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Baptist News

A quarterly news letter of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI)

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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Editorial. . .



Greetings to all our readers from the office of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India.

Last year (2020) was a difficult time for many of us. It impacted the individual, family, church, organization and community at-large. It was a challenging time with both positive and negative outcome. And yet, we are thankful to God for His ever-abiding presence in the midst of the situation.

The year 2021 opens with some ray of hope as we try to reactivate ourselves and the organizations. As we try to limb back and activate our programmes, allow the spirit of God to motivate us and direct all our undertakings. Let us step out by faith, holding on to the promises of God, that, He will continue to be our strength and shelter in the midst of fears, anxieties, apprehensions, doubts and struggles of life. We shall look forward to better days, months and years to come. On our part, as Paul exhorts, let us work hard and not to be lazy, serving the Lord with a heart full of devotions (Romans 12:11) whatever circumstances may come on our way.

In this issue, we have the academic and other activities of the CBCNEI recognized theological institutions except

Eastern Theological College which is owned by CBCNEI, for the information and prayer support of our institutions. We continue to give thanks to all our contributors of articles in this issue. Such writings keeps us informed about the current issues and environment. We want to give thanks especially to all our generous donors for the newly renovated old office into a conference hall for multi-purpose activities like, seminar, workshop, leadership training and, get-together of the CBCNEI staff for morning devotions. We also give thanks to all the donors who gave generously towards Kangpokpi Christian Hospital in celebrating 100th years Jubilee.

The Lord bless all our readers. Let us continue to uphold each other in our prayers.

Yours in Christ


(Rev. Prof. Akheto Sema)
General Secretary
CBCNEI

CBCNEI AT A GLANCE

Conventions	Associations	Churches	Members
Assam Baptist Convention, Golaghat Assam	06	929	37,312
Arunachal Baptist Church Council, Arunachal Pradesh	20	1170	1,41,995
Garo Baptist Convention Tura, West Garo Hills	17	2622	3,35,299
Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention, Diphu, K. Anglong	14	354	39,174
Manipur Baptist Convention Imphal, Manipur	29	1486	2,13,894
Nagaland Baptist Church Council, Kohima, Nagaland	24	1654	6,63,236
Associate Members			
Shillong Baptist Church Shillong, Meghalaya	-	1	210
Zomi Baptist Church Champhai, Mizoram	-	20	4000
Mising Baptist Kebang Amulapatti, Gogamukh, Assam	8	115	4300
Evangelical Church of Maraland, Mizoram	-	94	46833
<hr/>			
	119	8455	15,04,253

CBCNEI Hospitals : 6

Babupara Christian Hospital, Nisangram, Meghalaya
Impur Christian Hospital, Impur, Nagaland
Jorhat Christian Medical Centre, Borbheta, Jorhat, Assam
Kangpokpi Christian Hospital, Kangpokpi, Manipur
Satribari Christian Hospital, Satribari, Guwahati, Assam
Tura Christian Hospital, Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Nursing Schools : 4

School of Nursing, Jorhat Christian Medical Centre, Borbheta, Jorhat, Assam
School of Nursing, Kangpokpi Christian Hospital, Kangpokpi, Manipur
School of Nursing, Satribari Christian Hospital, Satribari, Guwahati, Assam
School of Nursing, Tura Christian Hospital, Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Student Ministry: 3

Lewis Memorial Student Ministry (Boys), Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam
White Memorial Student Ministry (Girls), Satribari, Guwahati, Assam
Shillong Tyrannus Hall (Boys), Shillong, Meghalaya (In CBCNEI land)

Christian Literature Centre

Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam(Headquarter)
Impha, Manipur
Dimapur, Nagaland
Ukhrul, Manipur
Tahamzam, Senapati, Manipur

North East Christian University (NECU), Burma Camp, Dimapur, Nagaland

Eastern Theological College, Jorhat, Assam

Regional Partners

1. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)
2. North East Centre for Training and Research (NECTAR)
3. North East India Christian Council (NEICC)
4. North East India Harvest Network
5. Seva Bharat
6. Serving in Mission (North East India) (SIM-NEI)

7. Youth With A Mission (YWAM)
8. Priscilla Centre

National Partners

1. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)
2. ALPHA India
3. Build India
4. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) Delhi, Kolkata
5. Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI)
6. Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB)
7. Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM)
8. Interserve India
9. National Council of Churches in India (NCCI)
10. Trans World Radio-India (TWR)
11. Union of Evangelical Students of India (UESI)
12. United Christian Prayer for India (UCPI)
13. Yeshu Bhakt Pavitra Sabha (UP Mission)
14. World Vision India

Global Partners

1. Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF)
2. Baptist World Alliance (BWA)
3. Christian Conference of Asia
4. International Ministries (IM)
5. Overseas Missionary Fellowship
6. World Council of Churches (WCC)

CBCNEI Secretaries:

Finance Secretary	-	Mr. Vikato Shikhu
Mission Secretary	-	Rev. Paoneikhup Serto
Property Secretary	-	Mr. Rajib Zillie
Medical Secretary	-	Dr. Bamin Tada
Justice & Peace Secretary	-	Adv. Malthys D. Sangma

CBCNEI Conference Centre (CCC)

Mess Hall

Commercial Building for Income Generating Projects

EASTERN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, JORHAT **A Brief Academic Report of Eastern Theological** **College, Jorhat 2021**

as reported by Prof. Dr. Shimreingam Shimray, Vice Principal

In June 2020, under the national lockdown, the College had to undertake admission processes through online system and completed registration with 104 new students and 246 continuing students altogether 350 students. Four of our regular students decided to defer their admission by a year.

Class	Female	Male	Total
BD I	38	41	79
BD II	29	38	67
BD III	33	34	67
BD IV	25	29	54
M.Th. I	12	10	22
M.Th. II	20	25	45
D.Th.	1	11	12
SATHRI	1	3	04
	159	191	350

External Students

BCS = 10 & Dip. C.S. = 1 = 11 MA-HCD = 57

GRAND TOTAL = 418

We have 52 tribes in the student enrollment. They are as follows: Adivasi, Anal, Angami, Ao, Assamese, Bengali, Biate, Boro, Chakhesang, Chin, Galo, Gangte, Garo, Gurkha, Haram, Kachin, Karbi, Kharia, Khasi, Khamniungam, Kom, Konyak, Kuki, Lai, Liangmai, Lotha, Mao, Mara, Maram, Maring, Mate, Meitei, Mishing, Mizo, Mundari, Nocte, Nyishi, Phom, Pnar, Poumai, Pochury, Rengma, Rongmei, Sangtam, Sumi, , Tangkhul, Tangsa, Thadou, Tripuri, Wancho, Zeliang, and Zeme.

Faculty Position: ETC has 18 teaching faculty.

Name	Tribe	Department
Rev. Prof. Dr. L. M. Narola Imchen	Ao	History of Christianity
Rev. Prof. Dr. Shimreingam Shimray	Tangkhum	Christian Ethics & SA
Rev. Prof. Dr. Lima Jamir	Ao	New Testament
Rev. Prof. Dr. Razouselie Lasetso	Chakhesang	New Testament
Prof. Dr. Sashikaba Kechutzar	Ao	Religions
Rev. Prof. Dr. Yangkahao Vashum	Tangkhum	Christian Theology
Rev. Prof. Dr. Zhodi Angami	Angami	New Testament
Rev. Prof. Dr. Marlene Ch. Marak	Garo	Communication
	(married to Angami)	
Rev. Dr. Phanenmo Kath	Rengma	CM-Counseling
Mrs. Vimeno Lasetso	Angami	History of Christianity
	(married to Chakhesang)	
Rev. Prof. Dr. Woba James	Poumai	History of Christianity
Mrs. Dr. Lovely Awomi James	Sumi	Christian Theology
	(married to Poumai)	
Mrs. Vashti Paoh	Poumai	Old Testament
(on doctoral study leave)	(married to Angami)	
Mrs. Dr. Akani Kinimi	Sumi	Old Testament
	(married to Tangkhum)	
Mrs. Esther Jish Rengma	Rengma	Christian Theology
Mrs. Renthunglo Kikon	Lotha	Music
Rev. Dr. Shyam Basumatary	Boro	CM- Education
Rev. Prof. Dr. Temjen S. Imchen	Ao	Old Testament

Programs: ETC offers Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) and Master of Theology (M.Th.) Degrees of the Senate of Serampore College. We offer M.Th. courses in Christian Theology, History of Christianity, Christian Ministry (Christian Education), Christian Ministry (Pastoral Counseling) and New Testament. We offer Doctor of Theology

(D.Th.) program in the department of Christian Theology, History of Christianity and New Testament. (4 SATHRI research scholars who are being supervised by the Faculty members of ETC reside in the campus).

Besides these, we offer Bachelor of Christian Studies (B.C.S.) and Diploma of Christian Studies (Dip. C.S.) of the Senate of Serampore College and Master of Arts in Holistic Child Development (MA-HCD) degree program of the College.

As per the **Results of 2020**, we have out of 61 graduating students 1 in First Division with 70% while all others passed in Second Division such as 28 of them with 65%; 28 of them with 60% and 4 of them with 55% . Among the M. Th. Students out of 28 we have 13 in First Division and remaining 15 students in high Second Division of 65%. **Offices:**

Besides the office of Principal and Vice Principal, we have the following Offices that take care of various programs.

ETC Doctoral Study Centre: This Office looks after the doctoral study program. Prof. Dr. Razouselie Lasetso serves as the Dean of the Centre.

Post-Graduate Studies: This Office looks after the program of Master of Theology (M.Th.). Dr. Zhodi Angami is serving as the Dean of Post Graduate Studies.

Theological Education by Extension (TEE): This Office takes care of the non-residential theological education program of the Senate of Serampore College. Under this program we offer Bachelor of Christian Studies (B.C.S.) and Diploma of Christian Studies (Dip. C.S.). Dr. Sashikaba Kechutzar is the Dean of this Office.

Tribal Study Centre: The Tribal Study Centre of the Eastern Theological College is the first of its kind in India initiated and started in 1995. This office is a program oriented office that concerns with tribal studies. Seminars and Workshops are being organized and it produces a journal called *Journal of Tribal Studies*. The Centre is responsible in bring out books under the Tribal Study Series. Dr. Yangkahao Vashum is serving as the Dean of the Centre.

Women Study Centre: This office works toward empowerment of women. It organizes programs to initiate awareness of gender equality. It has produced a good number of books. The Centre conducts classes for student's wives and award Certificate of Christian Studies. Dr. Akani Kinimi is serving as the Dean of the Centre.

ILEMA: Institute of Leadership Enhancement Ministry Augmentation (ILEMA) is an institute offering College's degree in two fields such as, MA in Holistic Child Development and MA in Peace Studies. The MA programs require two years after basic theological degree or 3 years for the General Graduates. It also produces volumes of edited books. ILEMA also brings out a lay-friendly bi-annual journal called *Church and Society in North East India*. Dr. Phanenmo Kath is the Dean of ILEMA.

Students' Practical Ministry: Students' practical ministry in and around Jorhat has been a regular feature for BD final year students. Besides that, they have been trained through practical involvement in the Chapel Worship, Sunday Morning & Evening Worship and Vesper. Students practical ministry is normally arranged during the Summer holidays. Each student will have to submit report every year. Dr. Lima Jamir is the Dean of this Ministry.



Baptist Theological College (BTC)

Baptist Theological College (BTC) is a ministry of the Chakhesang Baptist Church Council (CBCC). It started as a Bible school by early local Christians on February 15, 1944, offering short term training in local language. Today, it is a College that offers two courses: Bachelor of Divinity (BD) degree with Senate of Serampore College/University and Certificate in Church Music (CCM) with Baptist Institute of Church Music (BICuM, a music department of BTC).

It is an international and ecumenical community, represented by 25 people groups from different denominations and countries. It is a College that believes and promotes the Gospel values of human dignity, mutual respect, and equal opportunity for all members. Apart from curricular education, BTC has various capacity building programs to prepare students for multi-dimensional leadership in both local and global contexts.

BTC invites application for 2021-2022:

1. Bachelor of Divinity
 - i) 5 years for 10+2 (any stream)
 - ii) 4 years for graduates and above (any stream)
 - iii) 2 years for BTh graduates

2. Certificate in Church Music: 1 year (matriculate)

* Entrance Exam dates for BD: April 21 & June 23 (Applicants can choose either)

* Last date of submission of Forms: March 31, 2021.
Application submitted after this date will invite late fine.

* Classes will begin from July 1, 2021

For more information visit website: www.btcnagaland.edu.in

Or contact: 8837398081 (Principal); 8974387536 (Vice Principal);

6009148910 (BICuM Co-ordinator) OR write/send forms:

principal1btc@gmail.com; viceprincipalbtc@gmail.com

***Look out for its Postgraduate programs in the next academic year.



Clark Theological College

Academic Programs & Certificate Course

MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM

CTC offers two years postgraduate degrees in the following theological disciplines:

- * Christian Ministry (Education & Counseling)
- * (Christian) Communication
- * Christian Theology
- * Christian Ethics

Entrance Exam
May 11 & 12, 2021
(Tues & Wed)

Admission Requirements

- Passed BD and equivalent with overall minimum grade of B-(52.5%) and B (57.5% and above) in cluster/branch.
- For Christian Theology, (Greek/Hebrew/Other biblical language/s) with B grade (57.5% and above) is a pre-requisite.

BACHELOR OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

Bachelor of Divinity (BD) is the primary degree offered at CTC. Potential students may choose any of the options:

- * BD 5 years after 10+2 education .
- * BD 4 years after BA and above and for a mature candidate who has 5yrs ministry experience after basic theological education (subject to passing qualifying exams conducted by SSC).
- * BD 2/3 years for BTh graduates (A lateral entry program to BD after SSC BTh).

Entrance Exam
May 11 & 12, 2021
(Tues & Wed)
&
June 24 & 25, 2021
(Thurs & Fri)

N.B—CTC is a center of examination for DMin, BCS & MCS (External studies with SSC).

- ♦ CTC also offers leadership development course to the BD graduating students in collaboration with Global LEAD Alliance.

For Application forms and other inquiries related to academic programs please contact the following:

Academic Dean, Rev. Dr. A. Tenjen Jamir: +91-9402831514/ctcaacademic@gmail.com
Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Rev. Dr. K. Dhanbir Rai: +91-9862882888/dhanbir_rai@yahoo.com
Principal, Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener: +91-9402695009 /ctcprin@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE IN CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide Church workers and music ministers with a strong basic musical foundation and leadership skills so that they will be equipped to serve God in the field of Church music.

NATURE OF STUDIES

- ◊ Residential full time learner
- ◊ Full-fledged student of Clark Theological College
- ◊ Participate in all activities of CTC
- ◊ Join CTC choir
- ◊ Fulfill all course requirements
- ◊ Abide by all rules and regulations of CTC

COURSES OFFERED

The certificate course will offer basics in the following subjects:
 ⇒ Church Music
 ⇒ Music Theory
 ⇒ Conducting
 ⇒ Voice
 ⇒ Piano hymn-playing
 ⇒ Cantorship
 ⇒ Music Composition
 ⇒ Choir Organisation

Contact:
 9402695009 (Principal)
 7005362825 (Music Teacher)
 E-mail: ctcprin@gmail.com

Eligibility:

Working knowledge of English; Sing in pitch and sense rhythm ; Commitment to serve in the Church

COURSE DURATION
 6 MONTHS (OCTOBER - APRIL)

Harding Theological College Edenbari Tura

The main degree program Harding Theological College offers currently is Bachelor of Divinity (BD) both 4years and 5years residential program under Senate of Serampore. Along with B D program we offer Bachelor of Christian Studies (BCS) for the last four years.

It is very exciting to understand the 'Will of God' in the ministry God has given to our college under Garo Baptist Convention. We can see growth of the ministry from the graphic raise shown below in the table. I consider this ministry will remain a legacy in the History of Council of Baptist Churches in North East India and Garo Baptist Convention in particular.

New Student Enrolment Table

Sl No	Year	Gents	Ladies	Outside of State	Within State	Denominational representation	Total
1	2015	20	5	2	23	2	25
2	2016	25	12	9	28	3	37
3	2017	16	16	5	27	4	32
4	2018	40	25	9	56	4	65
5	2019	44	17	8	53	4	61
6	2020	33	22	8	47	3	55
7	2021	28	11	8	31	3	39

BCS Students

Sl No	Year	Gents	Ladies		Total
1	2017	8	10		18
2	2018	13	3		16
3	2019	6	4		10
4	2020	10	2		12
5	2021	7	1		8
				Total	64

New Programs

a) Master of Theology: The college is planning to offer Master Program from 2022 June academic years. This proposal has been approved by Garo Baptist Convention and College Governing Board. We are targeting to offer in three theological disciplines such as (a) New Testament (b) History of Christianity (c) Counselling & Christian Ministry.

b) Research Centre on Matrilineal Study: The College is contemplating to institute Matrilineal Study Centre and enrol students those who are willing to do research specifically on matrilineal society. This program will facilitate International Students, National students and Regional students to learn more about matrilineal society and its philosophy. The program will link with Tribal Research Centre at Babadam West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

c) D. Min Exam Centre: The College is one of the Exam Centre for D.Min program and through the Exam centre the college will coordinate with Senate of Serampore to run the course in our region. This program aims to promote leadership and skill development for church ministers with research standard and with theological recognised degrees.

Faculty of the College

The greatest college project is the faculty development at the moment. Within few years' time we have produced three faculties with doctorate and another six have joined for the doctoral studies. We are thankful to God for His mercy and His grace showered upon us.

Thankfully faculty council is represented with six ladies and ten gentlemen in the college. I am grateful to all our humbled faculty members and praising our Almighty for blessing us all committed staffs.

Faculty List

Sl No	Name	Sex	Position	Qualification	Subject
1.	Dr. Imnanungshi Imsong	Male	Principal	D.Th	New Testament
2.	Rev. Dr. Namseng R Marak	Male	Academic Dean	Ph.D	Education
3.	Rev. Krusbelt G Momin	Male	Core	M.Th	Social Analysis
4.	Rev. Lalmingthangi C Marak	Female	Core	M.Th	Old Testament
5.	Rev. Dr. Chakme Ch Marak	Female	BCS Dean	D.Th	History of Christianity
6.	Rev. Dr. Lima Longkumer	Male	M.Th Dean	D.Th	New Testament
7.	Rev. Rinje N Sangma	Female	Core	Doctoral study	New Testament
8.	Mr. Aosunep Imsong	Male	Core	M.Th	Religions
9.	Ms. Cardina R Marak	Female	Core	Doctoral Study	Religions
10.	Mrs. Kilangsangla Longchar	Female	Core	M.Th	Women Study
11.	Mr. Anirban K Marak	Male	Core	Doctoral Study	Communication
12.	Mr. Fellestone B Marak	Male	Core	Doctoral Study	Old Testament
13.	Mr. John Stallion Ch Marak	Male	Core	Doctoral Study	Theology
14.	Mr. Gordon Sangma	Male	Core	Doctoral Study	Theology
15.	Rev. Krickwin Ch Marak	Male	Sup.Ant	M.Th	Missiology
16.	Ms. Xene M Sangma	Female	Prt Tm	M A	English

Staff Position

The college has two library staffs, two office staffs and seven groundstaffs. With the new program introducing more full time and part time staff will be recruited.

Harding Universal Trust: The Garo Baptist Convention has given responsibility to manage the college with a Registered Trust in 2014. Now as the Trust is Registered under Indian Trust Act 1882, the Trust is granted permission to conduct various training programs and obtained permission to receive help for public charitable ministry. With the formation of the Trust, we are organising several training programs focussing on Skill and Livelihood promotion. The Trust is able to partner with all likeminded non-Governmental organisation and Governmental establishments. This is another innovative initiative for the college to

Baptist News

impart theological education in wholeness.

End Words

On behalf of the Harding Theological College, I thank our General secretary CBCNEI Rev Dr Akheto Sema for this opportunity to share brief report of our college. We are so thankful to International Ministry (IM) for supporting our project all the time we needed your helping hand. In fact, Harding Theological College has direct connection with Baptist International Ministry as the founder Principal was Rev Dr Frederic William Harding, one of the missionaries of American Baptist Mission from 1919. I fondly remember meeting our Director IM couple of time in two important occasions. He was always positive towards funding many of our projects. We thank God for our Baptist leaders worldwide as they sacrifice their lives to build the kingdom of God on the earth. All Glory be to our Almighty God.

Reported by

Dr Imnanungshi Imsong
Principal HTC Tura

ORIENTAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Programs of Studies

Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) is a graduate institution of higher learning and is committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ, academic excellence, and ministry formation. The vision of OTS is to nurture Christian leaders for postmodern as well as developing contexts towards intellectual proficiency, theological coherence, spiritual maturity, and practical efficiency.

OTS focuses on the various gifts of students for Christian ministry that await development and direction by striving to fulfill their aspirations and envisaging their varied callings to be pastors, missional leaders, educators, counselors, community organizers, and social activists. OTS is committed to equip students with academic and professional skills while instilling in them a deep conviction of who they are as disciples of Jesus Christ as they prepare to minister in a complex world.

OTS, since its establishment in 1991 by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), has conducted 25 commencements with over 500 graduates in its list. OTS is located 20 kms South-west of Dimapur, Nagaland in a lush green space covering an area of 70.5 acres of land, generously donated by the inhabitants of Bade village.

MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDiv): The MDiv degree is designed for academic competency and professional ministry. The MDiv program is tailored for students with a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized college/university. The program is accredited by Asia Theological Association (ATA). This program ensures that students develop skills in preaching, teaching, church administration, leading worship, counseling, and community services, which will effectively assist in the communication and implementation of the gospel. Students get to involve in the systematic study of scripture and theology while being

exposed to the current theological issues and positions of the day, with the goal of equipping to think independently and constructively in the areas vital to ministry.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL COUNSELING (MACC):

The MACC is a two-year full-time program that aims to prepare theoretically proficient, clinically skilled, and compassionate mental health practitioners. This program is offered to students with a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized college/university. Students will be trained and nurtured within a supportive Christian environment for the development of the whole person – spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and relationally. This program is unique in its emphasis on an integrative approach and the practice of clinical counseling using the multiple lens of psychology, theology, and Christian faith-based practices, preparing students to interact with and work in the mental health field while maintaining a Christian worldview.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY (MTh): The MTh is a two to four-year study-research program for students who have earned a BD/MDiv degree from a recognized institution to broaden and deepen their theological knowledge and to sharpen their critical-analytical skills through advanced research. This goal is achieved by providing the students the opportunity to take advanced courses in areas previously undertaken and courses that would help them in their preferred field of ministry. The program allows students to become conversant and competent in developing their methodological framework and specialize in their area of interest. The MTh program is a joint initiative of Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) and Shalom Bible Seminary (SBS). The consortium of OTS and SBS for the MTh program is run by the Asia Graduate School of Theology-North East India (AGST-NEI) under the aegis of Asia Theological Association (ATA). The MTh degree is offered in the areas of Christian Ethics, Christian History, Christian Theology, and Practical Theology.

For more information about OTS or to apply online, visit:
www.otsnagaland.edu.in

Trinity Theological College Thahekhu, Dimapur

Brief report of the college during the last and current Academic year.

As reported by Principal, TTC

Trinity Theological College is the prime educational project of the “Sumi Baptist Convention” (SBAK, SABAK, and WSBK) consisting of about 350 Baptist churches. The college was established in 1992 with a theme “**Discipling the Disciples**”. The college campus is located at Thahekhu, Dimapur spread across 30 acres of land. The college offers B.D. and M.Th. in 3 departments (Old Testament, New Testament and primal religion from 2021 academic session). We hope to start more departments in M.Th. level and God willing we should be able to start research program in another 5 to 10 years. The faculty development is going on well, presently we have 5 doctorates, while 3 are awaiting their Doctoral result (rejoined the college after completing their residential studies) and 3 more are on doctoral studies. We are grateful to CBCNEI for the scholarship granted towards faculty development. We are looking forward and preparing to upgrade all M.Th. faculty to doctorate in theology in another 5 years.

Another exceptional initiative of TTC is the offering of Music diploma along with the B.D. degree with 2 full time qualified music lecturer specialized in theory, conducting and piano. The interested qualified students are awarded diploma in Music certificate (4 years course) on graduation.

Students enrolment and admission

The total enrolment of the student for **2020-2021 academic session is 296 (B.D. 292 and 4 M.Th.)**. Application form for the next academic session for B.D. and M.Th. is still under process. The last date for submission is **31st March 2021** and the entrance test is to be conducted on **9th April 2021**. There will be second phase of admission

process subject to the availability of seat from the first selection test. Application form can be collected from the office or download from the College website: **www.ttcedu.org**

Change of Academic Dean and appointment

Dr. Akatoli Chishi has been appointed as the new Academic Dean with effect from 1st August 2020 in place of Dr. Zakali Shohe while Dr. Imsu Longchar has been newly appointed as the Dean for higher studies.

Financial Position

TTC strives to become a fully self reliance institution with careful financial planning and resources. In response to the Covid 19 pandemic crisis the college has reduced student's fees by about 30% for the current academic session. However, the deficit amount towards faculty and staff salary has been augmented for the college reserved fund. There are 36 employees of TTC (17 faculties, 6 clerical staff, and 13 supporting staff).

Development during the last and current academic sessions

1. The college auditorium project with a sitting capacity of about 1000 has been completed within a year of commencement of work. This multipurpose college auditorium will be used as self reliance project for all social and religious gatherings (Associations related programs, conferences, seminars, weddings etc.)
2. Girls hostel extension for M.Th. students completed with partial help from Sumi Baptist Church Kohima (designated as 75th SBCK jubilee memorial hostel)
3. A Staff quarter 2 storied RCC building has been constructed and occupied from the college resources
4. The college chapel hall has been renovated from the tithes and offering from the college community.
5. Principal's quarter and college campus road black topping (repairing and extension) works are going on.



Shalom Bible Seminary, Kohima, Nagaland

Shalom Bible Seminary was started on October 8, 1996 by the Angami Baptist Church Council (ABCC) with 15 students (13 girls and 2 boys) for the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) program. This year, Shalom is celebrating its 25th year of humble training and equipping of God's ministers. The total student strength now stands at 202 (104 boys and 98 girls) with students from all the North East States, and mainland India. We offer the following programs:

- (1) Bachelor of Theology (BTh)
- (2) Master of Divinity, MDiv (*General*)
- (3) Master of Divinity (MDiv) in
 - (a) *Youth Ministry & Family*
 - (b) *Pastoral Leadership*
 - (c) *Biblical Studies*
- (4) Master of Theology (MTh) in *Practical Theology* being offered under the aegis of the Asia Graduate School of Theology, North East India (AGST-NEI) in consortium with Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS), Bade, Dimapur.

All of Shalom's programs come under the purview of Asia Theological Association (ATA)

For queries: www.shalomnagaland.org

Contact #

Principal – 9862022737

Academic Dean – 8259949905

Post Graduate Dean - 8730036638

Last date of submission of forms: April 1, 2021

Entrance Exam: April 9, 2021. Session to begin: July 6, 2021

The Manipur Theological College

(Affiliated to Senate of Serampore College)
Mission Compound Kangpokpi, Manipur.

As reported by Rev. Dr. Letkhothang Haokip, Principal

Brief Report (2020-2021)

- The Academic Session: The 1st Semester of the new academic session 2020-21 began with online classes from 2nd week of July, 2020 and the 2nd Semester begins with off-line classes from 8th January 2021. This academic year, 34 new students including 6 girls and seven M. Th. (MLCU) students joined the College and now the total number of the students is 107. There are 14 (fourteen) faculty members including one visiting lecturer. The College is offering M.Th. in the Department of Theology and Ministry and this is done in collaboration with Martin Luther Christian University, Shillings, Meghalaya.
- Students' scholarship: By the grace of God this year we have received good amount of money from the Churches and well wishers in order to help the needy students of the college. We have received a sum of Rs.10, 000/- (Ten thousand) from Kangpokpi Mission Chapel, Rs.1, 00, 000/- (One lakh) from Singapore, Rs.50,000/- (fifty thousand) from CBCNEI.
- Lecturer on Study leave: Rev. Alfred Chiru is on study leave doing his Doctor of Theology in Church History at United Theological College Bangalore. He has successfully completed three years residential period. Now as he applied for study Leave extension, the Board has accepted his application and gave one more year

extension. He is joining the College from coming June, 2021 onwards.

ADMISSION NOTICE:

- Courses offer: BD/M.Div and M. Th.
- Eligibility for Admission
 - a. 10+2 for BD five years
 - b. Graduate & above for BD four years
 - c. Senate B.Th II class & Above for BD two years
 - d. Senate B.Th III Class for BD three year
 - e. Graduate for M.Div three year
 - f. ATA B grade & above for M.Div. Two years
 - g. ATA B grade & above for M.Th two years
- ENTRANCE TEST: On 4th June 2021 on the following subjects
 - a. Biblical Knowledge
 - b. English (Basic)
 - c. General knowledge (GK)
- Application forms and Prospectus can be collected from
 - a. MBC Office: 4414994633
 - b. MTC Office: 8732020583
 - c. www.mtcedu.in
 - d. mtckangpokpi@gmail.com

Last Date of form submission: 31st May, 2021



Witter Theological College

Witter Theological College as named after Dr. William Ellsworth Witter (1885-1888), the first official Educational Missionary to Lotha Nagas, is located in the hillock of Vankhosung under Wokha District, Nagaland.

The need for the Lothas to have a Bible School was envisioned by Rev. Megusiezo Angami and thus motivated the American Missionaries. Therefore, in 1946 Rev. J.E. Tenguist deputed him from Kohima to supervise the establishment of the Bible School at LBCA Mission Centre Vankhosung in coordination with Rev. Zanao Yanthan, offering Two-Year Course in Lotha Naga language as the medium of instruction till 1990.

In the year 1991, Vankhosung Bible School was upgraded to a Three-Year Diploma in Theology Course and was renamed after Dr. W.E. Witter with English as the medium of instruction. Later, the Institute was upgraded to a Full-fledged Degree Course offering a Five-Year Bachelor of Theology.

The College was further strengthened as:

- The Higher Education Department, Government of India Recognized in 2008.
- The NBCC voted to accord Permanent Recognition in 2015.
- The Senate of Serampore College/University granted Full Affiliation in 2016.
- The Senate of Serampore College/University also Grant the provision to offer Bachelor in Christian Studies (BCS) and Diploma in Christian Studies (Dip.Cs) course in 2017.
- The Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) granted Full Affiliation in 2017

Witter Theological College is committed to maintain a community of faculty, staff, and students recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of each individual as being created in the image of God. It aims to create a transformed life as we mould individuals who would bring

transformable changes to Society, the Church and the World. The mission of WTC is to train leaders as Godly and vibrant leaders to serve as transforming agents to the Church and Society.

The College has undergone several phases of progress and development offering diploma courses, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Divinity through Vernacular to English medium. It has catered to the needs of the local congregation for decades. At present, the college offers five-year Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) programme for 10+2 candidates and four year for Graduate of any recognize university. It also offers Extension Course i.e., Bachelor of Christian Studies (B.C.S.) and Diploma in Christian Studies (Dip. C.S) under Senate of Serampore. The minimum duration of study under this scheme is 3 years and 2 years respectively.

With the fund received from EMW Germany in July 2020, the College Library has been upgraded with more books, computer facilities, spacious and well-furnished reading hall, furnished furniture, uninterrupted online UPS /electricity etc.

As the College engages in equipping the young people through the ministry of Theological Education and Ministerial Formation, we invite one and all to be part of this venture.

Important Events:

Foundation Day	: 1 st February.
Intensive Practical Ministry	: April/May.
New Academic Session	: June/July.
College Prayer Day	: First Sunday of August.
B.D Entrance Exam for 2021-2022	: June 24-25, 2021.

Sincerely,

(DR. MOANUNGSANG)
Principal
Witter Theological College, Wokha

WORDS OF EXHORTATION ON THE FEAR OF THE LORD

**“The Fear of the Lord is the gate way to life”
(Ref: Psalms 112 & 128)**

Rev Prof Akheto Sema, General Secretary, CBCNEI

In the past, our parents and elders (including Pastors) had these words to tell us right at our face: “Young man (woman), have the fear of God in your life. It will do you good. You will prosper. You will have a long life.” Indeed, this precious advice which cannot be bought with money, wealth and formal education. This is an informal education passed through our elders and parents who out of their experiences freely taught us one of the greatest advices on the fear of the Lord.

These days we don’t hear much about such teaching on the fear of the Lord. We intentionally avoid it or shy away to utter these words! We are so occupied or busy in our own world and have failed to teach our younger generation this important teaching. Nominalism and liberalism have come into our lives and as a result, real fear of God is given less attention and way below our list of priorities. This is a sorry state of affair in our churches and in Christian life.

There are different kinds of fear. Fear of rejection; fear of losing reputation; job; fear of physical harm, sickness- fear of what’s going to happen, fear of certain things called ‘phobias’, fear of the future and change, bad news, financial fears and many other fears which are very natural, normal and we all go through in life.

There is another kind of ‘fear’, that is, ‘the fear of God’ or the ‘fear of the Lord’. The Bible has so much of references on the ‘fear of the Lord.’

In the Bible, the word 'fear' has to do with Holy fear to worship Him, Godly fear, to obey, to love Him, to give reverence to God, to give due respect, devotion to God-to honour God, awesome fear of God. To fear God means, to do His will and allow Him to fulfil His purpose in our lives.

And as God's children, created by Him, we are to fear Him always. Men, women and children of God must have the fear of God. It is required of us to fear, to give our allegiance, give reverence to this Holy and awesome God.

In fact, it is mandatory to fear Him at all times. In the Old Testament, it was mandatory for the Hebrew family, the parents to teach the children to fear the Lord.

Let me start citing few life examples of God's people who had the fear of the Lord in their lives and became great and mighty people used by God. Abraham was called 'a friend of God' whose descendant became a nation. Joseph, a Hebrew, who became a great ruler in Egypt, forgave his brothers who sold him to slave traders, did not yield to temptation from Potiphar's wife because he had the fear of the Lord. King David had the fear of the Lord and as a result: Killed a lion, Goliath, the giant, did not take revenge on king Saul Committed adultery but realized it quickly its consequences and repented. The same King David, out of his experiences in life wrote. "Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him..." in Ps.85:9 and in Ps. 103:17 he wrote "The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him".

Yes, the "fear of the Lord" is surely a "pathfinder", a guide, a sure step towards life in abundance. The 'fear of the Lord' leads to prosperity. It leads towards receiving God's faithfulness in our lives. It gives us hope. Receive all God's promises. From the Biblical perspective, this is what I call 'the end result of fearing the Lord'.

Now, does it make any sense to us today? What are the lessons we learn from these people of God who had the 'fear of the Lord'? Does it apply to my life and your life too? The teachings from the Bible on the

whole issue of ‘fearing the Lord’ without doubt, is clear. Let us apply it in our lives. Remember that, the Lord, God has assured us to bless us if we have the fear of Him. Rest assured of that.

The important teaching on the result-oriented ‘fear of the Lord’ are applicable in our lives, in our family, in our church and in our work places. Today as Christian Govt. servants, bureaucrats, leaders in our society, students and responsible men and women in general are encouraged to have the fear of God if we want to see change.

The fear of the Lord will lead to integrity in one’s life. In Proverbs 8:13, “to fear the Lord is to hate evil: I hate pride and arrogance, evil ways and false words”. Men and women of integrity will hate and avoid what is evil or wrong. Through one’s life in terms of conduct, life-style, words and actions and character we are to reflect integrity.

In today’s context/society, things are so different. We have failed to distinguish what is black and what is white. What is right from wrong?

The excuse we take is: ‘this is the system’ and as a result moral and ethical issues are not taken seriously. Integrity is compromised! But if we have the fear of the Lord, integrity on right attitude, right conduct, strong godly character to the extent of emulating Christ-like character, right perspective, positive outlook, right worldview will result to change and make an impact.

One of my favourite Bible verses is Proverbs 22:4: “Fear the Lord and be humble and you will have riches, honour and a long life”. This is a strong statement of God’s promises to those who fear the Lord. This verse has a connotation on prosperity theology but it does not matter as long as the promise hold true in our lives.

Proverbs 19:23 also says, “Fear the Lord and you will live a long life, content and safe from harm”. We all want ‘good life’ which includes wealth, riches, good health, long life, honour & respect. This is very human but it comes from God.

Beside riches and long life, we need ‘honour, respect’ but we don’t buy respect and honour with money, we get it by our good works. We

gain respect through our works in the offices by being a sincere officer, a performing officer, there is sign of change in your work place, you ‘walk the talk’ – you get respect. More so, if you are God-fearing person, you gain extra points – more respect. You honour God sincerely and truly; He will help us live a life of honour and respect. Live a fulfilling life as student by fearing the Lord. There is future for you.

Let us be reminded again about the fear of God and its benefit. Someone said, never become so ‘familiar’ with God that you lose your reverence or the fear for Him’. This is the status of Christian life today. We have taken for granted that even without fear of God we are okay. We have ignored the real meaning & purpose of fearing the Lord. But, by fearing God rightly, we can live wisely in an uncertain world today. Fear God, and you will have nothing else to fear. It will help you in all your undertakings. The fear of the Lord is the key to His blessings. Fear Him. Walk in His ways and receive His blessings.



Lewis Memorial (LM) Student's Ministry

As reported by M. Talimoa Ao, Chaplain

Greetings from Lewis Memorial Student's Ministry to all the readers. As we all know that the year 2020 was a horrific year due to covid-19 pandemic. And therefore all the colleges and the Institutions were closed down, and the students continued their learning only thro' online system from home. Thus, in such a desperate situation, LM year 2020 academic session was more on survival. and unlike the past years could not have normal activities. However, now with the improvement of covid-19 situation presently there are 42 students , and gradually coming back to normal life with limited program and activities. Hopefully we are expecting better days and have more students and do greater ministry during 2021-22 academic session.

ACCADEMIC STATUS : 2020

- HS : 05
- BA : 13
- B com : 04
- Bsc : 01
- BCA : 02
- Coaching students : 12
- LLB : 04
- Ph.D : 01

STUDENTS COMMUNITY - WISE:

Sumi 02	Nyshi 02	Chakesang 01	Mishimi 01	Ao 08	
Kuki 04	Bodo 02	Thangkhul 01	Chiru 01	Paite 01	
Lamkang 01	Garos 01	Phom 02		Vaiphei 02	Meitei 01
Hrangkhul 02		Assamese 01	Poumai 01	Maram 01	
Liangmai 01					

2021 UPCOMING PROGRAM

- Fresher's Social
- Retreat/Seminar
- Sports week

Lastly but not the least, I express my thanks to CBCNEI Office on behalf of all the 5 students of LM hostel for granting scholarship a sum of Rs 30000/- each. Continue to pray and support L M student's Ministry for God's glory.



WHITE MEMORIAL Student Ministry

As reported by Mrs Neisewheno Siria, Chaplain

Greetings from White Memorial Ministry family to all in the name of our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ. I praise God for blessing us with a chance to begin another life with new hope and vision. Once life seems to be so uncertain in the midst of this Covid 19. We were disturbed but our good God comforted us by keeping us in His save hand supplying all our needs. Those were the days and months God intervened by giving us a heart to worship and to remember His unfailing love. Thank God for sparing our lives and granting us new hope and future to go forward once again.

Enrolments:

As an aftermath of the pandemic, the new academic session begins very reluctantly with very few new students and new admission is way below the mark till now as compared to previous years. Course wise breakup of students at present:

BA LLB: 04 | B.Sc: 04 | BA: 03 | BBA: 01 | B.Ed: 01 | MA: 01

SSC Coaching: 01 | SCH Nursing: 04

Out of the above boarders, 6 (six) of them will be graduating in 2021. The final year students will complete their courses somewhere in August or September 2021.

Yearly Activities:

- Games and Sports – Combine Games and Sports with L.M. Student Ministry somewhere in Oct/Nov.
- Social Work – Once in a month, daily Roll call, Vesper etc.

Spiritual Activities:

Every Monday boarders were given privilege to take part in sharing the word of God. We give more times on Wednesday in memorizing

Bible verses. Friday evening we learned hymns and Bible study. Sunday evening is our time of devotion where students present special items like special songs, choreography, testimony etc. Apart from this, we also encouraged boarders to join their community fellowship and take part which does not coincide with our Sunday devotion timing.

Tentative Year Plan:

- 4th Dec. 2021 Saturday Advent Christmas Celebration
- 12th & 13th Nov. 2021 Games & Sports

Donation:

The pandemic has brought a drastic change in the functioning of the hostel, especially in financial matter. The situation has become a tight corner. However, in our difficult times God always shower His mercy upon us. From the very beginning of its inception, W. M. Ministry has been in existence by donations of cheerful givers. Till today the same trend persists and it's our hope and prayer that it continues in days to come. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all friends those who help us in different ways during the year 2020 – 2021.

1. BWFNEI (Rs.50,000/-)
2. Mrs. Phutoli Changmak (Rs.10,000/-)
3. Ms. Iito Zhimo (2 nos. of big gas stove/burner, Hot Casserole, Tea Can)
4. Pastor Peter Thong & family, Guwahati (1 fan)
5. Kahilipara Baptist Church, Guwahati (2 Fans)
6. Assam Baptist Convention (Women Dept.) – Rs. 21,000/-
7. Mr. Rakhikanta (Imphal, MBC) 2 fans – Rs. 3400/-
8. Mr. Vanboi Lanu Aimol (Imphal, MBC) 1 fan – Rs. 1800/-

Once again I humbly request all our respected members to continue to pray for the WM Hostel ministry, so that it can continue to serve God's children in this city.

Picture Gallery



"Ending Bible Poverty," CBCNEI Mission Department in partnership with Youth with a Mission (March 25)



"School of Peace" - A peace education training programme of India Peace Centre with CBCNEI and NCCI (March 23 - 25)



Medical Board Meeting (April 13)

Centenary Celebration: Kangpokpi Christian Hospital



Unveiling of the memorial stone



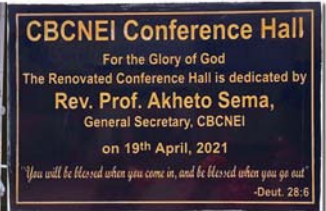
Rev Prof Akheto Sema, General Secretary, CBCNEI inaugurating the Centenary Guest House, Kangpokpi Christian Hospital



Dr Bamin Tada addressing the congregation (left). Foundation Stone laid by Shri Losii Dikho, Hon'ble Minister, PHED (right)

Renovated CBCNEI Conference Hall

Through the donations received from individuals, families, churches and associations



Picture Gallery



Rev Prof Akheto Sema, General Secretary ordaining Abhijit Pegu, General Secretary, Mising Baptist Kebang (February 14)



Collaborative effort of CBCNEI Mission Department and Assam Baptist Convention for reaching out along with ministry partners (February 18)



Adv Malthus D Sangma, Secretary for Justice & Peace during the Leadership Seminar at Bibagre Baptist Church, Chokpot, Meghalaya (March 12 - 14)

Shillong Tyrannus Hall (STH)

as reported by Dr Kansinlung Kamei, Chaplain

I bring warm Christian greetings from STH Shillong, CBCNEI student's ministry. We praise God for helping and protecting us during the days of pandemic caused by novel corona virus. This tiny virus has shaken the whole world. This virus has not only affected the physical health of the people but also affected them psychologically. Fear has gripped many, fear of being affected, fear of losing one's life' fear of losing loved one and undoubtedly it has also affected the economy of the nations. 2020 has been the most dreaded year of our lifetime; the year that surprised us like no other year! We were under the grip of Covid 19 directly or indirectly with all the challenges and difficulties. We were tested on many fronts; our emotions took a toll and we were compelled to go on our knees more often than not. Due to this pandemic our academic calendar is delayed, admission to higher studies postponed, our boys have been in Holidays for 10 months without physical fellowship. But our Lord has delivered us from death, our eyes from tears and our feet from stumbling. Praise be unto God that slowly everything has restored back to normalcy. It was both a sad year but also an eye opener to God's sovereignty, His power, his plan and purpose for us.

After a long break of silence our students have come back to the hostel by the last week of January, 2021 and they have resume their daily activities and regular classes. This academic year we have 42 boys (out of which 30 of them are Old and 12 are new comers) from 20 different ethnic communities. Not like other hostels, STH is unique for

its unity and diversities. We have students from various cultural, ethnic, linguistic backgrounds and these features enrich the community life. This academic year two higher secondary students will be completing their PU and 14 students will be graduating from various streams from our hostel. And 16 seats will be vacant for admission in STH for the next academic year 2021- 2022.

MINISTRY EVENTS:

1. STH annual day of prayer was organised on the 20th of Feb. 2021.
2. One day retreat program was organised on the 3rd March, 2021.
3. Outreach/ Mission trip for the final year students to be organised in the month of May, 2021.

GENERAL AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. General Elections for the STH student's leaders were held on 27th Feb. 2021.
2. Fresher's day, was held on the 11th of March, 2021.
3. STH Sports meet, to be held on the 12th – 13th of April, 2021.
4. Annual outing for the student to be organised in the month of May 2021.





Greetings to CBCNEI from APBF.

Few months ago, I sent out a letter to the conventions mentioning about a generation ago when Asia and the Pacific heavily relied on the activities of missionaries from the West to bring the gospel to our region. 200 years or more have passed now and you will find the mission perspectives in Asia and Pacific region are changing rapidly.

The number of missionaries from the West has declined, and with the decrease of missionaries from Western countries it is imperative that believers from our region must capture the heart of God and pursue His mission in our region. It is in this reality that many Churches who are now most ably resourced must use the strength of our congregation extensively for the expansion of the gospel not only in our region but even beyond.

What does CBCNEI hold? The strength in numbers and an indomitable passion.

Look at our present churches who have grown from 3-5 believers to thousands of believers now. We praise God for sending missionaries like William Carey to our land. They have toiled in the Great Commission with commitment that calls us to ask ourselves what we can do and how we can continue this work of the gospel Jesus preached?

2021 and beyond, it is indeed our time and we must not lose this opportunity that God has given to make the most of it. What a powerful force we can become if we work together in this grand journey God has placed His trust upon us. This challenge is in our midst. What are we going to do about it?

The global vision for each Baptists is to obey Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations by participating, as part of the global church, in sharing the gospel with every culture and every people. As a frontal organization amongst the Baptist in the North East, the Council of Baptist Churches in the North East of India is placed in a regional capacity to activate, connect and collaborate our Baptist churches for the mission work in our region.

What a privilege it is as Asia Pacific Baptist Federation to work in partnership in this great work of God. Our journey together has been most meaningful. Our task together as Baptists body has given us the opportunity to leverage with our churches and conventions. Given the history of 200 growth, may God find us faithful. May God help us to do our best in the task of the fulfilment of the Great Commission during our lifetime.

Sincerely in Christ,

Vesekhoy Tetseo (Vee), Th.D
General Secretary
APBF

Pray for...

- √ the situation in Myanmar
- √ the global and regional partners of the Council
- √ Six conventions
- √ Associations and associate members
- √ CBCNEI Secretaries and Department heads
- √ Student Ministries
- √ North East Christian University
- √ Eastern Theological College



Looking at Missions with Fresh Eyes - Post-Pandemic:

Matthew 14:14-20¹

*Dr Sanyû Iralu, Principal
Shalom Bible Seminary, Kohima, Nagaland*

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic that has raged globally in 2020 has awakened us to the need for Christian ministry to be given a new facelift. Our covers have been blown in terms of the need for: (1) innovation (when the churches get locked down, how can pastors use technology to continue feeding their flocks?), (2) pointed spiritual teaching (when over-zealous Charismatics have taunted the sensible that God will take care of his own people and that we should not stop gathering in the churches), (3) recourse to online teaching (when our educational institutions like schools, colleges, seminaries cannot resume), and many more. The pandemic crisis has also exposed the less-than-appropriate armour of both the church and society, and has sensitized us for the spiritual battles that are raging in our midst even today, and many more that will confront us in times to come. In other words, it is very appropriate for us to ask whether our churches have properly geared up to tackle the manifold challenges affecting us today, or will affect us in the days to come.

The Literary Context:

In analyzing any passage in the Bible, it is profitable to look at the literary context.² We want to quickly look at the preceding passage (Mat. 14:1-12). This passage records the contrasting account of a ruler, Herod Antipas who organized a birthday party attended by the rich, and the mighty in position (Mk. 6:21). Herod was the big boss that day; he was hosting a big party, feeding lots of people (like Jesus did in the next passage). At such parties, wine is normally drunk a lot. In such

merry-making, the mind can become confused. Most certainly, in a drunken stupor, Herod made a terribly wrong decision. The details are shocking. Whereas he held John the Baptist in awe (Mk. 6:20), Herod had him beheaded. History tells us that later on, Herod was divested of his position and exiled.

John's disciples buried his body and went and told Jesus.³ When Jesus heard it, he probably felt sad to hear about his cousin's ignoble death. Perhaps, he even reflected on the previous unwelcoming gestures from his own village folks (Mat. 13:54-58), also his impending death on the cross (Mat. 16:21). A lot could have been on Jesus' mind. With all these troubles and sadness on his mind, Jesus went to a solitary place wanting to rest, pray and meditate. But because he had become quite famous, the crowds probably came searching for him. Jesus could have run away. But when confronted with the need from the crowds, Jesus responded very well. Amidst the sad backdrop, Jesus kept his cool, and responded correctly.

What about the church today? Despite the raging pandemic and the confusion all around us, have we been able to maintain a clear mind, and respond like the way Jesus did? Matthew 14:14 tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them and healed them. Most probably, Jesus also taught them about God's kingdom (Mk. 6:34): the teaching and the feeding all have a common objective – *to build the whole life of God's people.*

A. Jesus' Response to Crisis: A Reflection of the Church's Mission:

Jesus was moved with compassion (v. 34). The Greek word "*splanchnizomai*" means "to take pity/have compassion" and denotes a "restlessness" in Jesus at the sight of the needy that moves him to action. Many times, we are apathetic to the pain and suffering all around us. We need to be more pro-active. *If we want to involve effectively in the mission of Jesus, we must emulate his approach, or his unique character traits. We must see the sights he saw that made him uncomfortable; feel the emotions he felt that made him restless;*

ask the questions he asked that prompted redemptive acts to happen; we must obey his bidding and do what he did.

1. Seeing (14a) and Feeling (14b) leads to Healing (14c): human needs met = satisfaction

Human beings have capacities to feel, unlike many other created things that do not have such qualities. Of course, what is inbuilt into us by God can be dulled by Satan that makes us selfish, apathetic and unfeeling many times. Jesus physically *saw* the great need around him, and his inner *feelings* were aroused for him to *act* with proper action. Have we looked with compassionate eyes upon the thousands of migrants waiting for trains and buses in India during the pandemonium-ridden 2020? Or, have we been moved only to criticize when some things don't work? We are all different, we react differently: but commonly, we need to train our emotions.

There are certain pastors who have understood the plight of their members who need spiritual teaching. So, they have circulated written sermons/audios/videos every Sunday for their members in 2020. Christians have mobilized counselling for the needy. Likewise, there are government officers with very sharp heads and keen minds who have ably swung into action. However, others have been clueless, frozen in their tracks. Church ministers have rightly been worried about their members unable to even hold family prayers, also about offerings/tithes not coming in. But they have been unable to respond appropriately. In essence, if we do not have the compassion of Jesus, no healing will reach those who need our help the most. If we want to involve in the mission of Jesus, we must learn to be empathetic – not just to see, but also to feel and to swing into action.

2. Hearing (15) and Feeling (16) leads to Feeding (20): human hunger sated = satisfaction

When it got dark and Jesus heard the anxiety of the disciples, Jesus' conscience was stirred to action. Jesus' reaction and posture could easily have been: "What you said makes sense - we are too far away from civilization: It is impossible to feed this many people." But after

hearing the negative vibes, Jesus felt that he could do something; it prompted him to take action. The mission of Jesus aided by a compassionate heart leads to meeting needs – here, feeding and satisfaction follows. If what the church is doing today during this extraordinary pandemic is meeting people’s deepest needs, then we are fulfilling Christ’s mission. For sure, we will also be better prepared for other worse crises in the days ahead.

B. Our Needed Response to Crisis: A Reflection of Jesus’ Strategy:

1. We need to be Resourceful if we want to bring Healing (14:17):

Previous to this passage, Jesus would reach out to help people in need. Here, too, he could simply do a similar thing. Instead, he rolls the ball into the disciples’ court. Perhaps, Jesus wanted to test them; he asks them to give food to the crowds. They *obey* him and go *searching*. Likewise, God could have been testing us during the pandemic to see how we would respond, positively, or negatively. Have our members been seeking for answers from us, and we have been trying to send them away? When we were unable to meet for worship, we felt we were being deprived of what is, and has been very normal for us to do. After all, we never expected the strange situation to happen. We were all caught by surprise. God has truly tested us. But many of us have been able to move on. We have been able to organize worship services through audio and video, also on U-tube, virtual choirs, webinars (women group members have exhorted among themselves from the Word of God). It is important to critique the government if they have come up short, and they have. But on our part, we also need to help wherever we can. Indeed, many churches, village groups, organizations have distributed free vegetables, stitched masks, even locally made PPEs.

2. We need an Enlargement of our Vision if we want to feed people Holistically (14:19): Jesus asked for the bread and fish to be brought to him. He blessed them, and gave them out to distribute. The disciples could have been pessimistic, but they did as they were told –

the miracle happens. Let us think of ourselves - the church, the body of Christ has so much potential, and yet we can get bogged down with the many challenges we see around us. Has God been asking us to help people in need, and have we been saying we have nothing? The little boy in John 6 is an insignificant person in Jewish eyes, but God used him. God can use the weakest, the seemingly least important. Think of the “variables” in the story: what if the boy with the lunch had not come that day (Jn. 6:9)? What if he had refused to part with his lunch? The story could have taken a different turn, then. Think also of the “constants”: God is powerful. Jesus is with us even today. We need to have responded in obedience despite our perplexity at the scale of the 2020 pandemic. When God blesses, the multiplication automatically follows. The seemingly small, little, meagre materials that got into Jesus’ hands, when blessed by God, got multiplied a hundred-fold. Remember, with God on our side, he is our “force multiplier”!

Conclusion:

As the church of Jesus Christ on earth, are there misconceptions that we need to clear from our heads? Are our priorities lined up correctly, or are we confused, and disoriented, still? Have we gauged a clear picture of the 2020 pandemic and responded correctly? What about giving towards the many needs that have surfaced around us? Amidst charges and counter charges being hurled all around us, can we manifest the sane voice and action that Jesus displayed in the passage here? Craig Keener aptly notes: “The disciples saw the size of the need and the littleness of the human resources available; Jesus saw the size of the need and the greatness of God’s resources available.”

(Endnotes)

¹ Read the same story in all the other three gospels (Mk. 6:30-44; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-15; cf. 2 Kgs.4:42-44).

² The literary context refers to any passage(s) that precedes or follows the passage in question.

³ Remember that John was Jesus’ first cousin (Lk. 1:36): John had also baptized Jesus (Mat. 3:13).



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMONG THE YOUTHS IN NAGALAND

Mr Yambemo Lotha, Lotha Baptist Church, Dimapur

INTRODUCTION: The impact of Covid-19 around the whole Globe has extremely shocked humanity. Reconstructing every aspect of human life situation would certainly cost immense critical analysis to resume normal life. To deal with this pandemic crisis, it is mandatory to look from different perspectives with various methodology or Empirical research. And to do this, it will take a long time to come to a solution of the problem. Moreover, Academic research and Practical approach are two key factors that should go hand in hand. The impact of Covid-19 has affected all sections of people in various ways. Therefore, to leave some may not bring justice but after having gone through it from my personal experience, let me concentrate on the youths of Nagaland as the most vulnerable group due to Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

1) YOUTH PROBLEMS:

Problem does not mean to say from just one perspective. Youths too have many problems but one of the greatest challenges faced by the youth is unemployment, whether educated or uneducated. It is a known fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has added more burden to the youths.

According to information collected from Employment Exchange Department Nagaland, every year about 30,000 educated youths are

registered in the office. To compare the fact, let me cite that the Dimapur District Planning and Development Board Meeting April 05, 2017 reported 21,301 youths had submitted applications for jobs in that year alone.

Another data that was collected from Covid-19 WAR ROOM is given below:

Name of District	No. of Returnees
Mon	1944
Dimapur	8629
Kiphiri	506
Kohima	1689
Longlen	222
Mokokchung	749
Peren	1504
Phek	733
Tuensang	1023
Wokha	622
Zunheboto	661
Grand Total	18,282

According to data that has been collected, it is not based on assumption but on reality. It is a very serious matter that every responsible agency whether it be Government, Non-Governmental Organisations or Civil Societies or Churches needs to address this issue at the right time and to the best ability to show concern in Action.

If we fail to take up this responsibility at the right time, it is imminent that we will face social unrest. Therefore, it is suggested to form a common platform for timely intervention.

Unemployment problem in Nagaland has been accumulating over the

years. So far, generally it is seen as a responsibility of the Government. The participation by other responsible agencies in this concern is seen to be very less, but unconcerned attitude towards this issue will amount to pandemic crisis in the state. Particularly, the Churches in Nagaland with lots of resources and majority being Christians in the land cannot be mere, silent spectators.

The Churches need to have a paradigm shift in Mission-Vision and to at least to have a Five- or Ten-years holistic mission strategy for the unemployed youths in Nagaland. It is indeed a wakeup call for all the faithful Church leaders.

2) PERSONAL EVIDENCE:

After the breakout of Corona Virus and from the first day of National lockdown due to Covid-19, as a frontline worker and member of the District Task Force Dimapur, I've been personally involved in various ways. Therefore, the outcome of my personal experience in this Covid-19 pandemic crisis made me to write a small booklet, *Empirical Evidences of Covid-19 Challenges* and the booklet was published in the year 2020 by Heritage Publishing House Dimapur. Due to space constraints, let me cite only a few personal evidences.

I. Service to the Stranded Returnees.

One fine morning as I was going through my Whatsapp, I saw a news that Six Naga boys coming from Kerala were stranded at one of the hotels in Dimapur and they were in a pathetic condition with no money to pay for food and hotel rent and they were asked to vacate from the hotel because of fear of Corona Virus by the Hotel Manager. Immediately, I checked their contact numbers and thereafter started enquiring about their condition and found out that they needed help. In fact, they did not seek any help from me, but out of concern I began to find ways and means for timely help. First of all, I informed the administrator and the officer in charge then allotted the Youth Hostel near Railway Colony, Dimapur. But the Administration could not arrange transportation for the youths to be transported from the Hotel to the Hostel. And moreover, due to the lockdown, no vehicles were allowed

to ply. So, I decided to drop them to the youth hostel, but at that point of time, I was not having any permit. Therefore, intentionally I pasted “On Quarantine Duty” on my vehicle and dropped the youths twice with my private vehicle from the hotel to youth hostel. I violated the Covid-19 SOP in the process as there was no option for me but to risk my life to help the stranded youths.

DROPPING THE RETURNEES AT THE QUARANTINE CENTRE



AND PRAYING AT THE TRAIN STATION

II. SERVICE AT THE QUARANTINE CENTRES:

The first experience at the Quarantine centre was at the youth hostel. Initially, I thought dropping the stranded boys at the Quarantine centre had completed my service. As usual, my Ministry to any person(s) would never stop until I was fully satisfied. So from time to time, I contacted Sister B. Awala Walling, the in-charge of Youth Hostel about

the status of the inmates. On the other side, I directly kept calling the boys and reminded them to inform me if any need arose. Hence, they informed me that one of the basic problems they faced was that they could not get proper sleep at night because of mosquitoes, since there was no fan. When I heard about their suffering, I immediately arranged one table fan for them. I thought the problem would end there but due to some changes in SOP, the inmates had to stay for a longer duration. Some of them stayed there for more than 40 days. So, psychologically and emotionally they were impatient about remaining there. They started complaining about not sending them home even after they were tested Covid-19 negative.

Naturally, this led to some behavioural problems at the quarantine centre. This was informed to me by the in-charge. So, I decided to visit them personally even though SOP does not permit that. During my visit I made them understand how the Government Administration was facing some technical difficulties to deal with the situation and further, I distributed Bibles to all of them and shared the word of God and through the Spirit of God, many young people committed their lives to God as their personal Saviour. It was such a great joy to see young people committing their lives to Christ at the Quarantine centre. After this, I regularly kept visiting with whatever possible way I could help and support them. After some days, when the new SOP was implemented by the State Government that they were permitted to go to their own districts and villages just to say goodbye, I met them at District Stadium Dimapur and handed them a small token for their journey and offered a prayer for them. All this was made possible by the grace of God.

This experience was just the beginning of my journey at the quarantine centres. With support from some likeminded friends, we could do ministry till the quarantine centres were functioning.



PRAYER FELLOWSHIP WITH INMATES AT QUARANTINE CENTRE

III. SERVICE TO THE RETURNEESS AT THE TRAIN STATION.

Since I am also a member in the Covid-19 Mess Committee and also a member of Dimapur Task Force, providing food and refreshment was a daily routine for us. At the beginning, I thought this responsibility was not worrisome .As we resumed our service at the Train Station for the returnees, the service became tougher day by day.

The first challenge was the train timing. All the returnee’s trains never arrived on time. Therefore, we had to wait three to four hours before the train arrived because the train arrival timing kept changing. Sometime we had to wait till the next morning.

The second challenge was to receive the returnees. During Covid-19, to travel from one destination to their Home Land they had to face extra difficulties. With lots of excitement and mixed feelings, they reached their destination. So it was imperative to receive them by thanking God and with a Word of Prayer.

Initially our expectation was that many Church leaders would be at the Train Station to receive them, but it is unfortunate to mention only a few countable Church Pastors were present. Hence, on many occasions I had to welcome them on behalf of Churches with a word of encouragement and prayer. Of course, I took this as a privilege to extend my service.

The third challenge was to assist the returnees for transportation from train station to quarantine centres. Since we had to follow SOP, it took 4 to 5 hours to complete some hundreds of them to re-board to quarantine centres.

This experience is not easy as I write. Practically speaking, not everybody can do this easily, unless we are truly committed to face this kind of challenge.

LOOKING BEYOND COVID-19 FOR YOUTHS IN NAGALAND

1. As mentioned earlier, the employment problem among the youths is becoming a Pandemic in Nagaland. Every concerned entity be it Government or Non-governmental organisations should be able to share equal responsibility to solve this problem without delay. Plan and Action implementation is the only solution to this problem.

ACTION-PLAN (A)

I don't claim nor ignore the inner revelation that I took up some Livelihood Project for the Youths in the village before the Nation-wide Lockdown. Through my initiative, eighteen of us Church leaders among the Lotha Naga in the first week of March 2020 formed a group to extend financial assistance to those who are unemployed and poor youths in villages for self employment project. The name of this project is "Service to the needy Youths". Members are Pastors, Women pastors, Youth Pastors and Sunday school Pastors. It is a yearly plan, beginning from 2020 to 2021 March. We decided to keep offering Box and deposit in it throughout the year with any amount and then after completion of one year, we plan to meet in a certain village in the month

of March 2021, prayerfully count the amount and proceed for action plan. For this project our commitment for the first phase is Rs. 2lakhs. For further information, I did a survey in one Lotha village and found out that there are about 30 returnees in this village.

MODALITIES:

- Purely for the needy youths in rural areas.
- It is a revolving project.
- First phase is a Five –year plan. Can continue depending on outcome/result.
- Concentrate this project from village to village.
- Two plans of project, short and long-term.
- The area of concentration of this project is self-skill employment, rearing of animals, Agri-based production and any project related to survival.
- It is a holistic approach ministry and home based mission.

ACTION PLAN (B).

The Christian Forum Dimapur is one of the most actively involved during Covid-19 among non-governmental organisations. Its service is well acknowledged by Dimapur District Administration.

From day one of out-break of Covid-19, Dimapur Christian Forum has been actively participating in various ways in serving people

Being one of the office bearers, I have been given in charge to plan a strategy or modalities to address the issue of employment problem especially for the returnees .This project plan is in the initial stage .Initially, the target group will be concentrated in Dimapur Town. The first Empirical random data collection is about 3000 returnees. The CFD had two consultative meetings with regard to this agenda. In the consultation meeting, it was decided to work with different agencies, those actively involved in Life skill Development trainings in Dimapur. Gradually, CFD will coordinate with Nagaland Christian Forum for

greater Mission plan for this project.

CONCLUSION:

According to a survey in 2007 there are 1,347 Baptist Churches in Nagaland. But according to the latest report there are 1,615.

It means under Nagaland Christian Forum, the number of Christian Churches will be more than 2,500.

This huge number of Churches cannot become silent spectators in such a crucial situation. The Christian Churches in Nagaland should be the role model to address this pandemic challenge.

It is reported from unknown source that some Associations in Nagaland spend hundreds of crore in Mission works in a year. Suppose each Church contributes 1 lakh towards Home-based Mission for unemployed youths in Nagaland it comes to 25 crores yearly. This huge amount for this purpose will certainly ease the employment problem in Nagaland. It's time to start acting to implement this Home based Mission.

During Covid-19, some Churches spent more than 10 lakhs for relief services. If Churches continue with this kind of ministry towards our youths, it will surely bring about some impact in the life of youths.

To implement this home-based Mission plan for unemployed youths we may face some challenges, but it is not impossible in nature. It's time for a wakeup call for all the Christians and leaders to form a common platform contextual Mission-Vision for timely implementation is imperative.



Mission in Solidarity during Pandemic

Mr Brazil Barik, Mission Secretary, Assam Baptist Convention

Introduction

The World as a whole during this Pandemic, in which the churches had been shut down, Religious life was at stack, Mission Agencies were worried, community and ministry were in lockdown, but prayer continues both in personal and communal because without God nothing makes sense and with God we have everything we need. At every communal adoration before the throne of God we pray for all impacted by the pandemic we are like Moses and Esther of the biblical times interceding for our brothers and sisters all over the World by only watching the news channel. From the very beginning of the pandemic individual, family, churches, organization have begun their mission work in solidarity within their own limit and capacity.

1. Ecumenical & Interfaith

Mission during pandemic is mostly ecumenical where one doesn't bother about the denomination barrier and faith the person belongs, but willingly ready to help in times of crisis which have been seen and also testified to some of them can classified as:

a. Reaching out people of any faith

The Pandemic brought humanness in each and every individuals life without really caring about their faith practices people provide services, which can be reflected from the gospel of Matthew 20: 28 "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many". It has been seen that people of all religion caste, colour, race, gender has been reached during the pandemic to which many churches and Christian organization played a pivotal role.

b. Showing our faith in collaboration

The Ecumenical body are strengthen during the pandemic the entire mission come together and work for the common good a perfect example of Unity in the body of Christ.

2. Saving Human is important

Covid-19 is a historic global health threat and a pandemic seems inevitable. Quarantine was a life-saving period of necessary isolation of a person with a highly similar to outbreaks. In order to control the Covid-19 the government began to build the Isolation centre which again fall shortage of quarantine facilities as a large number of people are returning to the state from various parts of the country.

The churches in the Christian majority state have offered their halls to the state government to be used for quarantine. The total number of 168 churches from various denominations has come forward only in Mizoram and in the North-East, India and world-wide there will be many churches and denominations I believe. Thus, the solidarity in mission can be seen even sharing their worship place for the sake of saving human being.

3. Ecumenical Sharing of Resources

Another concern that has come out from the moratorium clarion call has been the introduction of the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources (ESR) following the Nairobi Assembly in 1975. It began first as a study program. The WCC arranged the then “Koinonia – sharing life in a world community” in El Escorial, Spain in October 1987. In the context of changes that have touched upon the relationship between the sending mission organizations and churches in Africa and elsewhere in the third world countries and also on ecumenical participation, the WCC played a significant role in fostering relationships in mission, sharing of personnel and funds for mission, inter-church aid and development. Similar to these sharing of resources also have been seen during the Pandemic.

a. Personal Vehicle as Ambulance

A Pastor of Mizoram, A Policeman in Manipur, many Individual/
January - March 2021

Churches and family shared their resources like using of personal vehicle to carry Sick People to hospital without any cost which is also mission in solidarity.

b. Repayment of Debt

A Person's debt was repaid by a Stranger (Anonymous) in the state of Mizoram, this is the carrying mission showed in the life of believers.

4. Covid-Solidarity Fund

The world was facing an unprecedented challenge with communities and economies everywhere affected by the growing COVID-19 pandemic. The world is coming together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic bringing governments, organizations from across industries and sectors and individuals together to help respond to this global outbreak. The outpouring of global solidarity and support sparked by this shared challenge has been phenomenal. In the meantime both the central and state government have introduced the COVID-Solidarity Response Fund as PM Care Fund and CM Care Fund. Individuals, Families, Churches, Association, Convention and Council have donated for the Covid care fund. The churches not only donated in Cash but shown their solidarity even by construction huge building for the attendance of Patience as the outcome of Pandemic by an Ao Baptist church in Nagaland.

Therefore the Covid-Solidarity fund is not only in cash but in terms of kind which also can testified among The Sikh community of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), constructed the 100-bed dialysis centre at the gurdwara in Sarai Kale Khan is being touted as India's biggest dialysis centre which is absolutely free an outcome of the pandemic.

5. Free Distribution of Face-Mask, Soap and Sanitizer

The corona virus or Covid-19 is a large family of viruses that causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes, but the current virus is a novel strain not seen before. Common symptoms of the novel corona virus strain include respiratory symptoms such as

fever, cough, and shortness of breath, according to the WHO. The WHO

has declared the corona virus epidemic as a global health emergency. To protect peoples by giving awareness among the public and give the free of face mask and hand wash Sanitizer into which the churches of North-East India and India at large have responded and provide free face-mask, soap and Sanitizer towards the community.

6. Support and Relief

India has been under lock down since the 24th of March 2020, to ease the humanitarian crisis caused by the spread of Corona Virus has rigorously responded to the crisis, reaching out to the most vulnerable communities was the utmost important, even here the churches, families have played a important role in providing food and grocery as relief to as much as they can with their limited resources.

7. Religious and Spiritual Life

With the outbreak of Covid-19 all the religious places were shut down, believers cannot gather in the churches to continue their faith practices. During the time prayer is the only way to connect to the deity, and this time of distancing one's self from people and events gives an opportunity to focus more on the spiritual deity that may be the most important aspect of one's life. Nevertheless every crisis can be an opportunity if we know how to make use of it, I personally witness that during the lockdown so many prayers were made with sincere hearts home church was conducted to which every person can take part and attended. In the time of crisis people draw much closer to God and surprisingly huge amount of offering have been collected during the lockdown to send for mission work. Some of the outcome of the pandemic in our spiritual life can be discussed as:

a. Family Alter:

The family altar is the place where we instruct and build faith, have fun together, share questions, teach and encourage each other. To build one's personal and spiritual life, this also have the biblical significance

Genesis 18:19 “For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him”. During the pandemic it has been noticed that People turn to God Family Alter is strengthened, A Family fellowship became the house church. In doing so family could unite and spend time together in Mission which is a core in family life in Mission Perspective

b. Virtual Worship

In real-life, time and location of worship is determined one should show up at the particular time at the particular place. But with virtual worship, anyone could be anywhere with a connection and (if it is recorded) at any time at your convenience. It is most important because so many young people have shown their interest and get connected to the local church after lockdown lifted up. In doing so the spiritual life of the people and particularly the younger generation has been lifted up. Now the virtual worship has become a wonderful opportunity and platform to conduct worship Online for those who are out in the cities for their shaping their career.

Personal Reflection and Conclusion

The Selling of possession and giving away to the needy was the practice of Apostolic time, mentioned in ACTS 2: 42-47 “The Fellowship of the Believers 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”. Thus, we also had a similar kind of experience the real Apostolic Age, during the pandemic people gave away food, cloth, shelter in doing so sharing is brought into the light / Humanitarian Service which is mission

we discover in solidarity.

The Christian community and the churches played a key role in helping to reduce its spread by allowing church hall to make quarantine centre, giving awareness, providing free face-mask, soap, sanitizer, donation and relief to the poor, vulnerable and needy. Churches have taken the crisis situation as an opportunity to share the love of God in word and deed by doing mission in solidarity with pandemic. To say it another way, this is an opportunity for churches to carry out the integral mission to which God has called. The inseparable proclamation and demonstration of the gospel as seen in the life and work of Christ Jesus. This time of fear and uncertainty is a prospect to emulate peace that surpasses understanding, which we have in Christ. As we all know that the Corona virus is still active as a community of believers and church we must continue to provide member care, mobilize church members to love their neighbours, pray for an end to COVID-19 and over all do the mission work of serving and saving the lives in this world.

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Kangpokpi Christian Hospital

Estd. 1920

Centenary Celebration on 31st March 2021

Kangpokpi Christian Hospital is one the six hospitals of Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). The American Baptist Medical Missionaries by name Dr. G.G. Crozier and his wife came to Kangpokpi in 1920, after world war I and started the medical work. At first, Dr. G.G. Crozier and his wife reached out the lepers and started leprosy asylum (colony). The leprosy was known as ancient plague. Even in our time the lepers were considered as untouchable in the society. But driven by the gospel of love, the Kangpokpi Christian Hospital had





started to treat and care the lepers and gradually grew up to full-fledged hospital. The medical missionaries, Dr. Werelius MD and Dr. Ahlquist MD, and Dr. F. Curry MD from abroad sacrificed their lives and witness the

gospel of Christ through medical service. Dr. Ahlquist MD died in car accident while serving at Kangpokpi Christian Hospital. After the Missionaries left North East India in 1955, the CBCNEI took over the work of health mission and continued to employ local Medical doctors such as Dr. W.G. Momin and his wife, Dr. A. Hrahsel and his wife, and others to serve in the Kangpokpi Christian Hospital. When there was no good clinic and hospitals in Manipur people from all corners of North East India, Manipur in particular thronged at KCH and thousands of people received healing and had been cured.

K.C.H. Centenary (hundred years of healing service)

We are celebrating Centenary, 100 years of the existence of the Kangpokpi Hospital (1920 to 2020). The main aims of the celebration is to glorify the name of the Lord for His faithfulness and enabled us to continue to do His healing ministry, initiated by the Missionaries. To





acknowledge the past and present doctors, nurses, leaders who served and rendered their sacrificial service for the development of KCH.

By the grace God, we have celebrated the Centenary on 31st March 2021 and thousands of people witnessed the function. We praise God for the grand success. We want to say thank you to all who donate in cash and in kind for the celebration. Our Appreciation goes to Rev. Dr. Akheto and his colleagues who came all the way from Guwahati and we are especially blessed by his wonderful message. We appreciate

the participation of our sisters hospital. Each committee members of the celebration are praiseworthy. They have done a wonderful job for the hospital. May God bless each one of them.



Baptist News

While celebrating the centenary, let us also renew our commitment to do the healing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and take a new step to be more relevant with the challenges posed before us. As the missionaries



entrusted medical mission to the Churches of CBCNEI, it is a time for the Churches to fully own this great task of the Lord's healing ministry. To invest our resources to train the young men and young women to the task of our medical mission is the urgent need and it is a big challenge for the Churches.



Annual Convention of Garo Baptist Convention (GBC)

The Garo Baptist Convention had to have a curtailed Annual convention for 2021 with only reduced number of delegates representing the 18 associations and 270 “Mother Churches” from 10th to 12th February, 2021 at Tura. The theme was “Thy Kingdom Come” and the text was taken from Matthew 6:10.

The main speakers dwelled on the teaching of Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples on the need for coming of God’s kingdom on earth. Lord Jesus wanted the world to be free from hatred, suspicion, doubts, quarrels, lies, discriminations, etc. In other words Lord Jesus wanted the world to be full of love, peace and righteousness as it is in heaven. The kingdom of God should be based on the submission to the WILL of God. The speakers pointed out that it is not only the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus for His reign on earth alone, but the prayer He taught was invariably for the present also.

The speakers also pointed out that the New Jerusalem is another view of the kingdom of God, and one speaker exhorted that unless the reign of God is allowed in our hearts this prayer will be futile. The kingdom of God is like allowing a mustard seed, in the form of love, holiness and submission to the reign of God, to grow in the hearts of men.

Again, people need to allow themselves to accept God to rule over them like little children, innocent and holy, so that kingdom of God can come to this world.

During this convention Mr Aloysius G. Momin was elected the new President of the GBC and Rev Ijona A Sangma the new Vice President for the term of the next two years.

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Last date of submission of Admission Form is 31st of March 2021 and Entrance Examination on the 29th & 30th of April 2021

Doctor of Theology (D.Th.) in Christian Theology, History of Christianity and New Testament.

Interview for admission will on the 28th of May 2021

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(College):

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