, Satribari, Shillong campus with their lease deeds, monthly rent, maintenance of the buildings, water supply, electricity etc. We glorify our Lord through all the developmental activities of the properties of the Council and His Grace is sufficient for us!



We the Readers

The Mouthpiece

“We The Readers: The Mouthpiece” is a new column introduced for the first time in *Baptist News* for the keen reader-contributors who not only read us but also come forward with their insightful articles. We have been receiving numerous articles and that urged the need to create a space for you readers as well. Through this column you can express your sensible views and constructive opinions.

We welcome all the aspiring readers who wish to contribute your articles to mail us at:

editor@cbcnei.in

lichanbenitungoe@gmail.com

1. CHURCH RENAISSANCE

*Mr Thepfulhouvi Solo. IFS Retd. (RR-68)
Retd. Principal Secretary, Govt of Nagaland*

I always want to reach the Sunday morning service in time and I mean ‘in time’ means at least some 5 minutes or so before 9:30 AM.

I have an old watch purchased when I first joined college 58 years ago; it still gives me time very accurately. However, every often Sundays, I reach the Church only in the nick of

time. Of course that suits me quite well for my wife and I are most comfortable at the back of the pews in the big Church.

The service starts with the singing of any two selected songs of the Hymn Book, one after another and people in the congregation take various parts of the music automatically spontaneously and a harmonious rendition results, followed by a prayer from an entrusted untrained common lay man or lay woman of good standing in the Church.

I listen to the prayers and I always find them most touching, edifying, fulfilling and lifting to the Spirit. The words flow out deepest, humblest recesses of the soul in soft voice. They are lowly and contrite, pleading God in reverence in the words of an undeserving person in overflowing gratitude. The prayer covers many things: the sick, the invalid old, the luckless, the suffering, the participants, workers and the leaders, the Church, of the village, of the tribe, of the state and the government and sometimes it is for the remembrance of the suffering Christians in other states of India today for their faith.

The prayers that come from the trained, the formally qualified on the other hand, are most often correct, formal, ecclesiastical and the language from the pool of Church vocabulary already familiar to most congregations, than realistic or personal to the hearers. It has a dry appeal mostly. I may not intend to be judgmental.

Today Christians in the churches are most nicely dressed, of good spirit, are nice and good, spry and happy, courteous and generous in giving, and a willing heart to do his or her mite for the Church. Many wealthy contractors are enormous donors voluntarily without any expectations of any in return from the Church.

A Church however is known not much for its congregation

than for its leaders and its workers. The reputation of the Church rests mostly on its leaders and workers than with the lay congregation. And it happens there are *Ananias* and *Safiras* in modern Christian church as there were *Anania*, *Safira* and unfairness in some of the seven stewards in the freely, honestly in reality from the first Christian Fellowship in Jerusalem immediately after the death of Jesus.

There were erroneous doctrinaires in some of the leaders initially of the Church at Jerusalem till notoriously opposed to the Church at first but later converted to a courageous and fearless Paul, confronted Peter, Barnabas and the other Jews “in the public” for their wrong attitudes and conceptions.

The Church or its Organization is a very powerful body even while in mammon’s world and there is great potential to danger in this Power. Those who use the power of the Church as their own personal power or rent the power of the Church for their interest, are in danger of damnation as those who use the power of the Church for the glory of its founder, have blessings even in this Mammon’s World.

The individual believer continually needs renewal in Christ, the CHURCH also must continually seek for RENEWAL.



I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear, what can man do to me?'

Hebrew 13: 5c- 6



2. To Clad in Wisdom

Pastor Lujeka Assumi, Hoshepu Baptist Church

It's prosperous for those who diligently seek to achieve the best knowledge and be at the crest conquering every task a halcyon world has everything in it to offer now. It's now and it goes on, the contemporary time we're living now has it for us, a privilege to explore and get access to every information people hunts. Technology's vital role has to be applauded for being accurately informative and this has led to a new paradigm of learning, answering people's quest even without attending a school. The Gen Y generations who are smarter than Gen X are now totally in a new world, its environment, its way of learning and the culture has drastically changed. The phenomenal way of learning epistemology is getting philosophical, posing a new gainsay to those whose lives are calculated by faith, Bible and God. Considering the rapid increment of biblical and religious skeptics, the present day Bible learners, defenders and believers got to be well acquainted and be thorough tracing every reasons and evidence of our belief. As a believer in God I'm certain that Holy Spirit's empowerment will help believers explicate about their belief in Jesus as the only savior and most of the people are getting saved after listening to a mere message "Jesus died for our sins

and He's the only way to heaven," but this occur frequently in a society where bulk of the inhabitants profess to be believers from early days. Keeping in mind the sky rocketed increase of Atheism in its share of world's population and noticing how quick people's worldview are getting fabricated with worldly philosophies and their minds being replete with a notion that God isn't necessary in one's life. How the death of Jesus for humanity's sin sound stupid to most people, the virgin birth as well, and most Atheists needing a secular evidence to prove that Jesus really existed.

In such a high skeptical arena where Christianity is attacked heavily, theological institutions in particular and churches in general should accept the challenge making it an obligation to define the Christianity's genuineness historically, archaeologically, logically, theologically and biblically. Christianity's core message is Jesus Christ, heralding Jesus as the only Savior and equipping converted ones to follow his teachings is the commandment. We propagate this message to assorted community, some quite skeptical, while some accept it without any dubiousness. As we deliberate how to moot the religious skeptics and agnostics to the saving knowledge of Jesus theological institutions should begin bringing out well equipped men and women who can accurately expose God's inspired word and validate why Christianity is true and vouch those opponents making them realize how Christianity can make a person feel renewed in spirit and filling up the spiritual vacuum all humanity has through a mere message of Jesus' great salvation made available to both Jews and gentiles alike on the Calvary. But remembering that we should not only be informative to their queries but transforming their lives should be our utmost goal.

As theological studies is about the study of Infinite God, a

finite man can't fathom all His desires and follow it but there are some that are revealed in His inspired word and one of them is **“desire that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2: 4),”** the statement is not an exclusive nor an inclusive one, it refers to the entire human race who were kept under Sin's tyranny and in it are included smart people who can think and critic and winning them just by a mere message that Jesus died for our sins is in our shoulders and we should be able to do it through proper Spirit's illumination and empowerment and by a life honed with prayer. Theological studies is a real business requiring time, dedication, a heart to research, a mind to reason, a life loving God, the ability to convince people of several worldviews through Holy Spirit's empowerment but most of the people in our region perceived it as a vocation for the school dropped outs which is not true at all. And there's an urgency to have a godly man and woman who not only know how to pray and preach but also who can reason with some sophisticated minds, who can answer doubts regarding the genuineness of Christianity raised by skeptics. Therefore, churches and theological institutions ought to embark on instructive teachings, climb to a higher level of studies as invited by the changed world and win both wise and unwise as there's for sure the presence of silent atheists in our churches and society and winning them will bring glory to God.





The Boy at the Rail Gate

*Miss Lichanbeni M. Tungoe, Assistant Editor,
Baptist News*

In the morning gloom, the city in steady rain
That one with the chicken-plucked look
"hair a tufted circle on top, the rest in shabby outfit"
I cannot really stop to care about.

I assume he grew up without totaling himself,
But he is that caught my eyes in this madding crowd.
He seems even to know his place as unworthy striver.
Of the one no one would look away from for long,

He lifts his sack to collect rags, a ticket to buy his
bread.

The train was on the run but that would not stop him
from collecting every bit of rag.

People by pass pushing, dashing and the other boys
smirk before the rain douses and sweeps it stupidly
into the gutter.

I'm half in love with his doing: five, or maybe six he
would be.

He twitches in sublime irritation, cursing maybe the rain.

Raining harder, up again, hard to shelter his soaking
head with his sack

But he pretty much manages problem, and now
came the move that got me staring on still.

His twitch becalmed at last, stood
without heeding his friend's
jeering calls, "Aye pagol, Aye pagol" (you fool, you fool)

Stood hunched, not looking up or down,
And I can foretell what is running in his head,
this is where he'll break off,
he's going to unload everyone,

But he didn't react upon their nothingness
and spits, feeling himself filling with what's left:
he took possession of his spirited bad luck for good
and let the rain collect behind his torn shirt
and drench body even when the rain keeps patting at it
harder and harder like an obsolete humiliated hand.

And he turned his back at last on them,
He was not the clown but made those across the track
full of clowns you can both see and not see,
I watch him disappear in courage.

When will I get to set an eye on him
or if I never get to see him, will anybody try to follow
him from now on?



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Last date of submission of the application form to CBCNEI office is January 31, 2016

Sd/

Dr Lucita Momin

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