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## *Baptist News*

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

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

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**Cover Design:** Neema L. Tsering

### Circulation:

Meera Areng  
Rabindra Basumatary  
Jatin Gogoi

### Subscription:

One Year	₹ 100 (US\$15)
Two Years	₹ 180 (US\$25)
Three Years	₹ 250 (US\$35)
Five Years	₹ 350 (US\$50)

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*from the desk of editor* 



Dear friends,

This issue is dedicated to women members of CBCNEI family. You might have noticed the increasing number of women participation in the activities of the Churches these days. More women are involved in mission field today compared to before. Also, there are more female students than male students in some of the seminaries. Yet the number of women leaders at the top is significantly less. In an Inductive Bible Study Seminar held in Guwahati from March 22-25, 2011, there was not a single women representative. Earlier, in the Annual National Board Meeting of Churches Auxiliary of Social Action (CASA), held on Feb 24, 2011 in Delhi, the representatives of the Churches of India were moved by the fact that there was no single women representative from any Church. Hence, it was decided to co-opt nine women members in the National Board. I was glad that it was a unanimous decision. I am glad to know that the Ao Churches in Nagaland have ordained two women church leaders this year. This makes a total number of ordained women twelve in the Baptist Churches of the Northeast.

We are gradually progressing in recognizing the sacrificial services of the women in our churches. However, better is yet to come. One does not have to be a feminist in order to bring such awareness, but be *just and righteous* as Jesus wants us all to be. The cry for gender equality and fair recognition may be a faint voice amidst us, but they are not non-existent. One must have attentive ear to hear them. We know that the women in the northeast, in general, are not very vocal. There are few exceptions, but the most of them are serving without craving for a lime-light, or without any ambition for recognition. They are silent, humble, and faithful servants of the Lord. At the same time, they are firm, consistent, committed warriors and the fort-holders of our homes. They

are neither quitting because they are not recognized, nor puffed up because they are ordained. We, the Church leaders, must take initiative to appreciate and recognize their contributions as church workers as well as home-makers. We must be intentional in thanking them from the bottom of our hearts. I believe it should be the men who must take the initiative in defending their cause.

In empowering the women, the Church must set an example. Dr Lalnehzovi, a reader at the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, in the book titled *Changing Status of Women in North-Eastern States*, reports a very negative status of the northeast women both inside as well as outside the church. She lists out the following discrimination against women: (i) No right to inherit property; (ii) No name and title of her own; (iii) No appointment as Pastors or Minister or as the Church elder; (iv) Deprived from the highest decision making body of the Church; (iv) Neglected by men in the Public Meeting; (v) Parents give more attention to male child than a girl child; (vi) Culturally treated as only a supporting member; (vii) Irrespective of education or status women are looked down; (viii) Women are given in marriage in exchange of some value; and (ix) Women are denied to participate in politics (p.8). While we may disagree with her on the status of women; because in some places it is not as grim as the sum of all the above may portray, however, many of us, depending on where we are located, will not be surprised with her findings.

How can we empower the women? Dr. Lalnehzovi suggests following practical steps: (i) consensus and education on Women's rights; (ii) formulating women empowerment programs; (iii) implementing 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments; and (iv) cooperating with the women empowering forces and agents (p.9). Although these suggestions may apparently seem to be good, they fail to understand the primary cause of the problem. For the same reason, some feminists are either overloaded with feminine agendas, or over loaded with bitterness against men. Unfortunately, we have been shooting at the wrong target. In our struggle against the gender biases, some have become biased against a gender.

As Church leaders, we must focus on the primary cause of the problem. We all know that 'Injustice' exists in human society in more than one form. It is not simply against a gender or a race. It is an issue related to the problem of sin. It is an issue related to attitude and untransformed life. On a daily basis, we notice injustice is being done to another person irrespective of gender or race. One is potentially capable of mistreating another from the same race, caste, tribe, or gender. No wonder a woman mistreats another woman or a man mistreats another man! In this world of Sin, the defenseless and oppressed people are found in every genders and races.

Our common enemy is Satan and his only weapon is Sin. He uses Sin to enslave us under the power of unredeemed culture, tradition, and tribal thinking. He keeps us from being enlightened from the Word of God. We are subtly influenced by our gender prejudices and biases. The Satan enjoys when we are ignorant, insensitive, and self-assertive. We need the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to think, understand, and reflect on the teachings of the Bible. We must seek to understand why God created Adam (the archetype of male and female human beings) in the IMAGE of GOD first and then he designed (not created but designed in order to retain the image of God in different shape) a woman separately only to expect her to cleave back to man again? Why did He commissioned them together to multiply, subdue, and rule? They are described as equal partners in their possession, performance, and power. In the economy of role, both are expected to assume different roles of performance and complement each other, but enjoying equal position in the performance. For such a role as this, both needs to act like Jesus in self-denial and sacrifice. There is no place for hierarchy and gender independence. Whether married or unmarried, it is the state of mind where one must value inter-gender respect and inter-dependence. All cultural assumption that places one gender over the other as powerful and authoritative is subject to biblical scrutiny; may it be patriarchal or matrilineal. We must uphold the biblical value even at the expense of losing our unique cultural identity. Our unique identity lies primarily in Christ. We are called to walk on the path of justice and

righteousness in all circumstances.

In this struggle against evil dominance of one gender over the other, women must also play responsible role equally as men. They must claim the power of God in their personal life in overcoming the psychological, social, and cultural obstacles. They must allow the image of God to unfold to its fuller beauty and strength in them. They must actualize its fuller potential. Unfortunately, the womanhood has expressed itself in the two extremes: either too low-self-esteem or over-self-esteem; either overdependence or absolute independence; either submission without any voice or absolute dominance over men. However, the Bible teaches women to nurture a right self-esteem where one nurtures interdependence, mutual submission, mutual respect and complementary partnership with men. Both gender must admit one's limitation and be willing to acknowledge other's strength. Men and women whether married or single are created to be co-workers and partners in the plan of God.

As we recognize the spiritual realm of battle between good and evil forces, there are things that are doable and practical in order to make our effort visible. Yes, we must do all that can be done in order to educate, inform, restore dignity of both men and women, insure equality of privileges and rights. However, we must never forget the uttermost need of the transformation of our hearts. It is a matter of attitude. Paul wrote, "*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*" (Eph 5:21)

Let us become an example in this regard.

Dr. A. K. Lama  
General Secretary, CBCNEI



## Women: Reach out and touch the Hem of His

**Gurmeet** Arak

*(She works in a live show Oo-la-la FM Radio Programme. She is also a faculty of Haggai Institute and a member of Shillong Baptist Church.)*



It was a busy afternoon, preparing dinner for some friends who would be visiting us late in the evening, when my mobile phone rang and I picked it up and said "Hello"; a voice on the other end said, "Hello mam, can I see you this afternoon?" I replied, "I'm sorry, I'm busy today so can I see you tomorrow?" With urgency in her voice, she replied, "No 'mam, I have to see you today." So I said, "Alright, come and see me at 4:00 p.m. at my place." And she came, sat on the sofa and before I could say anything she broke down and cried. With tears in her eyes, she looked up and said "mam, my family is breaking up." They've been married for just 4 years but her husband just walked out of their marriage and said, "I'm not coming back." He conveyed this over the phone and even told his little daughter that "Papa is not coming back."

This is happening all over the world but is fast catching up here in the North-East, even among Christians. Whatever the reasons may be, I can see that our marriage vows are not taken seriously anymore. Even the so-called church elders are also guilty of this. This, I see as one of the challenges we are facing today. When a husband leaves a wife so early in marriage, what do we do? Look for another one? It's not easy! The solution to this problem is for husband and wife to be close to God. The further we are from God, the further we will be from each other. ←H→GOD←W→

Another challenge of "broken homes" is parenting. Fathers play a very important role in parenting. A story is being told of a King. In 1936, King Edward abdicated his throne for the love of a commoner. England had no choice but to look for another

king, but nobody could replace his fatherly role. His presence in his tiny kingdom gives security, peace and wellbeing to "his subjects." Because of the absence of fathers, many mother plays double role in parenting.

We ask you fathers, "Why are there so many drop-outs and teenage menace in the society?" "You have to give an account to God one day." "Remember children are arrows." Psalm 127:4. "Where these arrows go depends on whose hands they are in. If they are not handled by loving and caring parents, especially by a father they can harm many people around them."

A young boy came to me for counselling one evening and said "mam I'm a gay because my father never cared for me when I was a kid, I hated him so much that I wanted to be woman and not a man". When such a thing happens mother has to carry a heavier load, after all, she is the one who carried him for nine months.

**Marriage is not God's ultimate will for your life but to conform us to the**

**image of His Son;** Rom 8:29

One day a depressed lady came to me for counselling relating to "single life". Often this doesn't bother men too much, but with women this is a huge problem and a great challenge too, to the point of avoiding social gatherings, be it funerals or weddings, because they are confronted with one question "Why aren't you married?" Some are smart; they say "it's my choice!" Some feel so embarrassed and sad.

I would tell them "do not allow marriage to define your life, because in your eagerness to get marry, you may step out of God's direction and make a wrong choice, the result which can be bitter." We cannot please nor satisfy people. When you are not married, they ask, "Why aren't you married?" When you are married, they'll ask, "Do you have children?" When the children are grown up again they will ask, "Why aren't they married?" The "Whys" is endless. "Delight yourself... in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4.

“My God will supply all your needs...” Phil 6:19.

### **Jesus had never looked down on any woman:**

The woman with blood related problem, the Samaritan woman, the women to whom He revealed first after His resurrection, and a woman who minister to Him (the woman who broke the alabaster box and anointed Him) amplify Jesus’ attitude towards women.

Therefore, we have no reason to have a poor self image of ourselves. In Christ we have a new self image; II Corinth 5:17. We are God’s workmanship; Eph 2:10.

We are part of the Body of Christ, we are important as much as men are. In Gal 3:23: “There is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ.” We are not inferior to the man. We are created in God’s image not more not less. Therefore let’s use the gifts we have to build the church, our community, etc.

Let’s reach and touch the hem of His garment and allow His power and love to flow through us – for healing, restoring and bring about wholeness in our lives.

### **Christian homes today are invaded by materialism:**

I’m sorry to say this but, we ladies also contribute to this challenge. In fact, we see so much of competition in our homes; we seem to have more “wants” than needs. We should avoid maintaining a standard beyond our means. As parents we should keep our children and one another informed of the financial position, so that we don’t overspend, demand too much, to the point that the “man of the house” is forced to corruption. Therefore this should challenge us to maintain a Christian life style that is marked with contentment (I Tim 6:6-10). This would convince the non-Christian world around us that this is not our permanent home, but we are just pilgrims.

**In conclusion**, let me quote De Beaufort who said “The future of the society is in the hands of the mothers. If the world was lost through a woman, now she alone can save it.”



## ORDINATIONS



Rev. Narola Ao, Women Secretary of Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), was ordained on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at Dimapur Ao Baptist Church. she has served ABAM as the Women Evangelist for 6 months and as Women secretary for 19 years. Currently she is the Women Secy of NBCC.

Rev. Sosangmenla, Associate Pastor from Mokokchung Town Baptist Church has also been ordained on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. She served as a warden in the Eastern Theological College, Jorhat. She has been in the Pastoral Ministry for more than 30 years.



The Council congratulates and wishes them all the very best in their future endeavor in the ministry.

## C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s !



Mr. Shoudhit R. Marak, Asst. Accountant of CBCNEI and Sharon Ao were united together in a holy matrimony last year December 28, 2010 at Kahilipara Baptist Church, Guwahati. The staff of CBCNEI wishes them happiness and blessings as they start their new life together.

# The Juggling Working Mother

*By: Mrs. Visakhonü Hibo, the Principal of Japfu Christian College. She is seen with her family.*



My Grand-mother's life was very simple, efficient, self-sufficient and very independent irrespective of her illiterate status. The role and status of the erstwhile mothers were uncomplicated because of the simplicity of the socio-economic structures and social relations then. Now and then are so very different for a mother to be a mother. The modern-day-mom needs to be extra efficiently genius to juggle in-and-out of her multiple roles and status, many of which can be quite conflicting at times and still being able to walk the tight-rope of life efficiently. Women are particularly made strong and gentle by God in spite of the issues on more women empowerment in contemporary times. The complementary role made and expected by God for men and women is the only recipe that can help make life purposeful, contented and enjoyable in the present day family life. Life is beautiful in these challenging times as more challenges bring more

grace from above, where His grace is sufficient for us.

A lady doctor friend of mine who is a very busy working mom has three sons, one of which is a specially challenged child. She is grateful to God for considering her "able" to be gifted with a child who requires special needs and attention. She excels in her work place and efficiently manages her home. The special bond and admiration between her and her husband is a conspicuous loving relationship. The time that the husband-wife duo sets aside for the Lord's ministry is also astounding. There is not an iota of self-pity in their lives. She is what I call an achiever mom from all angles. She balances and walks confidently in the tight-rope of life, juggling the multi-facet roles and status perfectly. The fact that God is in control is manifested in many similar families but the ideal Christian home facing challenges with a genuine smile is the family that I narrate. It inspires me, it

intrigues me, it challenges me and puts me to shame for the many times when I feel as if the whole sky was falling on my head.

In sharp contrast to an ideal loving Christian mother's home are unloving mothers' homes, nagging mothers' homes, guilt-ridden mothers' homes, over burdened mothers' homes, over-worried mothers' homes, drunken mothers' homes, over-strict mothers' homes, under-strict mothers' homes, hyper-active mothers' homes, super-inactive mothers' homes, immoral mothers' homes, debt-ridden mothers' homes and manifold others who are weighed down by real and ruthless problems.

Everyone in such a home does not enjoy the security and happiness of a home that a home is supposed to be. Some mothers from such homes struggle to keep their family intact and neglect their work place which keeps them guilt ridden, others' try to compensate by splashing money on what money can buy for their families, particularly children, while being successful in their work places. There is an urgent need to systematized and bring an orderly

balance in homes as well as in work-places too. The wisdom required can come through God and God alone. God needs to necessarily intervene in both home and work place.

The myth that considers In-laws as Out-laws is no longer considered as true for the modern mothers because nuclear families rather than joint families are becoming the changing trend with families all over

the world. In-laws unconditional support and love is a must and is a blessing. Also, as working mothers, the busy work schedules and rush for time has become the epitome of modern-day-life. This points out to the fact that

every mother must hold her family fort in strong rocky foundation and be very strong in the Lord. The role of Christian mothers is increasing and is imperatively crystallizing to a much greater realm of responsibilities in relation to her children, spouse, relatives, society and Nation. Living exemplary lives for the young ones to follow, because we teach only through examples, is crucially important. The strategies that are required for a good soldier to succeed are also



required of mothers to have a happy home in the Lord. Making time for families at the right times in the right places with the right people makes sense. Working to supplement income as well as fulfilling one's aspirations and God's calling in life makes sense too. The ultimate solution is to blend the two aspects beautifully and making it 'work' in one's own respective situations, in the Will of God the Creator who made us beautiful in His time. God never intended mothers to be miserable with haphazard plans for them but made mothers for a purpose. The plan of God must be fulfilled, and mothers must be courageous even through the highs and lows of life's journey.

A believer spouse is very important in order to be a reasonable Christian mom in the present 21<sup>st</sup> Century. When God created man, he intended men and women to complement, not supplement, each other. This complementary aspect is demanded so highly and so importantly required in this stress-ridden, rush life of today. As society progresses ahead, the challenges

that swirl along with 'Change' in every aspect of life also come to meet humanity and our faith. The consumerism pressures will overwhelm us and the future generations too. The ever increasing organizations and institutions with all its obligations will entangle us from all fronts. Therefore, our Christian values must be strongly inculcated in our homes. Secularly too, mothers are said to be the first teacher of a child. This holds true even in Christian homes, despite the fact that mothers are demanded and required to take up multiple roles and status, mothers are also to be one of the main teachers for inculcating Christian values in Christian homes, apart from the head of the family, the father. The Christian working mother must, therefore, learn to juggle work, home and other spheres of life efficiently. Nobody is perfect, so also there will never be a perfect mother but there are many 'near-perfect mothers' in many fortunate homes, those homes must increase.



There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."

-- C. S. Lewis

## Reminiscence of Hazel Belle Morris

By: Ms. Cathy Holmes, Missionary, BIM.



Hazel Belle Morris, former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in India for 27 years, died February 14, 2011 at the age of 94 in Ottawa, Illinois.

Hazel was born on September 2, 1916, in Campbellsville, Kentucky to Styles H. and Lillie Mae Morris. Hazel was one of five children – she had three sisters and a brother. She spent her early childhood and youth on an Illinois farm. Hazel was actively involved in church from a very young age. During her growing up years if the church was open Hazel was usually there. She was baptized at the age of 12.

Hazel received her Diploma in Education in 1937 from Illinois State Normal University. While teaching for about six years she sensed God's call into some form of full-time Christian service. She then taught in neighboring country schools for

six years.

During that time she attended summer church camps. Those camps widened her horizons and opened a whole new world for her – the field of Christian Education. In order to prepare for full time Christian service, in 1943 she took a summer course at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Forth Worth, Texas. She felt the Lord was leading her to continue her education and not to return to teaching. In 1945, with a Bachelor of Religious Education degree her first job was in Chicago as cashier at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. One day during a visit to the Chicago Botanical Gardens Hazel walked through the steamy tropical room and suddenly said, "Lord, you wouldn't send me to a land of bananas and palm trees, would you?" It was not long before Hazel felt she needed a BA degree. Hazel went on to earn her BA degree at Sioux

Falls College in South Dakota in 1946 while also serving at the First Baptist Church in Mason City, Iowa as Director of Christian Education and as Church Secretary. From Iowa Hazel went to Casper, Wyoming where she worked in the office of the Wyoming Baptist Convention as Director of Christian Education. After less than six months Hazel felt the Lord telling her this was not the place for her.

A missionary speaker from the Philippines, Mae Coggins, was at the same mission course as Hazel the summer of 1948. She and Hazel worked, talked and prayed together. When Mae and Hazel parted Mae said, "God bless you, Hazel. You have this important work in Wyoming. I have mine in the Philippines. It's all God's work, and He is in charge." Hazel continued to pray for direction in her life. Two weeks later a Hazel received a letter from the Mission Board Secretary sharing that Mae had written stating that Hazel would be a good candidate for foreign missions. After a struggle Hazel realized that she could never be successful in the work she loved knowing that God has pointed in

another direction and she had said "no". Word soon came that the mission board was looking for someone to replace the missionary in Nowgong, Assam who would soon be retiring. Hazel was appointed by the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to serve in Assam in May 1949. She sailed, along with Mary Suderman, for India the next year. For the next 27 years she served at the Nowgong School. Her main task was the training of teachers who are now scattered throughout the hills and plains of North East India teaching those things they learned in Nowgong in schools, homes and churches. Hazel did more than teach and administer the affairs of the Nowgong School. She served in working with young people in their camps and conferences, helped in women's work and visited churches in the Nowgong Association as well as serving as chairman of the Literature Board of the Council of Baptist Churches for North East India. During her first home assignment Hazel earned her MS degree at Illinois State Normal University and took some

courses at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Nowgong is on the road from Guwahati to Jorhat and this meant that the mission bungalow was where visitors stopped for rest and food as well as for a visit to the school. Hazel and Anondi Kenwar, the Headmistress of the school in Nowgong, were known for their wonderful hospitality. In 1972 Hazel was invited by the Naga people to be one of the major speakers at the Ao Naga Baptist Centenary. Hazel's message on the Christian Home and Family was shared as she spoke to over 40,000 Nagas gathered on a football field in the village of Impur. In the late 1970's when missionaries were being encouraged to leave India Hazel felt it would be best for her to return to the United States to take care of her ailing mother in Illinois. She resigned from International Ministries in 1977.

Hazel went on to work as a nurse's aid doing in home care. She was very active in the local church serving as lay leader, Sunday school teacher, singing in the choir, and being involved in ABW work at the local church level as well as in the Great River Region. Hazel also wrote a number of Sunday school papers.

In 1999 Hazel received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota.

Hazel is survived by one sister, Esther Funk and one brother, Donald (Charlotte) Morris. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Ivy Morris and Vera Vucich.

A service was held at the Tiskilwa Community Church in Tiskilwa, Illinois on February 17, 2011.



Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

*1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)*

# Response to Challenges

By: Ms. G. Kungreiliu, Director, Priscilla Centre, Guwahati



Today, many of us are privileged a lot; enjoying education and exposure compared to the women years ago. Christian women of the region are represented at all levels in the society. We have Christian women who are prominent in national politics, media, law, research and medicine. However, these prominent people are only a small proportion of the total population. Many more women have not attended school and cannot read or write. Sadly, many women are not even aware of their own value and their gifts. We are still bounded by some of the traditional and social practices that dominate women's day-to-day life. Many women live with no choices in life. They grow up, get married and have children, which are wonderful but they could be much more. Some are forced into commercial sex industry and while others are

compelled to work as forced laborers. The experience of freedom in Christ and the 'abundant life' that John talks about is a distant dream for many women. So, there are still many challenges for educated Christian Women in the light of the present social situations that are complex and sensitive. The challenges faced by the uneducated Christians – many driven by poverty into demeaning circumstances – are even more difficult.

Some general challenges in the present age are to:

## **1. Remain deeply rooted in Scripture....**

Today, if we critically observe our society, it is moving too fast with no time for reflection and adjustment to clearly understand the situations we face.

Materialism and consumerism have become the 'in-thing', a part of our everyday life; Believers have been swept by these spirits

without realizing; Relationships are getting superficial and are no longer based on trust. Unless we set our priorities clearly, we too can be swept away by the same waves. Christian women in this age face big challenges to stay up-to-date and yet to be deeply rooted. We must diligently update our knowledge in order to make the right decisions each day. We must pray, read and watch in the midst of our busy days.

## **2. Bring up children with Christian values**

Children, today, are exposed to many things. Their likes, dislikes and interests vary and are broad. Mothers may be clueless about what to do and how to respond to new-age thinking and ideas with their traditional understanding. The challenge for Christian mothers is to be updated and respond proactively while engaging in the lives of their children.

I once thought one of the biggest challenges for Christian Women was to take up the role of influencing the future generation in a constructive way. For, mothers have the opportunity and privilege to pass on positive

values and attitudes to their children at a very young age. My own mother taught me the importance of prayer at a very young age and prayer became the foundation in my life today. I still remember the Bible stories she narrated to me and my sisters before going to sleep. But the question is how many women are fortunate enough to get such a foundation? I met a young woman, during a visit to a brothel, who was sold by her maternal uncle after she lost her parents at a young age. Similarly, there was a young girl in the same place whose life began in the brothel with her mother. What choice will she have? She is not even aware of life beyond the boundary of the house where she stays. Outsiders like us cannot comprehend the life she is leading. Many young women from rural areas come and join the brothel during the off season for cultivation as the brothel is a seasonal earning place. With no other avenues to earn, what else can they do? Setting aside judgment and criticism in order to engage with these women and their children is a major challenge.

### **3. Change in earning trends**

When women earn and take care of the home without a husband's help, life's responsibilities double. Mothers cannot simultaneously give quality time to their children. As a result children feel neglected and this leads to other problems.

Today many opportunities have arisen for both educated and uneducated women to earn for themselves and the family. The traditional based agricultural products alone are no longer enough for a family as extra money is needed for children's education and other family's expenses. Many women in the rural and semi urban areas have taken up vending local products such as vegetables, fruits, and poultry and so on. Economically, this is a blessing to the family. But in the long run, the cost is great. Women need to travel to collect and sell the products. So, they are not able to take care of their children and their home. As a result, we see broken homes and even school drop-outs.

### **4. Involve women in Decision Making**

Women have a long way to go to actively participate in decision

and policy-making. Not much has changed when it comes to the application of law and policy matters concerning women. Some women are not even aware of the basic special provisions made for them. Also, most of the customary laws do not favor women when it comes to inheritance and decision making. In olden days, these customary laws might have served a good purpose in the existing cultural and social context. But in this modern age the same laws may not always be practical as before. For example, when a couple gets divorces, the baby must be given to the father under the customary law. Would it be good enough for the breast feeding baby to be given to the father based on the customary law, even if he is a drug addict who cannot dispense his responsibility as a husband and father?

Advocating, participating and influencing politics and policies is a challenge particularly to influence the policy maker to develop and apply women friendly policy and to give importance to women's issues.

Given our current situation, educated, capable Christian women face major challenges. They need to be a role model and change agent, advocating and implementing constructive ideas and practices drawn from the truth. We need to complement the good works of the men folk and share responsibilities. I believe that women and men are both endowed with special gifts that make our efforts beautiful, meaningful and fruitful when shared mutually in a mature way. Since we are made differently, we are at our best when we each do our part without competition.



## **Christian Literature Centre**

Literature Ministry of C.B.C.N.E.I.

**Christian Literature Centre (CLC) was established in 1969 under direct management of CBCNEI and a Literature Secretary was appointed to look after the CLC Ministry . In 1980 CLC Ministry was separated from CBCNEI to run its ministry autonomously. After 30 years , on 1st July 2010 CLC Ministry was taken back by CBCNEI to make it more effective in serving the Associations, Conventions, Churches and Schools in North East India.**

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Email: clcguwahati@cbcnei.com  
angam@cbcnei.com

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Phone : 0385-2448471 / 9612680496  
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moa20578@gmail.com

#### **# UKHRUL:**

Phungreitang , Manipur.  
Phone : 03870-265635/09436677635

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Phone : 09612692032

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Written Exam : April 19, 2011  
Oral Interview : April 20, 2011

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## A Brief History of Assam Baptist Women Union

*By Dr. (Mrs.) Jayashree Hanse Borah. She runs a private clinic at her residence.*



It is indeed a great pleasure to note that the "Assam Baptist Women Union" was first formed by the dynamic and God fearing women, Late Anandi Kenuwar, Late Annie Goldsmith and Late Pushpalata Bhuyan on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1951, at Nagaon Mission School. The American women Missionaries also had a great contribution to inspire the newly formed A.B.W.U. Among them were Late Miss E. E. Hai, Miss Morris, Late Miss Hutton, Late Miss Tait, Late Miss Christenson, Mrs. M. Hakes, and Miss Robinson. They were the pillars and pioneer of A.B.W.U. and we praise God for their devoted services in spite of many ups and downs in God's ministry in the past. The mighty God is working through A.B.W.U.

Under the umbrella of CBCNEI; A.B.W.U. was formed by the women of different Baptist Churches of Assam. The Presidents and Secretaries of

A.B.W.U. from 1951 till 1976 were Late Anandi Kenuwar, Late Priyabala Goldsmith, Late Padmawati Peters, Late Radha Dutta, Late Dohomy Kennedy, Late Mini Marak, Late Swarnalata Singha, Late Margarate Andrew, Late Bimola Saikia, Late Mira Gogoi, Late Claudia Das, Late Ragina Amonge, Late Kumudini Horo, Late Junaki Nag, Late Marshal Barla, Golapi Barla, Late Tejimola Singh, Late Phibi Gohain and Mrs. Rose Mary Bhuyan.

The Treasurers were respectively Late Sorola Bhuyan, Late Annie Goldsmith, Late Leya Momin, Late Sorola Roychowdury, Late Sushila Singha and Late Marsha Barla.

Out of one billion people living in India, nearly half are women and of them 13% are below the age of twelve and therefore under the influence of women. Women can best reach women. How can they hear the Gospel unless other

women tell them? Jesus Christ, while on earth did three things, teaching, preaching and healing. Ours is a missionary God. His heart is a missionary heart; His son came as a missionary. His spirit is sent to empower and equip the church to finish the missionary task. His Bible is a Missionary Book.

As a Souvenir of Silver Jubilee Celebration, "Godhula Brown Memorial English High School" at Sivsagar was established in the year 1978. I congratulate and thank God for empowering and blessing the A.B.W.U. in the transformational work in building His kingdom.

From 1978 till 2008, the president and secretaries were, Late Ragina Amonge, Smt. Rose Mary Bhuyan, Smt. Priyabala Envoy, Late Junmaya Singha, Smt. Paulina Marak, Smt. Dolly Hanse, Smt. Subama Lagun, Smt. Regina Das Marak, Smt. Mina Here, Smt. Anima Sahu, Smt. Guneshwari Das, Smt. DeepaBora Horo and the treasurers Late Mira Gogoi, Late Marsha Barla, Late Junmaya Sinha, Smt. Priyabala Envoy and Smt. Jerina Baruah.

Assam Baptist Women Union consisting of five different women association and an integral sister wing of the Assam Baptist Convention celebrated its Golden Jubilee during October 29-31, 2004 at Guwahati Baptist Church, Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam. Great contribution by God fearing women Late Lydia Singha, Late Anandi Kenowar, Late Ani Goldsmith, Late Sweet Priyabala Goldsmith, Late Sushila Singha, Late Mira Gogoi, Late Phibi Gohain, Late Regina Amonge, Late Tado Hanse, Late Claudia Das, Late Leya Momin, Late Nebu Sahu, Late Marsha Barla and Gulapi Barla. Our beloved *baideos* Smt. Louise Rongpi and Miss Narun Sangma are still helping with their valuable teachings and prayer support. Last but not the least; we can never forget our beloved *baideo* Smt. Rose Mary Bhuyan because of her devoted service for more than 30 years as a women Secretary for A.B.W.U. like Esther, Mary, Debora, Dorka, Rebecca, Miriam, leading the A.B.W.U. for 30 years in spite of many ups and downs of ministry in the past, and with the new present leadership, had moved

milestones in the many areas of work as a dedicated and successful Christian leader. She lead us (women) to attend many national and international conferences in India and abroad in different foreign countries also. May God bless her and guide her with good health and strength; (Psalm 92:14 - They shall still bear fruit in old age, they shall be fresh and flourishing).

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of A.B.W.U. was held at Jorhat, from 21-23 October, 2010, at Assam Agricultural University Auditorium. Our special thanks goes to Mr. Sajeeb Baruah (Bobby), Professor of AAU Extension Education, for arranging the AAU Auditorium, kitchen and dining hall, and the beautiful and comfortable guest house for the delegates to stay.

Women are homemakers, any Church and Society cannot survive unless homes are secure and stable. May the Lord God empower and bless A.B.W.U. to the affective and transformation work in building His kingdom. Let all the members set new goals and priorities for the future and fulfill its mission entrusted by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Smt. Rose Mary Bhuyan *baideo* always says, "A.B.W.U. is a 'Beautiful Vineyard'". In John 15:4, we are encouraged to abide in the vine (Jesus), so that we can grow and produce more fruit. We will need to know the scriptures, what they teach and in this way remain firm to the end. May God bless A.B.W.U in God's ministry. Long Live A.B.W.U. Amen.



They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.

*Psalms 92:14 (NIV)*

# True Love Waits:

## Creating a Culture of Purity

By Iringtie Kauring, Youth Secretary NBCC



### TRUE LOVE WAITS?

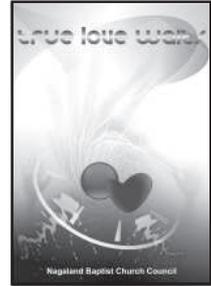
True Love Waits is an International campaign that challenges young people to remain sexually abstinent until their marriage. It is basically a commitment to God, friends, future mate, future child/children and to self. In other words **True Love Waits** is a movement to enlist the youth and young people to sign a pledge to remain sexually abstinent till marriage.

The concept True Love Waits (TLW) movement was discussed and approved by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) in its 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session held in Meluri village (CPBC) January

28-30, 2005.

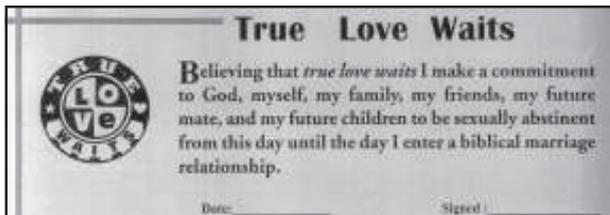
The task has been entrusted to the Youth Department to work with the State level Coordination

Committee set up by the Council. Gradually under the initiative of the Coordination Committee, the TLW was officially launched on **26<sup>th</sup> February, 2005** at NBCC Conference with the presence of Youth leaders and Pastors from Kohima Baptist Churches. The movement was dedicated to God with the lives of the young people by Rev. Keviyiekielie, the present President of NBCC.



### WHY TRUE LOVE WAITS?

- § God wants His people to be holy and pure.
- § Both print and



electronic media convey a message that sex is very normal and socially acceptable culture provided that you handle it with care. Our Youth are catching this culture without inhibition.

§ The most dreaded disease HIV/AIDS has come to our home and community. The spread of the virus is mainly through sexual transmission.

§ The horrifying news today is abortion of unwanted pregnancy.

§ Rape and murder cases are on the rise.

§ The rate of divorce today, and we hear a lot of infidelity of husbands and wives.

§ There is a report of premarital sex at High School, secondary and College level.

§ Condom campaign is often misunderstood and misused by many young people. This misunderstanding leads them as an endorsement to free and premarital sex. Without any inhibition this is recklessly slaughtering the morality of our young people. Once our morality is gone we shall no more be called a human.'

Therefore, the True Love Waits takes a positive, healthy and Biblical approach to bring about healthy behavioral changes, to reduce HIV and AIDS endemic, to rebuild the spirituality and morality of the land, to see God intended and wholesome family and to raise good and responsible leadership.



**THE OBJECTIVES:**

The four-fold purpose of TLW:

1. GUIDE young people to make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage.
2. GIVE young people who have made a commitment to abstinence a chance to reaffirm that promise and challenge other young people to do so.
3. GUIDE parents of young people to make or reaffirm a commitment to biblical standards of sexual behavior and model a life committed to sexual purity.
4. GIVE adults a tangible way to affirm and encourage young people who make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage.

**ACTIVITIES TAKEN:**

Several Seminars were given to the Youth Leaders in Association level. The Youth leaders in the local churches are trained up by the Association leaders. The campaign is done with proper Biblical teaching in youth program and activities such as Youth Camp, Bible study, Sports

Camp and in the special Youth Program. Youth Leaders are provided Manual which has guidelines as to how this Campaign be implemented. There are thousands of youth taken their commitment out of those few were married and the church youth acknowledges them on the wedding day. This throws a bright light for future and of encouragement to rest of the young people.

**AFTER THAT WHAT:**

§ Sexual behavior among teenagers was different and abstinence was seen as an option.

§ The use of the word and the idea of “purity” expanded the view of abstinence.

§ A significant number of teenagers were publicly



Young people signing a pledge card

expressing their commitment to purity/abstinence.

**CREATING A CULTURE OF PURITY:**

§ Celebrate markers: When youth take up bold step of taking pledge, any token of encouragement is given along with sincere prayer for them.

§ Support & encourage students: Reach out students, teach and encourage students in schools and colleges.

§ Church involvement: The Church activates this movement as one of the important and major teaching and encouraging ministries.

§ Parental supervision: Whatever the church does, Educational

institutions do, the best supervisor and teacher is still parent.

§ Teachable opportunities: Take every opportunities at home, retreat, sports camp or any other activities to talk and teach young people.

§ Repentance & restoration: True Love Waits Campaign can never be successful unless there is teaching of repentance and restoration; after all we are all sinners.

§ Accountability (peer & adult): Encourage Accountability partner of the same sex with whom they can be accountable in times of trouble and needs. In other words help them linked strong prayer partner.



## WHEN YOUR WINGS ARE CLIPPED



*Dr. Asangla Ao, Director, Women's Ministry, TLA Ministries*

Unlike before, women today are more aware of their potentials. They are dreaming big, more than ever. They are ambitious. They are on the verge of climbing and conquering the top mountain of success in almost every field. Who can restrain a woman when she's on fire—burning with passion, enthusiasm; driven by the unswerving faith and belief that “yes, she too can do it”?

Let's talk about women who have made commitment for 'full time ministry'. As a young, single girl, she responds to God's calling, vows to be in mission field, fulfilling God's will in her life. Then comes the “turning point”—marriage. She's excited to be united with a God fearing man for she foresees the possibility of doing God's ministry together as husband and wife. Oh, she's on

the top of the world, almost unable to contain the newly found joy and excitement of exploring the world together as a team of husband and wife!!

As the years pass by, her family expands, her responsibilities soar up. And subtly her bubbling excitement goes stale. Her beautiful 'dream' looks more distant. Gently and quietly, a little 'discomfort' creeps into her heart and mind. Even before she is aware of now she spends more time within the four walls of her home, busy meeting the voracious needs of her family. Her desire to be in the open mission field turns into a 'desperate cry' questioning the “calling” she responded to and the commitment she made many years ago.

She wants to run but her legs are

chained. Like eagle, she desires to soar high yet her wings are clipped! She turns to God, wrestling: "Why Lord?" Yet her desperate cry merges into the deep "Silence." Have you ever experienced such desperate feeling of wanting to fly high yet you are constraint?

Men or women, all have dreams and aspirations. Some but not all are fortunate to have their dreams being fulfilled as desired. In post-marriage era, many women have to compromise with their dreams and aspirations as they set their priorities as wife and mother. Some are happy with such new life style, while others struggle. Here I am addressing the issue for those who struggle.

As Christian wife or mother we want to be 'content' in the situation God has placed us, but the question is "HOW"? (It's easy saying than done) How do you handle your feelings of frustration when your heart cries but you are unable to actualize your burning desire of reaching out the people 'out there'?

Over the years, thousand times

God has whispered to me with His gentle voice: "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD WHO IS IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE." I am still *under construction*; however, I can say to certain extent that I am learning to be content in every situation God places me. You know how? As I bring my "restless heart" at the feet of the Lord, wrestle and argue with Him, presenting my genuine case for consideration; every time God wins! He convinces me (beyond any further argument) and shows me: "This is your MISSION field. Remain FAITHFUL." I lose my case but gain a new INSIGHT, a new PERSPECTIVE, and a new DIRECTION for my life under the guidance of my Lord. The bottom line is; I have learned the trick! Whenever my "inner-being" is restless and anxious, I try fixing it but eventually I have to surrender it into the hands of my Creator for only He knows how to fix it.

If you are an ambitious woman or a very missionary minded who wants to be out there in the mission field, yet finds your legs shackled and wings clipped (circumstantial situation like have

to take care of young children or sick parents at home), DON'T LOSE HEART! Just look at your life from Eternal Perspective.

Let me share with you few valuable lessons that God has taught me over the years through my life experiences.

1. Know your **IDENTITY** in the Lord. Many things can influence your 'self-esteem' but never deter from the fact that you are a special child of God, created in His image, for His purpose.

2. Re-consider your **CALL** in every phase of your life. God didn't recreate us (woman), but 'fashioned' us beautifully and wonderfully. God takes us through different phases of our life and every phase of our life has its own beauty! Be willing to consider your "MISSION FIELD" in every phase of your life. God is able to raise millions of his army to spread the good news through out the whole world. But as for you, as a mother raising young children, you are the only mother for your children (no one can replace you) and perhaps at

this phase of your life your 'Mission field' is your Family. Be faithful in the revealed Will of God in your life and He will reveal other things step by step.

3. Beside your primary Mission field at any certain phase of your life, within your limitation, see what you can contribute in enhancing the **HUSBAND-WIFE PARTNERSHIP** in ministry.

3. If you enjoy writing, **JOURNAL** your thoughts, struggles, feelings of joy, frustration, and anger you experience daily in your life. Bring them at the throne of God's grace. Our God is the greatest Comforter and Healer.

4. Plan and set aside a **COUPLE'S TIME** at least once in a week where you can share your feelings, thoughts, inner struggles, dreams and aspirations with your spouse. Don't fall into the trap of "my husband knows everything or should know about me." Unlike women who are good at 'counting the trees', remember men see the 'forest' and may not be aware of your inner struggle.

Be honest and communicate with your spouse on regular basis in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Share and pray together.

5. Have a wise **MENTOR**.

Besides your husband, you need an 'outlet.' Pray and choose a mentor (preferably women) who is more experienced in life than you are; who understands you and is willing to pray for and with you. Many times the wisdom and discernment that flow from a wise mentor helps in "stress-reduction," provides new perspectives when you go through the 'turmoil' in your life.

6. And above all, never neglect your **PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD** daily. No matter how busy

you are, be deliberate in setting aside an "Appointment Time" (at your convenient time) with God and never compromise this time. NEVER! God speaks to us through His Word as we take time to meditate on it regularly. Communicate with Him through prayers.

7. If possible, have regular **FELLOWSHIP** with other women who have gone through or are going through similar situation like yours.

May you find Contentment, Joy, Peace, and Hope in our Living God as you continue serving Him with delight; fixing your eyes, mind, and heart on Him alone.



Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.

*-Charles Kingsley*

## A Child in the Heart of God

Sushmita Chakraborty, Receptionist, CBCNEI Conference Centre



The Word of God says in Psalm 119:105 **“You Word is a lamp unto feet and a light unto my path”**.

I was born in a Brahmin family in a small town called William Nagar (Meghalaya). I came to Guwahati during my school days and after my HSLC exams joined White Memorial Hostel, the student Ministry of CBCNEI.

During my school days, I used to go to Church (as I studied in a Convent) and knew the Lord Jesus as one of the God among the other gods and goddesses who was crucified on the Cross. There was a difference in me whenever I attended the Church in those days. However, my parents never objected or stopped me from attending the Church.

When I joined White Memorial Hostel, I attended Retreats (Hostel as well as NCF) and came to know more about the Lord Jesus and started to worship Him. But I never accepted Him as my Personal Savior because I was strictly brought up from other faith.

The Word of God says in Psalm 139:7-10, **“Where can I go from your Spirit?” Or “where can I flee from your presence?”**... It was in the year 2009, when I was in the attending the Sunday school classes, where our teacher was Gibson Marak (Youth Secretary), I began to feel the presence of God and strong conviction for ‘my sins’ and in ‘my past’ and ‘what I was following’. It was during fasting and prayer on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 ministered by Gibson Marak, God was putting words in my heart and I started praying “Lord receive me as I am” and I could not stand in God’s presence. I saw the Lord Jesus in a vision. He said **“Sushmita, My child, I received you”**. I saw myself as a little child in Lord Jesus Heart.

Hence, from that day I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Personal Savior. God is doing mighty things in my life. He has made my life from ‘ordinary’ to ‘extraordinary’. I am happy and content in the way the Spirit of God is leading me. I want to serve the Lord in whatever way I can and remain faithful till my last breath.

As of now, I thank God for paving the way for me to avail myself as a receptionist in the CBCNEI Conference Centre.

I covet your continuous prayer support as I grow in the Lord.



## White Memorial Hostel, Guwahati

*Mrs. Bendangla Jamir, Hostel Superintendent*

White Memorial Hostel came into existence after a name of a visionary woman of American Baptist Mission named **Sarah White**. At an unimagining day, visualizing the need of the girls of North East India about seven decades ago in the year 1937, this historic hostel was established in this beautiful, calm location at the heart of Guwahati city.



White Memorial Hostel which is under CBCNEI Student ministry is the most enchanting place from all perspective. It is a reputed girl's hostel and may be the pioneer girls hostel in north east. It is a place where homely care is given, spiritual and moral guidance is nurtured, leadership quality is developed and above all, equal closeness spirit is created and prepares them with the spirit of oneness.

### **Mission Statement:**

**Motto :** "Quality Life"

**PURPOSE :** To bring quality life to young college going girls from whole northeast India from different communities, spiritually, academically, physically and socially.

### **CORE VALUES :**

We aspire on moral and spiritual sanctity of life.

We adore the spirit of sisterhood, team work and mutual care.

We believe that discipline is a quality that undergrids any true development of personality.

We are willing to learn and grow.

### **PRIORITY OUTCOME :**

The outcome we seek in the lives of the hostel girls are as follows:

1. They achieve good academic results.
2. They experience spiritual growth.



3. They develop leadership skills.
4. They experience atmospheres where each is treated equally and where there is closeness and a spirit of oneness. Equal closeness atmosphere is created and prepared with the spirit of ownership.
5. They have a feeling of security and homely environment



**DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS :**

The W.M hostel focus upon the following areas of development:

1. Give maximum effort to get good academic result. To achieve this goal:
  - a. We should provide good study environment.
  - b. Maintain strict study hour.
  - c. Provide opportunities for tutorial classes.
  - d. Maintain Good library.
2. To provide opportunities for the leadership skills development. To achieve this goal:
  - a. From time to time to conduct workshop by inviting some experts.
  - b. By distributing work assignment according to their talents.
  - c. To encourage participation on different activities.
3. Focus on moral and spiritual growth of the girls and produce quality life. To achieve this goal:
  - a. Conduct Evangelical camp, Bible Study
  - b. Constant counseling
  - c. Discipleship so that they know Jesus in word and deed, whose live will reach out to others to multiply the impact of the kingdom.



## NEWS CAPSULES

### Legal Awareness Seminar For Assam Baptist Convention

The Justice and Peace department of CBCNEI organized a one day seminar on legal



awareness at Jorhat Eastern Theological College on September 14, 2010. Altogether twenty eight participants were present in the seminar, including the resource persons. Students of the Eastern Theological Center also took part in it. CBCNEI invited senior Advocate of Nagaland Mr. Alin Kamei, Advocate N. Satish Konwar, Advocate Monjyoti Smith and Mr. Prabhat and Mr. Jeremy Tam both from the International Justice Mission, Kolkatta as resource persons for the seminar. Advocate Atungo Shitri of the Justice and Peace department was one of the resource persons.



### Trafficking And Other Key Legal Issues for KABC

On 2 November 2010, the Justice and Peace Department of the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India in collaboration with Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention organized one day seminar on Legal Awareness Seminar: Human Trafficking and other Key Legal Issues for KABC members at West Diphu Town



Baptist Church where 43 participants from various associations under KABC, local churches and other denominational churches attended the seminar.



### LM/WM Hostel Retreat (4 - 6 Nov, 2010)

Lewis Memorial & White Memorial Hostel had a 3 day retreat at CBCNEI Mission



Compound. The retreat based on the theme “Consider your ways”. Altogether, there were 65 campers. Rev. Dr. A.K. Lama, Pastor Senti Longkumer and Mrs. Margaret were the resource persons. Ms. Oshy Longkumer did a wonderful job through her dynamic leadership in the retreat.



### **TLA Seminar on Hermeneutics and Biblical Counseling (Nov 15-19, 2010)**

26 pastors and Church leaders attended the seminar and the focus was to teach them how to study the Word of God and interpret them. Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama and Mr. Richard Masih were the resource persons. The



second objective was to train them how to counsel biblically. Dr. Asangla Ao did a wonderful job. TLA ministry associate Mr. Siamliana Khiangte, the Program Coordinator Ms. Boinu Singson, and the student helper Enos coordinated the program.



### **Seminar on Management (Nov 23-26, 2011)**

In partnership with Compass Ministry, CBCNEI hosted a seminar on Management. The resource persons were Mr. Raja



B. Singh and Pastor Johnson Samuel. About 20 Church leaders came for the training and were richly benefited. Mr. Rolland G. Momin and Ms. Boinu Singson coordinated the program and Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama led the devotion.



### **TLA Motorbikes for Evangelists (Dec 3, 2010)**

With the help of TLA ministries, CBCNEI was able to donate



motorbikes to four evangelists from a very remote area. These evangelists often had to walk for 15-20 miles to visit the un-reached mountain area.



### **Seminar on Church Music December 6-10, 2010**

23 young Church musicians came and were greatly benefited during the seminar on Church Music. The resource persons were Ms. Ajeen, Mrs. Ezono Kithan John, Mr. Bryan John, and Mr. Kehipe. Mr. Atungo Shitri and Ms. Boinu Singson coordinated the program. Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama



led the devotion.



### **CBCNEI Pre - Christmas**

The CBCNEI staff had Pre - Christmas on December, 17, 2010 in the L.M. Auditorium hall. Boinu Singson led the service, while the YWAM team enthralled the people with Christmas carols. Special songs were presented by the LM hostellers and others.



Debbie Mulneix, BIM representative and Akung, Director, Priscilla Centre, shared on what Christmas meant to them. Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama spoke on the concept of "JOY". Gibson Marak, Youth Secretary of Guwahati Baptist Church (GBC) and Mr. Enos led the games. There were guests, invitees and veteran CBCNEI staff who attended the service.



## National Consultation on “VIOLENCE AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST TRIBAL AND ADVASI IN INDIA”

(Towards A Church National Policy On Tribal And Adivasi)

Mr. Atungo Shitri, Secretary Justice and Peace attended the program jointly organized by the NCCI and PCI held at the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi from 13-16 of February 2011. During the session on “Violence and Violation of Human Rights in the NEI” Mr. Shitri as a moderator presented the case of the Adivasis of Assam who are being indiscriminately evicted from the Lungsang Forest area by the Government and depriving them of their land rights as traditional forest dwellers as per the Forest Act. He also presented the case of the tribal students from Manipur studying in Eastern Theological College who are being denied of their right of educational scholarship to the Vice-Chairperson, Minorities Commission of India, Dr. Sangliana took serious note on the issue and assured to take up the issue at the higher level.



*Its s a great privilege for me to be here in India. I have heard about the Northeast States like Assam, Nagaland but it's such a nice feeling to be here at last. I thank God for paving the way for me to be in India.*

**Angela Sudermann**

*Coordinator of Volunteers in Global Missions, BIM*



### **Campus Development**

As we enter into a new year 2011, the Council is trying to beautify and enhance development in the Campus. With the good teamwork of the campus development committee, a great change is expected. Hence, paintings of the buildings, street lights, underground wiring, and expansion of some buildings are in the process. Black topping of the campus road is done.



### **BSI Dimapur celebrates Silver Jubilee**

The two day silver jubilee celebration of the Bible Society of India (BSI) Dimpur Auxiliary held under the theme 'God's word transforming life' at Lotha Baptist Church, Dimapur. Special presentations were made to the chief guest, Dr. Pramanik, General Secretary BSI Bangalore, Dr. Ajoy Kumar Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI, Dr. Anjo Keikung, General Secretary, NBCC, delegates from Mizoram, Meghalaya and Karbi

Anglong for their untiring effort in expanding the society.



### **Garo - Rabha conflict (Jan 6, 2011)**

On 6 January 2011, the Justice and Peace Department of the CBCNEI hosted a meeting of the Joint Peace Action Team at the CBCNEI Conference hall to discuss and deliberate on the issue of the on-going ethnic conflict between the Garo and the Rabha Communities residing on the border of Assam and Meghalaya. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Atungo Shitri, Secretary Justice and Peace Department of the Council.



### **KBAN Annual Meeting Women Department**

The Women Department of Kuki Baptist Association, Nagaland had its Annual Meeting on 7-9<sup>th</sup>



January, 2011 hosted by the Kuki Baptist Church, Medziphema Town. The meeting reflects on the theme “**Year of Serving the Lord**” based on Joshua 24:15. Pastor H. Minlien Singson, Executive Secretary (KBAN), Ms. Boinu Singson and Ms. Neneng Sitlhou were the speakers. The following were installed as the new office bearers, KBAWD, for the year 2011-2015. Mrs. Nengboi Haolai replaced Mrs. Nenglam Haolai as the new President. Mrs. Chongjalhai Sitlhou (Vice President), Mrs. Hatneikim Tuboi (Recording Secretary), Mrs. Kimboi Doungel (Asst. Recording Secretary). They were installed by Rev. Seikholen.



### Langham Preaching Seminar Level I

*The Langham Preaching Seminar Level I* was held at CBCNEI from January 10-14, 2011. It was sponsored by the Langham Partnership International. The 64 participants were from Arunachal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and U.P. The

### V I S I T S



Mr. Bucky & Carol Sydnor paid a visit to CBCNEI office in the first week of

December, 2010. Carol and Bucky serves as human development and Community Service in a Christian Organization. Bucky is a financial administrator to several hospitals that are run by HDCF. They are beginning this new phase of Ministry in the year 2011.



The Prominent and the Pioneer of Christian Leader of Northeast India, Dr. I. Ben Wati visited CBCNEI office on

November 29, 2010. Dr. Wati led the morning devotion and shared about how God has been faithful in his life leading him to establish several evangelical institutions and accomplishing pioneering works in India. He prayed for the ministries of CBCNEI and also released the second volume of his biography.

Mr. H.S. Lalhmingthanga, the Mission Promotor of the Baptist Church of Mizoram and Rev.



Rajani Kaipeng the General Secretary of Tripura Baptist Christian Union visited CBCNEI office and shared about their ministerial experiences mainly in their mission field on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.





participants were richly blessed by the ministry of Dr. Paul Windsor from New Zealand and Rev. (Dr) A. K. Lama who were the resource persons. We were also blessed to have Dr. Paul's family: Mrs. Barbara Windsor (wife) and Mr. Joseph Windsor (son) with us. We are grateful to the Churches and individuals who have contributed Rs. 17,000/- and Rs 7,790/- respectively toward meeting the expenses of the seminar.



### **MBC Change of guards**

The Manipur Baptist Convention had its Annual Assembly on January 30, 2011 at Gaililong Baptist Church, LNBA(M), Tamei (Tamenglong District, Manipur).

Rev. Dr. Wungnaoting Konghar and Rev. Mathotmi Vasha from Tangkhul Baptist Churches Association (TBCA) were formally installed as the new General Secretary and the Youth Secretary of Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) in place of Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou and Rev. Stephen Touthang. Rev. Yarngam Muivah has also been installed as the new Executive Secretary of Tangkhul Baptist Churches Associations (TBCA).



### **The 25th Years of Monsang Naga Baptist Churches Association, Chandel (Feb 4-6, 2011)**

Monsang Naga Baptist Churches Association is the second

smallest association in Manipur and yet they are strong in their commitment for the Lord. On the occasion of their 25th years celebration, they invited Rev. Dr. A.K. Lama and Mr. Scott Johnson to minister the Word of God.



### The Nihang Karbi Baptist Churches' Association Celebrates 100 Years Of Evangelism And Church Planting

The Nihang Karbi Baptist Churches' Association celebrated its 100 years of Evangelism and Church planting ministry on January 14-16, 2011, Manja. The theme of the Celebration was reflected on ***"Thus far has the Lord helped us"*** / *Samuel 7:12*. The main

speakers were – Rev. L. Kilumo Tsanglao, the first and former missionary from Lotha Baptist Churches' Association (KBES), Nagaland; Mr. R. G. Momin, Finance Secretary, CBCNEI; Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi, Secretary, Peace & Mission, NCCI; Rev. Athang Sebu, Regional Secretary, KABC; Rev. Lawrence Ingti, Evangelist, AEF. Greetings and exhortation were brought by Darell Omanson and Ruth Naomi Skar, ABC-Dokotas, USA.



### New Appointment



Manoj Kr. Das hails from Satgaon, Guwahati. He earned his B.A. Degree in Tourism Studies 2010 from IGNOU and pursued MTM (Masters in Tourism Management) from IGNOU. He also did his diploma course in IATA/UFTAA 'A' Level and 'DIAATM' from Bangalore. He is the first Christian in his generation and took baptism way back in the year 2005 at Guwahati Baptist Church. Manoj presently serves the Council as the Assistant Manager in CBCNEI Conference Center.



Dr. Lawrence W. & Mrs. Ann Norton, Missionary Medical Doctor to Satribari Christian Hospital during the 1960s from BIM visited 4B-Satribari Christian Hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011. They also visited CBCNEI office.

**The 137<sup>th</sup> years of Garo Baptist Convention, Rangsonkona (Feb 10-13, 2011)**



The Garo Baptist Convention had its 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and as usual it was attended by thousands of people who camped near the the meeting place. The Sunday service was attended by all the top political and social dignitaries from the Garo Community. Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama was one of the speaker.

**TLA / CBCNEI Pastor's Training Conference (March 8 - 12, 2011)**

TLA Ministries along with CBCNEI organized a conference for the Pastors' in North East. The conference reflected on the theme: "Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering the Pastors". The resource persons were Rev. Dr. Danny Wood, Rev. Jeremy Griem, Dr. Asangla Ao & Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama. 74 Pastors attended the conference.



**Bicycle Distributed to the Pastors (March 11 & 23, 2011)**

TLA ministries distributed 10 Bicycles to the rural Pastors. The pastors were selected by the Amri Karbi Baptist Churches Association and the Kamrup Baptist Churches Association. These pastors are from the remotest part of Assam and do not have any means of transportation. Rev. Danny Wood prayed for the pastors and dedicated them with their Bicycles.



**CBCNEI Inductive Bible Seminar (March 22 - 25, 2011)**

Dr. Stanley Slade (BIM), Rev. Ron Duvall, and Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama ministered 42 CBCNEI



pastors who came for training in Inductive Bible Study. The pastors studied the book of

Jonah and the Gospel of Mark. They also had a survey of the whole Bible. The training was intensive but all the pastors fully enjoyed it.



## Humanitarian Assistance to Garo-Rabha Communities in the Border Region of Assam and Meghalaya on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, a team consisting of leaders from CBCNEI, CNI, CASA, ARLDF and volunteers from L. M. Hostel and Grace Ministries conducted humanitarian assistance, with local district administration



support, to the Garos and Rabhas who are facing humanitarian crises because of the recent ethnic violence in the border region of Goalpara District of Assam and East Garo Hills of Meghalaya. The relief materials were distributed in two relief camps situated in Bongaon and Puthimari. In Bongaon, relief camp for the Rabha community, the team distributed 1) 1240 warm blankets, 2) 1000 tarpaulins, 3) 500 packets of Cerelac Baby Food, 4) 500 qnts. of Chira; and in Puthimari relief camp, camp for the Garo Community, 1) 1760 blankets, 2) 1000 tarpaulins, and 3) 500 packets of Celerac Baby Food were distributed.



*“I am inspired and humbled to be among such a strong Christian community in North East India. I am thankful for people’s welcoming nature. I hope that I can communicate them to the American Community when I go back.”*

**Catherine Nold**  
*Director of Communications and Marketing, BIM*

## CBCNEI's MiSSION News

By Dr. Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI



### Discipleship Camp for Neighborhood Ministry:

Last year we were able to conduct two Discipleship Camps



for new Muslim believers at Barpeta Road, Assam. God, in His graciousness, added over thirty new believers in Neighborhood fellowship. Only two of our Evangelists are working among them. We need more workers in this field. This is one very responsive field as of now. Please pray to the Lord of Harvest to send more laborers to the harvest field.

### CDWs Training:

During December 6 - 10, 2010, we were able to conduct CDW training focused on “**Evangelism Explosion**”. They were taught how to present the gospel in any given circumstance. Two main

questions were “Do you know for sure that, if you were to die today, you would go to heaven? And Why should God allow you to enter into His heaven? These two questions open up ways to present the gospel to whomever you come into contact at any given circumstance.

### Special Christmas for Guwahati Street Children:

Through the initiative of the Secretariat, we were able to organize a special program for Guwahati street Children in partnership with Guwahati Street Children Program World Vision India on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2011. Altogether 50 children attended





the program and Mr. Pawan Bhuyan, Property Secretary exhort the children from the word of God related to Christmas. Each of them was given a gift of warm woolen blanket. Food and transportation was managed by world vision of India.

### The Harvest:

Because of the Lord's mercy, many souls were saved and received Believers' Baptism in many fields. We rejoice in the Lord for His faithfulness and thank all the Missionaries working day in and day out, in the sun or in the rain, seeking the lost souls, and trying their best to present the love of God through Jesus Christ.



There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."

-- C. S. Lewis

## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

CBCNEI is ever grateful to the individuals, Churches, Fellowships and Organizations who have been partnering/supporting the Ministries of CBCNEI through their sacrificial giving. The following contributions have been received by us from the individuals, Churches, Fellowships and organizations as shown below for the purposes shown against their names (w.e.f, January 2011). It is our prayer that the Lord will prosper them so that they will continue to be channels of blessing to others.

### **Towards Missions Project:**

1. Dakopgre Baptist Church, Tura ₹ 10, 000/-
2. NCF, Shillong ₹ 10, 800/-
3. Dakopgre Baptist Church, New Tura ₹ 40, 000/-
4. Go Give Hope ₹ 24, 000/-
5. Mhonchand Kikon LRSO, Wokha ₹ 21,000/-

### **Towards hosting of NCCI Jubilee Celebration:**

1. Lotha Baptist Church, Kohima ₹ 10, 000/-
2. Town Baptist Church, Dimapur ₹ 10, 000/-
3. Kohima Ao Baptist Church, Kohima ₹ 10, 000/-
4. Guwahati Ao Baptist Church, Kohima ₹ 9, 000/-
5. Angami Baptist Church Council, Kohima ₹ 3,000/-

### **Towards Garo-Rabha Ethnic Conflict Relief/Peace-Building:**

1. CASA (DEA – HAF) ₹ 5, 00, 000/-
2. ARDLF (direct to the suppliers) ₹ 2, 25, 000/-
3. BW Aid ₹ 43, 594/-
4. APBF ₹ 45, 036/-

### **Towards sponsorship of missionaries and evangelists:**

1. NCF Shillong and Guwahati = Shamesh Uddin Ahmed in Barpeta Road
2. Dakkopgre Baptist Church, Tura = D.B. Thapa in Bonda, Guwahati
3. Rongkhon Baptist Church, Tura = Tadik Singdu in Daporijo, Arunachal
4. Yikhum Baptist Church, Wokha = Atul Gogoi in Dhemaji, Assam.
5. SBAK AIZUTO = Panrap Wangno, Tope Gadi, Onima Tali in Arunachal

Mr. Rolland G. Momin, Finance Secretary  
CBCNEI, Panbazar, Guwahati

## New Convention Leaders

Ms. Lotus Tarao has been appointed as the New Executive Secretary of Tarao Naga Baptist Association (TNBA), Manipur. She earned her M. Div degree from Chil Chil Theological Seminary, Kanglatongdil, Imphal in 2009. Right after her graduation, Lotus joined Agape Christian Outreach Mission India as a team leader for one year in Tripura.



Rev. Dr. Wungnaoting Konghar has taken up the office of the Manipur Baptist Convention as the new General Secretary. Rev. Dr. Konghar is from Godah Baptist Church and earned his B. D from Serampore College in the year 1981, M. Th (Theology) and D. Miss. from Reformed Theological Seminary, USA in the year 1992 and 1996 respectively. He served Christian English School - Somdal as a Principal (1981 - 1983); as Pastor Shirui Baptist Church (1984 - 1985); as Executive Secretary, Eastern Tangkhul Naga Baptist Association (1986 - 1990); Director, Trinity Missionary Training Centre (1997 - 1998); Executive Secretary, Tangkhul Baptist Churches Association (1999 - 2005) and as a Director, Trinity Missionary Training Centre (2006 - 2010).

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# What Kind of Parent are You? and How will that Affect your Children?

## Part-II

*Dr. Beulah Wood, lecturer in Pastoral Studies and Counselling, SAIACS, Bangalore, first reached India 42 years ago. As a mother and grandmother she longs for people to reach a Gospel understanding of family life.*



*Last issue we described the 'Policeman' and 'Worm' types of Parent. This month we look at the third and fourth types.*

### **The Maharaja (or Maharani) Parent**

These parents think their interests far more important than their children. They become too busy, neglectful. Some are absent from their children's lives Monday to Saturday and relaxing on Sunday. Some work in another place. Some are present in the house with the children, but not relating to them because they are talking on the phone, watching TV, or working. These self-centred parents may not set rules or not enforce rules. They make promises to the children and fail to keep them. Then they feel guilty that they are

not giving time to the children, and give expensive gifts to soothe their conscience. *Resulting Children or Teen-agers* What these mothers and fathers do not realise is that children have a strange way to spell "love". They spell it "TIME". Their children will feel unloved and abandoned, lonely, and fearful. They sometimes tell lies and try to manipulate their parents to get attention. These children long for consistent rules. Some feel repressed anger, and hopelessness. What a sad scene parents may cause without realising it.

### **The Coach Parent**

Mothers and fathers who train their child for the future are entirely different. They focus on

training. They calmly give consistent fair rules and keep them. They supervise and teach, but are not over protective. They plan ahead. They give clear simple instructions, with reasons, and thus often avoid problems that could have happened. By doing this, they gain their children's cooperation, so children are more likely to choose good behaviour than bad behaviour. Because of this, they use punishments less often. They respect the child and his or her feelings, for he or she is another person made in the image of God, just like them. There are no conditions about their love for their son or daughter. Whatever he or she does, they keep on loving. In the same vein, they readily show affection, and do fun things with children. They do not need to be harsh, for they are training their daughter and son to make good decisions.

*Resulting Children or Teen-agers*  
What a difference this makes!  
Children are able to feel secure, responsible and self-disciplined. Researchers observe that these children are more self reliant, resourceful and cooperative.

Because they have healthy self-esteem, they can be kind-hearted to others. They can handle their own feelings well, without being overcome by sadness or anger or confusion. Their parents have taught them how to make good decisions, so they set their own boundaries. Then they can say no to temptation. What an advantage they have as they face life. Which kind of parents were your mother and father? Or were they a mixture at times? What do you want to copy from your parents? What do you want to do differently in your own parenting?

### **The Goals of Parenting**

Christians long for their children to be good Christians. Unfortunately, unless parents "train" rather than punish or ignore, their children may be rebellious. These parents may fail in the one thing they want to achieve.

A child is a fellow human being, just as valuable to God and society as the parents. Therefore, we listen to them. Some parents, while loving their son, belittle him by seeing him as a way to gain money. Some

forget their daughter is made in the image of God. Listen to her. It will be wrong to spend less on her food, health or education or to love her less than her brother.

If parents train their children so that the children themselves write good rules in their hearts, they will be using God's methods.

Jeremiah wrote of people who stored God's word in their hearts. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33-34). They can live to their highest goals.

*to be continued...*



**Praise God** for the successful surgery of Mrs. Sellitha N. Sangma, President of Baptist Women Fellowship of North East India. She had undergone two surgeries: kidney tumor and gall stone in Dispur Hospital, Guwahati on February 4, 2011.

Please **PRAY** for:

\* The upcoming CBCNEI Annual Conference to be held in Nagaon on 30<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2011. Pray for the success of the conference.



\* Assam Baptist Convention Conference commencing on 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at Napuk, Sibsagar District.

\* The reconstruction of "**Swami Camp Baptist Church**" at Hayuliang in Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh, Church which was demolished by All Mishimi Student Union of Anjaw District on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2010. They are in need of ₹1,40,000 for the cost of new plot of land for construction of new church.

## New Convention Leaders



Rev. Greater Burn R. Marak has taken the charge from Rev. R. D. Shira as the new President of Garo Baptist Convention Tura, Meghalaya. He was born in the year 1956 at Baghmara, South Garo Hills and accepted the Lord on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1976 and became an active member of ICEU, Tura between 1976 – 1980. He served as Sub-Inspector of Police from 1980 – 1988 and as a lay Pastor of Goanang Baptist Church, Tura from 1989 – 1995. Rev. Greater Burn earned his M.Div. (Missiology) from UBS Pune in 1995. Later on in 1999, 27<sup>th</sup> March, he joined Goanang Baptist Church as a full time Pastor and the President of Krima No. IV (Association No. IV) from January 2009 to January 2011. He will be retiring from Pastoral Ministry from 1<sup>st</sup> April, this year. Rev. Greater Burn is married to Mrs. Prenalish M. Marak, H. O. D. of Economics Department, Govt. College. Tura. They are blessed with three children, Witty, Salnangra and Smera.



Rev. Mathotmi Vasha was installed as the new Youth Secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011. He belongs to Tangkhul Baptist Churches Association (TBCA) and a member of Tanrui Baptist Church. He and his wife Mrs. Wungreichon Vasha are blessed with a son and a daughter. Rev. Vasha earned his M. Th (Missiology) from Hindustan Bible Institution & College in the year 2003. He served as a missionary in Uttar Pradesh (1995 - 1997); as a Chaplain / Pastor, Tangkhul Christian Fellowship Church, Delhi (1998 - 2001) and as a Mission Secretary, TBCA (2004 - 2010).

# Women and the Heart of the Matter

*(Dr. Buno Iralu is a home-maker & mother of two, who also teaches in Shalom Bible Seminary, Zubza, Nagaland, and enjoys writing. She did her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling from SAIACS, Bangalore).*



How does one put into writing the challenges being faced by women in the North East in a thousand words or so? Even as I do a cursory run through of all the women I know in my immediate environs, I can easily club them under various heads, such as, singles, wives, mothers, professionals, the illiterate, the highly educated, homemakers, businesswomen, and a few more. For sure, however many things women may share some things in common, in all likelihood, the challenges each woman undergoes could be as unique and different as there are women in this part of the world. Rather than working from top to down and citing the comprehensive and visible challenges, I wish to work from bottom to top and touch on what I see as the biggest challenge that

looms frighteningly before us – the challenge of keeping or losing our reverence for God, our Creator!

After a world class description of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 (which makes most women want to run and take shelter somewhere safe), our panic is suddenly soothed in verse 30 – “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” Charm, Beauty and Women. It is interesting how someone from that bygone era could be talking about aesthetics and women. Generally put, women do orbit around beauty and beauty’s “cousins” to a great extent. Nothing wrong with that. In fact, it is this very nature of women which adds so much more verve, color, gloss and glory to this world. The world is certainly more beautiful because women

are in it!

With March 2011 here now, there will be programs galore for the International Women's Day even this year around. Banners will fly shouting of women empowerment, equality and justice, and the likes. Praises will be sung for all that we are and have achieved. And of course, our grievances and protests, exhibiting homeworks meticulously done, will be voiced to sympathetic or otherwise listeners. Worthy and essential exercises, no doubt. Yet, before we take to the streets, it will do us good to take some time off and do a little bit of self-examination.

The world we are in today is notably and notoriously hung up on externals – around what we are able to see with our eyes, and hear with our ears. For many, the biggest matters in life are how much they have, how much they are capable of doing, how much they know, and how much they have achieved. For the more unfortunate lot, the biggest issues are all that they lack, and which the more fortunate have. Depending on which category we are in, we bask in its glory or

sing our laments. And it is from the very moorings we are in that we set out to live our lives for better or for worse. The interesting thing about life is that, whether we be men or women, our pursuits and the things that drive us, can take us to the right or wrong destinations, depending on where they are sprouting from – the heart where we make our home.

It is not just about what is in the heart that matters (because anything can be in the heart) but more importantly, the kind of heart from which we process our attitudes and eventually our actions, is what really matters. Surely, the by-products of a heart that reveres and honors God and one which does not revere and honor God, will be poles apart. For it is reverence for God or lack of it that determines the kind of principles we hold onto and the direction we take in life.

The way we weigh external things are reflections of our heart conditions. It reflects our inner security or insecurity. For the secure, God matters; God's laws and His ways matter. Yes, revering God matters over and above everything else. That is

because when God is seated in the very core of a woman's heart, she has no need to run after other things.

Charm and beauty and countless other things we hanker after and waste our energy and resources for are definitely not here to stay. They don't even deliver lasting joy and contentment as we know from personal experiences and stories of people. It is our reverence for God and only that which will see us through to the end. All else – our achievements, our assets, our possessions, our fears, our disappointments, will come to naught. Only our devotion towards God will remain.

Our biggest challenge, therefore, is to keep our love link with God

intact - that reverence for Him that ought to form the core of our spirituality. It is really in knowing and loving God with sincere loyalty that our beauty, strength and value begin to surface and show their true worth. And this becomes evident in the way we handle ourselves and life in general. For as the Bible says, many things in life will pass but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

May our fight, if ever there is a need for one, be towards that direction – the direction of revering the Lord at all times and in all situations and with all our heart.



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~ Circulation Manager ~

## Ordained Women Ministers under CBCNEI

The Council of Baptist Churches in North East India is thankful to God for raising dedicated women who are ordained for a greater responsibility. Let us continually pray for their ministry.

1. Rev. Dr. Noksangla
2. Rev. Senangshila
3. Dr. Moanaro
4. Rev. Awala
5. Rev. Amenla
6. Rev. Dr. Kafo
7. Rev. Narola
8. Rev. Wirolinda Ch. Marak
9. Rev. Marlene C. Marak
10. Rev. Lalminthangi Marak
11. Rev. Nemneikim
12. Rev. Bongshot Dulbung



Dr. Vitsizono Sakhrie from Nagaland who served in Tura Christian Hospital, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya as a Medical Officer for 2 years has been relieved from duty for her Diploma Child Health Course at Christian Medical College, Vellore w.e.f 3rd April, 2011.

# Gaining New Grounds

~ A call to women ~

By: Mrs. Alongla P. Aier, Asso Prof, Oriental Theological Seminary, Bade, Dimapur, Nagaland



**“Women are transforming the world we live in,”** so declares Abrudene & Naisbitt in their book *Megatrends for Women* (Fawcett Columbine, New York, 1992). Studying the 90s decade and looking beyond to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, what is happening to women is awesome they point out, as women play an increasingly vital role when it comes to shaping social, political, education and economic trends. Opportunities are doubling for women to use their leadership, administrative, and other gifts to change the quality of every woman’s life for the better. In fact women are using this ‘newfound power,’ to signal strategic changes, becoming the catalysts through whom the *‘critical mass of social change will be achieved.’*

Women are no longer on the sidelines; they are now in the thick of the mainline! This is of

course not to suggest that *all* women of all societies enjoy this newfound position and empowerment. But women are living in an historic era although many may not realise this. It’s up to the women themselves to capitalize and take advantage of this tremendous opportunity.

Coming closer home to the North East region, where do the women stand? Are we part of this world wide mega-trend?

Considering the diversity and differences in context, every tribal/ethnic group of the North East has their own unique challenges. However, in most groups one can confidently say that women have made giant steps. We salute many individual women from the North East who’ve made the mark.

Nonetheless, women still lag behind in all areas. The challenges faced by women of our region are many: Poverty;

lack of education; poor health; HIV/AIDS; customary practice such as polygamy, polyandry, child marriages, dowry; social & cultural prejudices toward women, to name a few. But what is glaring is the rise in crime toward women: human trafficking, sexual abuse of all kinds, domestic violence. It's a known fact all over the world that the North East is considered as one of the highest in human trafficking! Then there is this hovering over-riding background of political instability in the region.

Challenges before us are overwhelming, how should we respond? Perhaps the following steps will help women to face the many challenges before them:

\* **Consciousness raising:** At the core this simply refers to how a woman views herself. The dominant psyche for most women has been that they are somewhat inferior, worthless, with the view - "*I'm only a woman, what can I do, way of thinking.*" 'Consciousness raising' is about breaking away from this mental lock we have acquired consciously or

unconsciously. A re-definition of our true worth as women is absolutely necessary toward fulfillment and actualization of our own selves.

This '*consciousness raising*' empowers women. In the North East one feels this awareness is yet to gain momentum. It must continue on a wider scope. It's about time that we create a new image of the North East woman, confident, vibrant, strong, un-afraid to break stereotype molds, and transform the broken world they live in.

\* **Build leadership in women:**

With women empowerment there has been a growing trend of more and more women getting into leadership. Authors Abrudene & Naisbitt are of the opinion that, "*Unless women assume leadership at every level of society and integrate female responsibilities into the very fibre of the social and economic structure, the idea of equality and balance between man and women will never be achieved.*" Despite resistance, a growing consensus of opinion is that women need to be in

leadership and become opinion leaders and decision makers so that women's issues and challenges are adequately and justly dealt with.

As Christian women we have every reason to rejoice. God has restored woman to her full potential. We stand as equal in value, worth and dignity before God because of what Christ has done for us. **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."** (Gal 3:28)

**Rejoice we are free and complete in Christ! Indeed we are empowered.** (Eph 1:19-20) Spread this good news to women particularly to those who are still captives, oppressed and helpless. Through the empowerment that comes through Christ we can face every challenge that comes our way. Indeed ... **"in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."** Rom 8:37.



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## BAPTIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH EAST INDIA

(A ministry of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India)

*As reported by:*  
*Mrs. Roselyn S. Karung,*  
*Secretary, BWFNEI,*  
*CBCNEI*



### **The beginning of BWFNEI:**

The Baptist Women's Fellowship of North East India (BWFNEI) has a very humble beginning after the restructuring of the constitution of CBCNEI in 1993. Even though the CBCNEI had closed its women department during the restructuring processes, the urge to and needs for fellowship among the women resulted in the foundation of BWFNEI. The spirit of fellowship and the want for togetherness among the Baptist women of North East India worked as the motivating force for the existence of the BWFNEI.

The reinstatement of BWFNEI as the Women's ministry of CBCNEI is the witness and acknowledgement of the love, concern and oneness of the ministry of the CBCNEI.

BWFNEI provides a platform for unity, mutual learning and empowering amongst the Baptist women from different Conventions and States with different backgrounds through this fellowship. BWFNEI is to strengthen and support foundation of our faith fulfilling the vision and mission of Christ who treats and loves all creatures equally regardless of gender and social barriers that our society created.

### **Member Bodies:**

The organizational members approved by and cooperating with the BWFNEI are:

1. Assam Baptist Convention Women Department
2. Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention Women Department

3. Arunachal Baptist Church Council Women Department
4. Garo Baptist Convention Women Department
5. Manipur Baptist Convention Women Department
6. Nagaland Baptist Churches Council Women Department

**Vision:**

The vision of the BWFNEI is to develop into a community of mutual learning, caring and supportive relationships that results in their being encouraged and equipped to fulfill the ministries that God has given to them within their homes, churches, society and they will respond to the prevailing condition and issues of society around them.

**Mission:**

The BWFNEI exists to facilitate opportunities for women of all our churches to join with us in fulfilling our common vision. We will focus our efforts and resources to develop understanding, skills and capabilities of our women to engage in the following:

- Networking of Baptist women of North East India for spiritual renewal
- Leadership development
- Uplifting the economic condition of women
- Awareness and education to address social evils that impact their lives



**Programs ahead:**

1. Exchange visits of Conventions
2. Retreat program for Executive members
3. Training program for Association women secretaries on income generation
4. Seminar on Gender and Equality
5. 5<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference

**BWFNEI Executive Officers (2009 – 2012)**

President	: Mrs. Sellitha N. Sangma
Vice President	: Mrs. K. Khetoli Sumi
Secretary	: Mrs. Roselyn S. Karung
Joint Secretary	: Mrs. Mibom Taipodia
Treasurer	: Mrs. Melicent R Marak

**Executive Members:**

Ms. Frolina D. Shira	: Women Secretary, ABCWD
Mrs. Rojoni Kropi	: Women Secretary, KABCWD
Ms. Kakki Kenjir	: Women Secretary, ABCCWD
Ms. Narola	: Women Secretary, NBCC
Ms. Lhingboi Kipgen	: Women Secretary, MBC
Mrs. Sellitha N. Sangma	: Women Secretary, GBC cum President
Mrs. Bendangla Jamir	: Superintendent, WM Hostel, Member
Ms. Aram Pamei	: Member
Dr. Asangla Ao	: Member
Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama	: General Secretary, CBCNEI Ex-officio



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

*2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV)*

## HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO FEW WOMEN LEADERS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO CBCNEI



### **Krieleno Terhüja**

- \* 1960: First female student to earn Bachelor of Theology from Eastern Theological College (ETC).
- \* 1966-67: Matron cum Lecturer at ETC.
- \* 1983-85: President, NBCC.

\* 2000: Vice President of CBCNEI.

\* 2001: President of CBCNEI.



### **Norun Sangma**

- \* 1972: First woman to join the Council as a Receptionist in the CBCNEI Conference Centre.
- \* 1982-83: Women's Secretary of CBCNEI.
- \* 1983-96: Superintendent of White Memorial Hostel.



### **Dr. (Mrs.) Syiemlieh (Lyngdoh)**

- \* Oct 1975: Joined Satribari Christian Hospital as a Medical Officer.
- \* Dec 2001 - 04: Associate Medical Superintendent, Satribari Christian Hospital.
- \* April 2004 - Sept 2006: Medical Superintendent, Jorhat Christian Medical Centre.

\* Sept 2006 - August 2010: Medical Superintendent, Satribari Christian Hospital.

She retired in September 2010 after 35 years of service to CBCNEI.

### **Dr. (Ms) Jedidah Nokrek Marak**

- \* 1991: Joined Tura Christian Hospital as a Medical Officer.
- \* Currently she is the Medical Superintendent of Tura Christian Hospital.
- \* She has been serving the Council for the last 20 years.



## Where Are They Now? [The First Ladies of CBCNEI]

### **Mrs. Sushila Singha**

Mrs. Sushila Singha, wife of Rev. Edward Singha, the first General Secretary of CBCNEI (1956-68) worked as a “Military Nurse” during the II-World War. During the 1960s she worked at the Civil Hospital, now known as Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital, in Guwahati. She was also the women Secretary of CBCNEI for two years. At the age of 83, she died on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1998 in Guwahati.



### **Mrs. Arenla Aier**

Mrs. Arenla Aier, wife of Rev. (Dr.) Imotemjen Aier, former General Secretary of CBCNEI (1968-1988) taught Sunday School in CBCNEI from 1969 to 1984. She also taught in Nichols School (Guwahati) from 1969-1984. She was the President of Young Women Christian Association (YWCA 1983-85).



Arenla is presently a Homemaker, actively involved in leading the Friday Prayer Fellowship in Diphupar Colony, Dimapur.



### **Mrs. Lillian Marak**

Mrs. Lillian Marak, wife of Rev. (Dr.) L. J. Sangma, former General Secretary of CBCNEI (1988-1999) taught in Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) School for three years (1982-85) and later on she was a teacher at Nichols English High School, Guwahati till 1999. Currently she is based in Pillangkata, Guwahati.



**Mrs. Lucy Engjadim**

Mrs. Lucy Engjadim, wife of Rev. (Dr.) J. M. Ngul Khan Pau, former General Secretary of CBCNEI (1999-2009) was the founding Director of Priscilla Center, Guwahati. She also worked for NEICORD as a Project Manager. Currently, along with her husband and son, she is in Denver, USA.



**Dr. Asangla Ao**

Dr. Asangla Ao, wife of Rev. (Dr.) A. K. Lama, current General Secretary of CBCNEI, worked in the Arunachal Govt Hospital as a Medical Officer. Later she also worked in Jorhat Christian Medical Center, and Nazareth Hospital in Shillong. She has also earned an M.Div. and MA in Counseling from USA. She became the first woman Zonal Secretary of UESI-NE in 2008. Currently, she is the Director of Women's Ministry of Transforming Leaders in Asia (TLA) Ministries, Guwahati.



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# O B I T U A R I E S

**Ms. Hazel Morris**, 96, better known as Miss Ba; the former principal of Nowgong Mission High School in the 1970's went to be with the Lord on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2011. Ms Hazel was instrumental in making the school a premier institute. She left for the USA 1976 after completing 26 years of commendable service.



**Dr. Shallindro Marak**, 55, one of the distinguished personalities of the Council; the Principal of Harding Theological College, Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, left for his heavenly abode on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at 3:30 pm at a Guwahati Hospital. He was diagnosed with high grade lymphoma and leukemia. Dr. Marak is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.



**Mr. Kth. Thamon**, 43, the former Executive Secretary of TNBA (Moyon) went to be with the Lord on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. Mr. Thamon served as the Executive Secretary for one and a half year. He died of typhoid complications and kidney failure at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.



When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: " Death has been swallowed up in victory. "

*1 Corinthians 15:54 (NIV)*

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A quarterly news letter of the COUNCIL OF BAPTIST  
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