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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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Editorial



Dear friends,

What a joy it is for us to tell others about our hope in eternity with the Lord. It is, as someone had said, like “A beggar telling another beggar where the bread is available”. CBCNEI, as a family, we are committed to share this good news to the people of all Nations beginning from North East India. We are pressing toward fulfilling “Every believer a missionary, every home a missionary home, and every church a missionary church”.

We are thankful to the Lord for our churches who are actively involved in sharing the Good News to others who do not know Christ. But it is also our desire to see all our churches taking active part in sharing this Good News in the form of praying, going or sending, and living a good Christian life. Everyone has a role to play in God’s mission.

Mission is not a burden (as many people would think), but an opportunity God has given to us. At the same time, it is a responsibility attached to our calling (1 Pet.2:9). As Willis says,

Missions originated in the heart of God. It is not something we decide to do for God, but God reveals his purpose to us so that we may have a creative part in his mission. (Willis 1985, 23)

The ultimate goal of mission is to bring glory to God through Jesus Christ by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of all nations. Since the Church was founded by God through Christ, who has a missionary heart, the Church needs to be missionary as well. Brunner writes,

The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no Church; and where there

is neither Church nor mission, there is no faith. (Brunner 1931, 108)

Here he is saying that the New Testament church is essentially a missionary body. When a “church loses its missionary vision and ceases to be missionary, it loses the right to be called a church in the New Testament sense” (Terry 1998, 118). The apostle Paul says, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Cor.9:16).

Today many churches seem more concerned about their facilities and infrastructures than doing missions in obedience to the Great Commission of the Lord. They seem to have forgotten that they were founded by dedicated missionaries in humble obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord. Nurturing believers into Christian maturity within the local church is an important part of the church, and equally important is its mission to the world. Jesus commanded his disciples to,

Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Mt.28:19-20)

In obedience to this command to make disciples of all nations, as the church grows into maturity it should also bear fruit through sending missionaries to proclaim the good news and make disciples. It is not wrong to construct church buildings; it is necessary. However, simply having a big church building does not fulfill the purpose of its existence. Jesus wants His church and people to bear much fruit, *John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.* Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut and thrown into the fire (Mt. 7:19). As Christians we must bear fruit.

As you read this issue of Baptist News, it is our prayer that you will be encouraged and challenged so that we will all involve in God’s mission. Due to space limitation, we are unable to share with you all the works done by the individuals, churches, associations and

conventions in the mission field. We have randomly selected few news items and testimonies of the missionaries to enable you to have a glimpse of mission work and the needs in the mission fields.

The focus of this issue of the Baptist News is Mission. You will enjoy reading the mission updates from some member Conventions and few selected Mission partners. Though our partnership has been extended to twelve mission organizations, we are unable to update all of them. The followings are the Mission organizations we have officially entered into partnership:

1. Serving In Mission (NE),
2. North East Center for Training And Research
3. Interserve
4. UESI
5. SBAK Aizuto
6. Friends Missionary Prayer Band
7. Asian Rural Life Development Foundation
8. Transforming Leaders in Asia
9. World Vision India
10. Youth With A Mission (Frontier Mission)
11. Community Health Evangelism
12. Compass Ministry

Beautifully written are the two articles from Rev. Dr. P. Dozo, a missiologist from Nagaland, and Mr. Utpal Bordoloi, a journalist from Assam. As you read their articles, you will experience new insights in doing mission.

May the Lord bless you as you read this Baptist News. May He bless you so that you will be able to take part in His Mission. Bear the cross with Him and wear the Crown with Him in glory.

Pilgrim brother,
Rev. Dr. J. Rimai
Mission Secretary, CBCNEI



THE CONTEXTUAL ASPECT OF MISSIONS

Rev. Dr. P. Dozo, Missiological Research Center, Dimapur, Nagaland

THE CONTEXTUAL ASPECT OF MISSIONS

Fast change is taking place around our world. The change is political, economic, social and missiological. That means 'today is different from yesterday.' Major signs of change are seen in mindset, profession and advancement. The approach, method and application of the past are no longer relevant today. The need is new tool, new model and relevant device to fit in and meet the need of the modern generation. Everything needs to be relevant to the context we live in.

Understanding missions of mission

God dealt and interacted with men in the Bible in human contexts. He communicated through human language, familiarity, analogy, and

geography to fulfill His redemptive plan. The heart of God is mission (*Missio Dei*). Mission here means 'urgency of God's single plan of human salvation through Jesus Christ' while the term Missions refers to means, methodologies and strategies applied to fulfill that very salvation purpose of God. Of course, as Stephen Neill lamented, not everything is mission.

Rise of Cultural Reaction

Mission and western pattern were interwoven in the past. The importance of the host culture and its anthropological and missiological aspect were often ignored. The missionaries applied what they learned from their seminaries. Cross-cultural education was not a curriculum of the mission studies.

The Christian mission results in a

total transformation of human society. Besides eternal and spiritual benefit, it transforms education, health, social change, development, and many other benevolent works. But as George W. Peter said “The gospel is a judge of every culture and leaves no culture undisturbed when it is applied in full scope and measure” (*Vital Missions Issues*, Roy B. Zuck, 1989, p. 33). The Gospel mission should never ignore the aspect of human cultures. Reformed cultural values can be incorporated in church life in terms of cultural adoption.

Context and Relevance

The rise of the Eastern (Asian) scholarship, anthropological insights, cultural sensitivity, stiff opposition to western imperialistic tendency and the assessment of western mission methodology resulted in a new era of considering relevance of mission to its context. This caused the initiation of the universal principle of church planting and growth in its cultural context. Since India has cultural complexity and diversity, it had a special bearing on this new

movement. The aim was to carry on the gospel mission in human soil without dislocating social fabric and cultural web.

Paul Hiebert, Peter Wagner and other key anthropologists and missiologists, the advocate of church growth movements, continued to influence the missions worldwide. They identified contextual issues that can either be hindrance or build bridges in a given culture. This branch of studies emerged as missiology—a scientific investigation of church growth. In this study, factors such as human cultures and contexts, indigenous systems became focal points of research.

People must come to Christ as they are, without any superficial change. They must continue to live in their cultural contexts and be relevant. Paul’s dealing with the Greek philosophers is a precise example. He based his presentation on ‘To An Unknown God.’ In a given target of mission, the reality of practicable cultural ethos, while being relevant, is an acceptable forms and patterns. Take for example, two worldviews of gospel

mission: rural and hi-tech cultures. To the former community, the gospel must reach them in rural context while the latter in tech context. This key remains same as the gospel goes to west-east, black-white and meat-veg or rice-chapatti cultures, Jews-Gentiles and Naga-non Naga cultures. People must come to Christ and receive salvation as they are. It is a simple missiological science.

Living issues in mission

Along with changing trends in mission, our missionary efforts must rise above traditional mindset and methodology. Generation changes but salvation plan of God never changes. The issue is 'the message must be communicated to the people according to where and how they are.' To that end, the following steps may be taken into consideration:

1. *Knowing the audience*

In our modern world, using the help of social science, geo-anthropology, communication and missiology, mission must go with alertness, avoiding blindness and beating around

the bush. Jesus explained the target people as wolves and foxes to the disciples before they went for mission. Survey, research and pre-field orientation will remove many ignorance of the mission field of our churches.

2. *Relevant and holistic*

As discussed, the gospel must reach people as a message that they need, and not as an introduction of western Christianity or western duplication. Relevant approaches must be explored. For instance, sports ministry for youth, health, education, sanitation, teaching, economic elevation, and technical approaches can be vital tools of gospel mission in the modern generation.

3. *Interdisciplinary of missiology and theology*

Students study theology to become church leaders while missiology is like medical specialization or skill training of soldiers to combat. The latter prepares for successful cross-cultural task. It enables to face cultural reality including

anthropological, social, contextual, and religious belief systems. Applying missiological principle of church planting and growing, practicing the host culture, and learning its language can result fruitful involvement.

4. *A baby begins to grow*

Most sending churches expect an early report of high number of converts with denominational flags and signboards. In fact, a new church is like a baby child. It takes an appropriate time for nursing, feeding, and nurturing toward growth process. A balance care avoids premature development. Following acceptance, proper care is the need before numerology and denominational identity. After all, we bring people to Christ and not to a church or a denomination. Identity follows maturity.

5. *Cell or house church instead of mega mentality*

It is biblical and practical to plant and multiply believing fellowships as house or cell churches. The effort of mission results reproducing persons and multiplying circles. This process happens through discipleship,

training and mentoring. A growing church is the result of developing volunteers. It is a biblical model. Cells and house churches are relevant because they look like computer centers or medical clinical centers. A time may come when the native believers resolve to build their own church building with their resources.

6. *Mustard seed instead a name*

The Lord Jesus points to the rudimentary stage of the Kingdom of God when he talked about a mustard seed. The seed refers to the Word and not a denominational caption. What the audience needs is a clear message of eternal life, acceptance, and growth. They need discipleship to continue the same process of multiplication. Churches grow when laid on strong foundation. Church planting must be guided with a vision of reproducibility.

7. *They will follow us*

The converts will follow the examples of pioneering missionaries and not denominational identity. Mission is like salt and light that have natural attraction. The plants are

the offshoots of the seed sown by the planters. The believers will follow the missionaries' quality and values they see in them, and not the offer of their money, education or caliber. They will follow them because they see the beauty of Christ in them. The life and testimony of a missionary speak louder than the volume he speaks. It attracts people more than advertisement he makes about his denomination. Let them come to Jesus and have life.

8. *Secular form with gospel content*

It is a matter of clear conscience in the purpose of mission. Secular form here means contextual methodology, relevant application and approach in mission. For instance, a physical care is more important for a starving or dying person instead of reading from the Bible and preaching with lengthy prayer. Mission incorporates discernment of a wise decision for each moment.

9. *Eyeing a nucleus strategy*

The Holy Spirit is the director of mission of God. Our efforts of

mission must be to listen to the gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit for the right vision, decision, focus, application and direction.

Mission is the heart of a living church. The Bible talks about human tongues confessing Christ and knees bowing down before Christ (Phil 2:10, 11). The question is 'Who and how will that be accomplished?' The mission of church must fulfill it. The apostle Paul urged us: "People will hear and believe only when people are sent to preach" (Rom 10:14-16). The question is "Who are the preachers to be sent by whom?" They are the believers to be sent by the churches. The final question is "Who are those people to be communicated to believe?" They are those people yet to accept Christ, believe and receive salvation, living in the hills, plains and valleys around and beyond.

Recommended reading:

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 13. Max L. Stackhouse, *Apologia, Contextualization, (1988)*
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 15. S. D. Ponraj, *Missionary Anthropology. MEB, Chennai (2004)*
 16. Richard H. Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture. Maryknoll, NY (1999)*
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MISSION FROM A LAYMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Utpal Bordoloi is a member of Guwahati Baptist Church. A free-lance writer, he was a full-time professional journalist for more than 20 years.



Part 1 : A conversation

A: 'Tell me about your religion.'

B: 'What do you want to know?'

A: 'As much as you can tell me. Well, Let's start from First Principles. What kind of a Hindu are you? Do you worship Vishnu? or Shiva ? or Kamakhya Devi ?'

B: 'I worship Ma Kamakhya.'

A: 'Then you must have offered blood sacrifice at Kamakhya Devi's temple.'

B: 'Yes.'

A: 'What kind?'

B: 'Pigeons, roosters, goats, buffalo.'

A: 'Why?'

B: 'To get something.'

A: 'What?'

B: 'To pass exams. To get a good job. To get a good wife. To get a son.'

A: 'And what else do you offer sacrifice for?'

B: 'What do you mean?'

A: 'There is something you have left out.'

B: 'What?'

A: 'Do you also not give blood sacrifice for your sins?'

B: 'Oh yes! I forgot that part.'

A: 'Then, you know **BolirBidhan**.' [In Assamese, **BolirBidhan** means the Law of {blood} sacrifice]. Every Hindu knows **BolirBidhan**. Blood must flow in any sacrifice. Well, Jesus Christ came into this world to end **BolirBidhan**. 'God came down into this world in human form, as Jesus Christ, and offered himself as the ultimate blood sacrifice for us. So that we human beings could be free from **BolirBidhan**, have forgiveness for our sins and enjoy eternal life with Him.'

B: 'You mean, Jesus Christ is God's Avatar? He is a sacrifice for us?'

A: 'Yes, you can put it that way.'

B: 'That's fascinating. I always thought Jesus Christ was just another great

holy man, like Gautama Buddha or Prophet Mohammed. Tell me more about this. Can you give me a copy of the Bible?’

Part 2: A Christian Layman’s random thoughts on Mission

The conversation began a process that continues, with the questioner, a highly educated and senior Government servant, continuing to study the Bible. Whether he ultimately comes to Jesus or not is up to the Holy Spirit working according to the will of God. The lay Christian who answered his questions did his job by introducing him to the Word of God.

A Pastor once taught in a Bible study: ‘The Word of God is like a chained lion. Our job is to let loose the lion. And leave it to the Holy Spirit to do the rest.’

A lay Christian’s Mission is to let loose the lion. And not worry about who comes to Jesus or does not. Trusting the Holy Spirit is to do God’s will.

This, I believe, is in conformity with the Bible.

Romans 8:29, 30 : ‘For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be one confirmed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren ... And whom He predestined, these He also called ; and whom He called, these He also justified ; and whom he justified, these He also glorified.’

Ephesians 1:4, 5: ‘For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will’

Mission is essentially a task of Communication.

I have been a professional print media journalist for nearly 30 years. And journalism is all about communication.

I was trained in an old, serious school of Journalism, [nowadays most journalism is superficial], and some lessons that I learned during my training remain ingrained in me. As an apprentice subordinate editor and trainee reporter I was taught ‘First, understand the subject matter thoroughly. Only when you are sure that you understand what it is all about that you start writing or editing. Because if you do not understand it yourself, how much do you think the reader will understand?’

My wife and I were once shocked when an evangelist appointed by a local church in Guwahati, a convert who had studied Theology in a seminary in South India, said he argued with non-believers, mainly Hindus, that Christianity was superior to all other religions because all scientific and technological developments of the

modern world was the work of Christians! Obviously, this professional missionary had no understanding of his subject. His history was wrong, too. As was the methodology of his Mission. 'Second,' I was taught, 'place yourself in the reader's shoes. You may know big words. Don't use them. Keep the message short and simple. Use short words and simple words. You are in the business of communicating. You are to communicate a message or an idea. If you use language which the reader does not understand, the message is lost and you have failed your task.'

It may be of interest that two of my trainers, Hindu gentlemen both, advised us trainees to read the Bible in modern English translation, particularly the four Gospels, as a model of simple, clear and perfectly understandable writing and reporting. The Gospel of Mark, in particular, reads like a quality newspaper. It reads like an eyewitness account because of its vividity.

The conversation reproduced above is an example of going to where the audience is, and taking him step by step, to a point of understanding. He already knows the concept of a blood offering. From that point, to lead him to an understanding of why God became

man, why Jesus was born, does not take much effort.

Bible reading Christians [there are many who do not] know the Great Commission laid on us by our Lord: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

But in practice, this is difficult for a lay Christian in a secular profession, in a society where more than 95% of the population is non-Christian. [And our Roman Catholic brethren do not make things easier with their fixation on statues and images – witness, for example, the extraordinary spectacle of the wax effigy of John Bosco with a bone from his right hand embedded in it, being paraded all over North East India from April to June :thousands of Hindus in Assam worshipped that effigy and the impression spread that Christians are not very different from Hindus. 'You also worship idols,' a Hindu college teacher said to me, and all I could say is 'what they are doing is against the Bible,' showing him Deuteronomy 5] But there is another way a layman can witness, which is what mission is all about. Let us return to the last clause in Matthew 28: 20 – 'teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' Elsewhere

in Matthew, it is reported that Jesus told a Pharisee the two greatest commandments: 'Love the Lord your God ... and Love your neighbour as yourself.'

It is in the second great commandment that many of us, including myself, fail. We do not love. There is less love in Christians and in their churches than there ought to be. A little story may illustrate.

A peon of a church in Guwahati was once sent to deliver a letter to an important leader of the church known for his inspired sermons, his witness and his Mission work. The peon went eight kilometers standing in a crowded bus in the blistering heat of a June afternoon, then walked one kilometer more in the blazing sun from the bus stop to the church leader's house to deliver the letter - sweating, tired, dehydrated.

The church leader took the letter and dismissed the peon from his doorstep. He did not ask him to come in and rest, cool off under the fan, and drink a glass of water. For the church leader, the peon simply did not register as a human being. He was just a servant. The peon, incidentally, is a Christian and a member of the same church. If we Christians behave like this with our own brothers, how shall we behave with non-believers?

I have seen some church leaders, always busy in mission, use people and discard them like a used menstrual cloth.

What's the point of their 'mission'? Their sermons? Or their witness? Paul said it: 'If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal...'

Without Love, there is no point in Mission.

'For God so loved the World...'

describes the Supreme example of Mission.

These are only the views of a theologically untrained Christian layman, an inveterate sinner. Presumably the B.D's and the D.D's and the Reverend Doctors know better. They are, after all, the professionals in this business of Mission. For many of them it is a career and a livelihood.

I have often observed that some professionals with theological training tend to address each other more than they address the concerns of the ordinary church member, the layman, or the non-believer.

Finally, it is my observation [I may be wrong] that Baptist News does not speak to the concerns of the ordinary, lay Christian church member.



NEWS CAPSULES

A'chik Baptist Krima No. 1, Peace-Building Workshop

On the 19th and 20th of April 2011, through the initiative of the CBCNEI and funding from APBF, A'chik Baptist Krima No- 1 organized 'Peace-Building



Workshops' at Nisangram and Hudakona respectively, where altogether around 100 participants attended the workshops.

It was felt that the Seminars came at the right time for both the communities to reflect on the past ugly incident which brought unnecessary bloodshed and suffering to the members of both the communities. The members felt that after a review of what has gone wrong, and affirmed that definite action steps should be taken to prevent any untoward

incidents in future.

The members expressed their gratefulness to the CBCNEI, APBF and BWA for providing the financial resources for the workshop and prayed that their ministries of peace-building will continue to bring blessings to many more even in the future.



Mission Awakening Seminar

The Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention organized a "Mission Awakening Seminar" for Karbi Anglong partnering with **Asia Soul Winner** from April 25-27, 2011 at Jirson Asong, Diphu.

Rev. Allan Chan, Director, **Seed Ministry**, Singapore with his team and Rev. G. Khing, Director **Asia Soul Winner** were the main resource persons. This was the first Seminar which was ever held in interdenominational level. Altogether 95 church leaders attended the seminar.

Leaders Consultation Meeting

Leader Consultation Meeting was held from May 27 - 29, 2011 at

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Rongkroi Garo Baptist Church for West Karbi Anglong's 5 Associations. The following issues were discussed and some resolutions were taken:

1. Leadership unity and service,
2. Church Growth,
3. Denominational issue,
4. Finance integrity and
5. Income generating projects

Altogether 62 leaders participated. Mr. Rajeswer Bey, Bank Manager, Rev. Athang Sebu and Rev. Davidson Ingti were the main resource persons.



New Appointments



Manipur Baptist Convention has appointed two young men to co-labour for the promotion of the convention. **Mr. Wibonbou Abonmai** has been inducted as the Assistant to Mission Secretary. He earned his M. Div degree from Oriental Theological Seminary, Bade, Dimapur.

Mr. Thamshang Horam has been appointed as the Assistant



to Youth Secretary. He finished his BD degree from Union Biblical Seminary, Pune.

Themshang had worked for different private companies before he joined the seminary and also had the privilege to serve his seminary in IT section during his studies in UBS.

Mr. Shyamanta Boro has been appointed as a new librarian for CBCNEI's Library &



Archives department. He did his BA (Anthropology) from Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko and MLISc from Guwahati University.



Mr. Elvis Hicks completed his B.Com from Pragjyotis College, Guwahati and joined CBCNEI as a Receptionist in CBCNEI Conference Centre.



61st CBCNEI Annual General Meeting (April 29-May 01, 2011)

The 61st Annual General Meeting of CBCNEI was held at Nagaon Baptist Church, hosted by Assam Baptist Convention under the able leadership of Mr. R. K.



Raychawdhuri. The theme was based on Colossians 2:2, "United in love...for Enrichment in Christ". The speakers and resource persons were, Rev. Reid Trulson, Executive Director, BIM; Rev. Benjamin S. L. Chan, Area Director, BIM; Mr. Sushant Agrawal, Director, CASA; Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI; and Mr. R. D. Shira, President, CBCNEI. Altogether 170 delegates from the six conventions, Assam Baptist Convention, Arunachal Baptist Church Council, Garo Baptist Convention, Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention, Nagaland Baptist Church Council & Manipur Baptist Convention took part in the meeting.

Delegates from other organization like Interserve, **North East India Church Council**, Zomi Baptist Church Mizoram, Church Auxliary SA and Shillong Baptist Church also were present. Rev. R. Lalnunzira, General Secretary, was invited to bring greetings on behalf of NEICC. Quail band, Guwahati led the praise and worship and choir from Eastern Theological College, Jorhat enthralled the meeting with special songs.



NCCI Conference (June 21 - 24, 2011)



National Council of Churches in India together with Council of Baptist Churches in North East India organized a National Study Conference on "Integral Mission: Rethinking Mission in India Today". It was held in Guwahati Baptist Church. Altogether 65 delegates from all over India attended the conference. The

resource persons and speakers were Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad; Rev. Dr. P. B. M Basaiawmoit; Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi; Dr. Hrangthan Chhungi; Rev. Vinay Peter; Rev. T. I. James; Mr. A. K. Goldsmith and Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama.



Baptist World Alliance Congress

More than 400 Baptist leaders and the delegates from around the world attended the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia from July 4-9. Dr. Anjo Keikung (NBCC), Rev. Keviyekielie (NBCC), Dr. Wungnaothing Konghar (MBC), Mr. R. K. Raychawdhuri (ABC), and Rev. Athang Sebu (KABC), represented the four conventions of CBCNEI. In two different gathering of Commissions, Dr. A. K. Lama,



General Secretary, presented two papers: *The Status of Theological Education in the Northeast India* and *The Mystery of our Unity in Christ*. In the General Assembly on Aug 10, the Chairman of the Membership Committee declared CBCNEI as the Associate Member. The house gave a standing ovation to the CBCNEI. Dr. A.K. Lama, the General Secretary, gratefully acknowledge it.



Dr. Wati Aier felicitated (July 4 - 9, 2011)



The "Denton & Janice Lotz Human Rights" award was presented to

Rev. Dr. Wati Aier, Principal of Oriental Theological Seminary,

Dimapur during the Annual gathering of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) in Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia. Dr. Wati, the convenor of the Forum for Naga reconciliation is being recognized for his efforts for nearly two decades in seeking to broker peace between various Naga factions.

[See BWA pictures on cover page]



SEMINAR ON ENCOUNTER-ACT HUMAN TRAFFICKING & AWARENESS ON KEY LEGAL ISSUES

The Department of Justice and Peace, CBCNEI in collaboration with Garo Baptist Convention organized a two days seminar on Encounter-act Human Trafficking



Krimas (Associations) attended. The seminar program highlighted the growing menace of human trafficking in the Northeast region and its safeguards, protective rights of the women and children under various Indian laws, public rights under right to information, consumer rights, and Constitutional rights of religious freedom by various renowned resource persons from Impulse, Shillong, CBCNEI, Guwahati and GBC, Tura.



and Awareness on Key Legal Issues on 26th -27th July 2011 at Tura Baptist Church, Tura where 25 participants from various

T e s t i m o n y



I, Onima Tali belong to Adi tribe from Arunachal Pradesh. I grew up in a staunch non christian family. I was married to a man who was a drunkard and was beaten up by him a number of times. I along with my kids had to take refuge in our neighbours house to protect ourselves. There was neither peace in the family nor in my heart. I was on the verge of giving up and did not see any reason to live, I even thought of ending my life.

One day my husband fell sick and requested the christian leaders to pray for him. He began to recover for some days. However, due to excessive drinking, he died. The death of my husband was a turning point in my life as I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

God opened the way for me to pursue my B.Th from Missiological Research Centre (MRC) in Nagaland despite my family problems. Within the span of two years, Mrs. Aimi Pertin, whom I regard as my spiritual parents, took care of my children. I am grateful to Mr. Kathose and Mrs. Hotoni Aye of Dimapur, Chekiye Village, for sponsoring me during my studies.

After the completion of my course, I served as a Home Evangelist within my local church. I visited homes, prayed, counseled and preached to both believers and non believers.

During the Silver Jubilee celebration of our association, Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama, who was the main speaker made a great impact in my life through his message. I met him personally and sought guidance for my future involvement in my ministry.

Now I am privileged to serve as a Community Development Worker under CBCNEI, preaching the Gospel to the unreached.

To God be the Glory!

T e s t i m o n y



I, Mr. Jakir Hussain, was born in a Muslim family. As a Muslim, I abide to all the practices of Islam. However, Islam never gave me the real peace in my life. So I began to study different religious books but in vain. I faced problems one after the other which kept me in deep pain. I came across a new friend to whom I shared my inner feelings. It was back in 2002-03 that my friend Shamesh Uddin presented a book called "Kitab-UI-Mokaddas" and a Holy Bible. He shared the Good News from the Bible and told me that I can get Nizad (Deliverence) from my sin. I began to study the Bible intensely. The two passages spoke to me:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matt 7:7) and

John 14:6, " I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".

The Holy Spirit led me to take water baptism from Kushimkhol Baptist Church, William Nagar and decided to follow Christ for the rest of my life. I am now serving the Lord as a Community Development Worker under CBCNEI and I am glad that the Lord is using me for His Kingdom.



Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.

~ Willam Carey

Mission reports from some member Conventions Mission Department:

Mission: Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention

[By Anderson Tokbi, Mission Secretary, KABC]

We the church planters and facilitators of Karbi Anglong Grass Roots Church Planting Movement (the Mission Department's endeavour) are grateful to God for His grace and blessings bestowed upon us, and for using us as His instruments to reach out to people with the message of love, hope and salvation. We are also indebted to those partners, patrons and well-wishers who encouraged us, prayed for and supported us in different ways and capacities. May the Lord bless and keep them and His countenance shine upon each of them.

Altogether there are 29 church planters (10 women and 19 men) and two staff in our mission department. We selected 14 least evangelized areas and deputed two church planters in each area. Three of our church planters are now studying theology in south India, while one promising church planter, Ms Premi Terangpi died due to Malaria and jaundice. We



also bade farewell to one Church planter and dismissed two church planters. Everyone served in full-time basis but given just a meagre allowance. We try to live and serve by faith not by sight.

PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

1. Retreat: Retreat programs are organized every year for the church planters and facilitators.

2. Basic Training and monthly Debriefing: The Department conducts short and basic trainings for the new church planters. Debriefing with a time for sharing experiences, prayer and mentoring church planters are also held every month. This is an effective strategy that makes our ministry an

encouraging movement.

3. Non-formal theological

course: The Department facilitates a basic theological course (1 year) for our Church planters and lay-leaders of three churches in Diphu town by partnering with the Bible Training Centre for Pastors (BTCP). Each one is provided ten books which are very informative and useful for personal life and ministry.

4. Special Outing: A special outing programs are held to teach the art and principles of church planting. Some church planters go out to share the Gospel in the neighbouring villages.

5. Water project: The Department also makes an effort to provide safe and easy water facilities to the villagers in partnership with Mr. & Mrs Imli Jamir and Mr Theja of YWAM. Attempt will be made again in 2011 for the welfare of the villagers and building relationship where our church planters are posted.



Leaders of Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention

6. Humanitarian services: Our church planters often show the love of Christ by sharing their little ration with the needy people in their fields, caring the sick and helpless, helping the farmers etc. As such our church planters are respected and received well in most of the places by non-Christians.

7. Jail Ministry: The Department also conducts prison ministry in collaboration with Diphu Baptist Church and Nagaland Missionary Movement, Dimapur. We are grateful to God for the opportunity as a number of Christian and non-Christians were transformed.

8. Gospel film: The Gospel films ministry is another aspect of the Department's approach to evangelism. This film ministry is very effective but require certain equipment to meet the needs.

9. Field visit: The Department workers visit the church planters in order to effectively understand, encourage and monitor their works. Some places which are visited more than once due to the challenging needs, like persecution and sicknesses. Sometime senior and effective church planters are sent to supervise their co-workers.

10. Prayer and Fasting: Fasting and prayers are integral to the

Department's mission and evangelism.

PARTNERSHIP

1. Partnership within KABC:

There are four categories of partnership within KABC.

a) Guardian churches: There is an understanding and cooperation with some local churches and associations to become the guardians of the church planters. We are grateful to all the guardian churches for their acceptance, guidance and assistance provided to our church planters. New believers are encouraged to become members in these guardian churches. These churches do not make financial commitment yet some of their members help our church planters from time to time.

b) Local churches and departments: We continue to mentor the three church planters of Diphu Baptist Church and Emmanuel Baptist Church of Diphu,

whose honorarium are directly paid by their churches. One church planter is sponsored by Rongkangtui Baptist Church of Puta Karbi Baptist Association. We have been receiving partial sponsorship for one church planter from Diphu Baptist Church and its Women department and also from Hidibonglong Baptist Church. Our agreement period with PKBA area No. 2 to work together in Kungripi area has come to an end. (Total contribution received: Rs. 58,600).

c) Patron: We are very blessed to have about 14 families as our dear and faithful patrons. Mostly they are from Diphu town itself. They are very faithful in pledging and contributing generously, sincerely and regularly towards our church planting ministry (Total contribution received: Rs. 2, 78, 095).

d) Well-wishers: We are also grateful to those few individuals and families who took part in our ministry by providing material and financial assistance whenever we approach them for help (Total contribution received: Rs.83, 513).

2. Partnership from outside

KABC: There are two categories and received total contribution Rs. 2,31, 200):



a) Partnership from within India:

In partnership with Mr & Mrs Imli Jamir of Gauhati (YWAM Missionary) the Department launched church planting ministry in 2005 January. The terms of the partnership agreement is completed. We are very happy to receive moral and spiritual support from the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India; the partial financial sponsorship from Balading Baptist Church, Tura and Nagaland Missions Movement, Dimapur for one church planter each; and from BTCP ministry and Outreach Welfare Society.

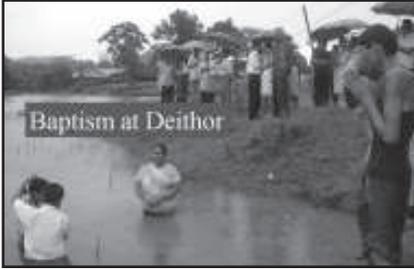
b) Partnership from outside India: We acknowledge and appreciate the love and concern shown towards us by the leaders of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF). We take pride in God for the incredible contribution of the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in sowing the seeds of the Gospel, upholding and nurturing us till date since 1850s. We are indebted to them all. A mutual friendship for partnership with the American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas has started recently.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE USA.

I am very thankful to God and all those who encouraged / supported me to attend the BWA Annual meeting in Hawaii (USA) as an official delegate and as a member of the Emerging Leader Network of the Baptist World Alliance; and to say 'Thank You' on behalf of KABC to the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the USA, at Valley Forge, for sending their missionaries and money to our Karbi Anglong since 1859. I was accompanied by Mr J. I. Kathar and Mr. Bijoy Teron; and the gist of this trip and other mission promotion is attached herewith.

FINANCE

We did not have any church or individual or organization to support us financially when we initiated this ministry. We simply put our trust and confidence on our Lord for everything. However, few individuals and churches and organizations have now stood behind us to pray and support us. In 2010 we received a total amount of Rs. 8,62,610 plus Opening Balance Rs. 23,304; out of which Rs. 2,31,200 was received from outside our Convention and Rs. 6,31,410 was received from



within our own convention. The total expenditure was Rs. 8,68,929, and 60 % of it was spent on the monthly allowance of church planters and 20 % on theological education.

NEW BELIEVERS & CHALLENGES

KABC church planters have worked hard to bring to Christ as many souls as possible, however only 117 adults from other faiths have taken water baptism as the public confession of their inner conviction. About 2000 people may have heard the Gospel. Many have experienced miracles in their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many people have expressed their interest to receive Christ as their Saviour but hesitated due to threatening and persecution by their villagers. In fact, few houses

were destroyed and some people were beaten up because of their faith in Christ in 2010.

PLANS APPROVED BY KABC EXECUTIVE BODY

- a) 10 New Church planters (8 men & 2 women): replacement = 5, new fields = 5.
- b) Assist Healing ministries at Diphu, Deithor & Cheharlangso by providing men & money.
- c) New life Conference at Diphu in March in coordination with Mr. Imli Jamir
- d) Raise fund for Church Planters Hostel.
- e) Necessities: Church planters hostel, more patrons for monthly allowances and a vehicle.

We are sorry for all that we have failed to do and achieve in 2010. We commit ourselves afresh to strive harder for the glory of God. May I request you all to be our prayer warriors, partners, patrons and well-wishers for the furtherance of His Kingdom.



"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light"

~ John Keith Falconer

Mission: Assam Baptist Convention

[By Prince Paul, Mission Secretary, ABC]



On behalf of the Mission Department of the Assam Baptist Convention, I would like to thank the editor of Baptist News for giving this opportunity to highlight the Mission Activities that are taking place in the 'Harvest Field' of Assam. The department is like an infant which cannot do much to address the God-given tasks and to the multiplying challenges. We are thankful to God because He is stepping before us to follow Him and to glorify His name alone.

A. Church Plantation Movement and Discipleship:

The key focus of the Convention is to plant Churches and disciple the new believers belonging to the unreached people groups. The House Church Movement is the official mission strategy to plant new churches. This movement is named as the "New Vine of Jesus". In ABC history, we are witnessing multiplication

of churches and growing numbers of believers within the churches. The follow-up programmes and Timothy Meet programmes have been periodically organized for the House Church Leaders to push the movement further and deeper.

B. Evangelistic Consultation:

To encourage the local churches and the leaders for evangelization, the department organizes an Evangelistic Consultation, where participants are explored by way of spiritual mapping of their respective districts, and by the Word of God. The department has taken decision to organize a series of the programmes for all the affiliated associations so that more churches and the local leaders can be reached-out this year. It is an eye-opening programme for the delegates to have awareness and knowledge

of the Harvest Field of Assam. Some churches and individuals have come forward to help the Convention and also to get involved in the field.

C. Mission Conference:

Mission Conference is one of the major programmes of the department. We invite the evangelists, mission leaders and the church planters to the mission conference and give them more insights, encouragements and awareness of Harvest Fields and send them back to their respective fields with zeal and boldness. As a result some churches have already appointed local evangelist to spread the Gospel in their neighboring areas. This year we are organizing mission conference for the second time in the month of September at Nagaon.

D. Outcome of the above programmes:

The number of baptized members from the other faith is 1850 which is not seen before; and 65 House Churches are established in the last financial year (April, 2010 to March, 2011)

of ABC. We praise God for this.

E. Pastoral Training

Programme:

Since 2007 Pastoral Training Programme is being organized separately for all the affiliated associations. The goal of this training programme is to educate and to help the untrained pastors with the church related subjects and issues. Majority of the Pastors under ABC churches are untrained, therefore, Pastoral Training Programme such as these is helping them to lead their local churches more effectively. It is also an activity to assist the local associations to build-up their churches. The supportive hands of the local churches towards the ABC and development of church affairs of the local churches indicates that churches are benefiting through this programme.

F. Publication:

1. ABC Magazine:

The "PRERONA" is an official magazine of the ABC. It is published quarterly and both Assamese and English articles are published for readers.

2. Our Daily Bread:

The "Our Daily Bread" translated into Assamese is published every year as "Amar Doinik Ahar" for the members of the ABC local churches. The goal is to assist the members in their daily personal cum family devotion.

3. House Church Hand Book:

To assist the House Church Leaders to lead the churches, to disciple the new believers and to multiply the church, "Griho Mondolir Hatputhi" a hand book is being published during the Annual Conference of ABC. It helps to teach the new leaders.

G. Partnership in Mission:

As ABC family, we are trying to build-up partnership with the different mission agencies, churches and individuals to explore the ABC ministry and to serve the people of Assam.

H. Bicycle to the church planters:

The Mission Department is distributing bicycles to the

volunteer church planters to go and look after the House Churches and to enter into a new area where he/she can go easily.

I. Blanket Distribution:

The Mission Department also helps the needy families of the House Churches by giving them two blankets to each family.

There are so many people who do not have even a single blanket to use in the winter season. Therefore, it is one of the great concerns to lift up their economic status too.

We thank God for all the opportunities and blessings that He has been giving to us to work for Him in the state of Assam. We believe that He will help us more to work for Him in the days to come.

All glory and honour to Him alone!



"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first."

~ Oswald J. Smith



Mission: Manipur Baptist Convention

*[Rev. Alani Shongsir,
Secretary, Mission & Evangelism, MBC]*

The Mission and Evangelism Department works along with the 29 member associations under MBC. The Department partners with the member churches, individuals, families, and other like-minded groups and send around 500 missionaries and evangelists who work both within and outside the state. The mission fields of MBC are:

- * Manipur: Imphal Valley (People belonging to these communities: Meitei, Nepali and Muslim) etc.
- * Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal

and Himachal Pradesh.

- * Foreign Mission Field: China, Bangladesh and Myanmar

MINISTRY AT A GLANCE:

- * MBC along with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Church Board have been conducting Church Leadership Training at MBC Centre Church, Imphal. This year altogether 74 people, including pastors, women, youth and children attended the training.
- * Strengthening the home front is an important emphasis of MBC Mission department. There are about 180 individuals and





Jese Abonmai, Evangelist

families with whom we are partnering in sending evangelist to witness and

bring people to Christ.

* The *Ningol Ministry* is a ministry to the tribal or Christian women in Manipur who have been married to men of different faith. It is no wonder that many non-Christian husbands have given their lives to Jesus Christ through this ministry over the past few years, and many of their children are being baptized as well.

* Jese Abonmai, an evangelist of the ministry in Greater Imphal testifies, "It has always been a blessing to be in God's vineyard, especially in the Ningol ministry. Along with all the blessings, also come burdens and challenges. It is rather painful to hear from many Ningols how they have been cheated by their respective husbands who failed to keep their prenuptial promises. Nevertheless, God has begun his wondrous work and unexpected breakthroughs have taken place. Many husbands along with their

children have become believers. Our activities are: cottage fellowship, children camps, visiting families for counseling and prayer meetings, etc."

* In partnership with the Tangkhul Church, Delhi, the Mission & Evangelism department is ministering to the commercial sex workers and people living with HIV and AIDS, particularly in the Imphal Municipal areas. Awareness camps, worship services, personal counseling, are some of the features of this ministry. Wonchung Jajo, an evangelist to the people living with HIV and AIDS says: *"Life, I learnt it the hard way. I was married to a drug addict, and was left a widow when I was still too young, but the love of God surpassed all my feebleness and gave me strength. I find the meaning and purpose of my life after I took refuge in God's mighty care. The miraculous transformation that happened in my life is what I wish to share with other who are living and undergoing similar*



Wangchung, Evangelist

experiences. Therefore, although in a very insignificant way, I'm sharing the hope in Christ to the wives of the addicts and to the victimized widows living with HIV/AIDS, so that they might come out victorious as I'm now. The hardship and the greatest challenge I'm facing now is to take care of some children whose parents are no more because of the dreadful HIV/AIDS.

* Under the partnership with Harvest team, 'Open-Air' preaching had been conducted several times. Villagers listen to the gospel messages from their veranda and many respond to the gospel message by committing their lives to Christ. God is transforming many lives like never before among people of other faiths.

* Mission & Evangelism department is also networking with the following organizations:

1. West Virginia Baptist Convention:

Under this partnership program, we are supporting 2 (Two) theological students. Both of them study at Manipur

Theological College and have completed.

2. Youth with a Mission (YWAM):

Our partnership is to reach unreached people. We are supporting 2(Two) missionaries namely: Mr. Jim Panmei and Esther Guite. At Present both of them are working in collaboration with YWAM in China.

3. Mississippi Baptist Convention:

Since 2006, MBC Mission department and Mississippi Baptist Convention are networking to build God's kingdom in Manipur. Under this partnership, various trainings for church leaders are being taken up to strengthen the local churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

4. Foreign Mission:

§ Bangladesh Mission Field: Despite closed doors to the work of evangelism, God is working in Bangladesh through our missionaries. This year our missionaries could reach seven hundred ten (710) persons with the gospel of Jesus and 54 of them have come to know the Lord and accepted Him as their

Lord and personal Savior and took water Baptism.

§ Myanmar Mission Field:

Around 80 Missionaries are being sent to Myanmar through MBC associations as missionaries. We have appointed a coordinator to coordinate the work in Myanmar in order to strengthen the Mission field.

- ◆ Looking for New Partnership from 2011.
- ◆ Bless India Vision 2020.
- ◆ Institute of Community Transformation.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the prayer partners for your constant prayer, unceasing support and unflinching trust.

Continue to uphold our Mission department in prayers, so that God may continue to enhance its effectiveness day after day.



A preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!". The congregation nodded their approval. With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw in into the river, too!". The people clapped and were saying "Amen". And then finally, he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!".

As he sat down, the **song leader** then stood up quite and announced, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365 "Shall We Gather at the River."



MISSION: GARO BAPTIST CONVENTION

[By Bikash G. Momin, Mission Secretary, GBC]

For the past many years the Mission work in GBC was very slow. But within the past ten to fifteen years the churches have realized the need and urgency of Mission and now many churches and individuals are seriously involved in doing mission. What GBC as a whole has been doing and achieved are highlighted below.

1. Evangelism for the heathen natives. One of the greatest challenges GBC is facing is to bring the few remaining unreached Garos to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is estimated that there are approximately 25,000 songsarek Garos residing in about 65 villages that are yet to be won for Christ. GBC plans to send evangelists to all these villages for evangelism. At present there are about 132 evangelists who are already working in various mission fields in the Garo

inhabited areas. And through the work of the evangelists many are coming to Christ. Once in a year the Mission Board sends out the students for two months as volunteer evangelists to the unreached Garos who have just finished their SSLC, HSSLC, BA examinations. This year we have sent 21 young people and within one month they evangelized 20.

2. Cross-cultural mission – GBC is partnering with other like-minded church bodies and mission agencies in spreading the Gospel to many people groups like the Nepalis, Bengali Muslims, Bengali Hindus, Biharis, Rabhas, Boros, Hajongs, Koch-Rajbhongshis, Banais, Mishings, Maltos of Jarkhand, Sikkim, Punjab etc. It is supporting more than 15 missionaries working among these people groups in different parts of NE India and beyond.

3. Foreign mission – In obedience to the Great Commission, GBC is also involved in spreading the Gospel in the neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Cambodia. In partnership with Nepal Baptist Church Council we are supporting six evangelists in six mission fields in Nepal. It is also partnering with Serving In Mission (SIM)-International by supporting a lady missionary Miss Canberra Marak in Sudan and Mr. Tengwat Sangma in



Miss Canberra Marak, Missionary to Sudan

Zambia and a missionary couple in Thailand. In July Mr. Juwindro A. Sangma is going to Nepal as a missionary.

4. Bible translation – Hawakhana Baptist Church, a member-church of GBC, is partnering with Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) in translation of the Scripture into Hajong language. Some



*Mr. Tengwat Sangma,
Missionary to Zambia*

parts of the New Testament had been completed.

5. In order to bring awareness on mission th,e Mission Board organizes Mission Awareness programmes, Cross-cultural Conference, etc. It provides health care services, relief, education etc.

These are some of the mission work that we are doing. Many Churches are ready to support and also planning



*Juwindro A. Sangma
Missionary to Nepal*

to send out the missionaries to other parts of India and even overseas. Many young people have committed themselves to go for overseas missionaries and some are in the process of training to go.



Frontier Missions, NE India - Bhutan (Youth With A Mission)

[By: Almond Syiem
FM Director, YWAM Frontier Missions]



Frontier Missions (FM) is a ministry stream within Youth With A Mission (YWAM) that seeks to serve God among unreached people groups and segments of society, believing that these groups can be meaningfully and fruitfully engaged through church planting. According to the Joshua Project, which is a research initiative seeking to highlight the ethnic people groups of the world with the least followers of Christ, there are more than 6933 ethnic people groups in the world, mostly residing in a geographical area now popularly known as the 10/40 Window covering countries of Africa and Asia that are between 10 Degrees and 40 Degrees North of the Equator, that have very little or no access at all to the gospel. Almost 3 billion people residing in unreached communities, mostly found in this part of the planet, continue to be

separated from the gospel, have neither heard about Jesus nor met anyone who has demonstrated His love. YWAM Frontier Missions is determined to change this situation.

The reality of Unreached People Groups (UPGs) and their urgent need for the Good News have strongly prompted YWAM Frontier Missions to be meaningfully involved in church planting among the least reached, the ones that so far continue to be neglected by most missionary initiatives. In South Asia, Frontier Missions (FM) is involved in church planting among the unreached in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan and is interested in pioneering in Sri Lanka and Maldives as well. In the whole of South Asia, through the pioneering efforts of church planting teams and through

partnerships, we have seen about 10000 people come to know Christ. In many situations, church planting has also been integrated with mercy ministry where God's love is demonstrated in practical ways to the poor, the suffering and the outcasts.

North East India-Bhutan is an FM area within the South Asia Region and covers 6 states of the North East (excluding Tripura), Sikkim, north Bengal and Bhutan. For more than 10 years now, there have been church planting efforts among the unreached in this area and some of the people groups that have been engaged so far are Bengali Hindus, Bihari Hindus, Bihari Muslims, Assamese Muslims, ethnic Bhutanese groups such as the Ngalongpa and the Karbi. In north Bengal, during the last 5 years or so, almost 100 people have believed in Christ and several house churches have emerged. The challenge though remains formidable – there are still many people groups (e.g. Meitei, Ahom,

Rajbangshi, Assamese Brahmin, Bengali Muslims, Mishing, Chakma, Koch, Rabha, Marwari, etc.) that need to be engaged through intentional, Holy Spirit empowered and culturally relevant church planting efforts.

In Assam, one of the ways God has led us to engage the unreached is through strategic partnerships. YWAM Frontier Missions had a partnership for 8 years with the Karbi Baptist Convention (KBC) which saw more than 800 people come to Christ and scores of house churches planted. The Karbi work was recently handed over to the KBC. At present Frontier Missions is having a 5 year partnership with the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI), Guwahati in church planting work among neighbors (Muslims) in Assam. At the centre of both these



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partnerships is one of our FM staff, Imli Jamir, along with his wife Sarah, who have labored tirelessly to train, coach and strategically invest their time and skills on selected groups of people and individuals from within these indigenous communities to reach out and plant churches among their own people.

YWAM FM Staffs, SOFM Students & some guests Partnership with CBCNEI being signed

YWAM Frontier Missions has also been sending out people to work among unreached people groups in other countries. Till date, more than 15 people have been sent out to work among different ethnic minorities in China as well as 2 people among the Khmer people in Cambodia. Most of these missionaries are from the North East – Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya.

We do believe that preparation and training is a vital aspect of cross-cultural mission work. Therefore, missionary candidates

are given the opportunity to avail of an excellent training program called the SOFM (School of Frontier Missions). The SOFM is structured into a 3 month interactive Classroom Phase followed by a 2 years Internship Placement with a team working among an unreached people group. Condensed one-week seminars/ trainings are also made available from time to time and staffs also receive ongoing coaching and mentoring as they serve the Lord on the field.

Our goal is to help facilitate people with a calling to the unreached fulfill their God-given destiny through mobilization, training, coaching and placement, a significant part of which happens through partnerships. It is our prayer and our heart's desire that many more people from the North East respond to God's call to the least reached, the neglected ones.





Nagaland Missions Movement (Nagaland Baptist Church Council)

[Rev. Wati Longkumer, Director, NMM]

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Gospel of Christ first reached the Nagas through the sacrifices of the American Baptist missionaries whose labors established the church among a few tribes. In 1955, when the last missionary family withdrew from Nagaland, the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) took up the unfinished task of evangelizing the remaining unreached tribes in Nagaland. In 1960, a Home Mission Board was formed for this purpose. As this ministry developed a decision was made in 1969 to employ a full-time Secretary for Home Mission Division. The first Home Mission Secretary was appointed in 1970. Also that year for the first time 20% of the yearly budget was designated for Foreign Mission work. To reflect this broader scope of ministry the name Nagaland Missions Movement (NMM) at the Thirty-

fourth Annual Session of the NBCC in 1971. At the following Annual Session steps were initiated to enable the NMM to function as a mission organization. Separate constitutions for the NBCC and the NMM were adopted in 1972 which granted certain independence to the Board for the management of the NMM.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Preaching, teaching and witnessing the Gospel of Christ, to bring revival in the churches, and extend its mission outreach to different unreached peoples by sending missionaries,
2. Church-Planting; to establish churches for nurturing new converts for the extension of God's Kingdom.
3. The co-ordination of the various mission endeavors of Nagaland tribal church associations and individual

churches.

4. To promote co-operation with other evangelical bodies and organizations, entering into partnerships with like-minded national and international mission organizations for broader mission enterprise.

5. Making every Christian home a missionary supporting family.

6. Making the love of God manifest through humanitarian and social services.

The Ministry Programmes of NMM

1. Cross-cultural Missions:

NMM coordinates in sending out missionaries both within and outside of the country. It also sends out professionals and skilled workers to different places of work as well as to witness as tentmakers. It also arranges short term mission trips.

2. Naga Christian Fellowship:

We have Naga Christian Fellowships in different cities in India and abroad. It is established to give pastoral care, spiritual nurturing and fellowship to reach out to increasing number of students and working people/families in

cities from NBCC churches.

3. Evangelism among Non-Christians in Nagaland:

With the support/sponsorship of churches, evangelists are appointed to work among the non-Christians in Nagaland. NBCC has appointed a coordinator for independent churches in Nagaland.

4. Hospital Ministry:

In coordination with the Pastors Fellowships and Medical Superintendents of different District Civil Hospitals, NMM is operating this ministry.

5. Prison Ministry:

To reach out the inmates in prisons with the love of Christ, NMM has started prisons ministry. At present, in partnership with the Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention, an evangelist for Diphu jail has been appointed. We are in the process of coordinating with churches and different district jail authorities within the state to reach out to the inmates and workers.

6. Trainings & Consultations:

NMM organize trainings and consultations for associations and churches on missions. It

also arranges cross-cultural and English language training program for missionary candidates. We are in the process of organizing summer school of missions in partnership with the Baptist Union of Denmark (BUD).

7. Holistic Ministry: The NMM is involved in holistic ministry. It is involved in relief and rehabilitation, healthcare, education, and developmental work for the natural calamity victims and poverty in the mission fields.

8. Research & Information: To be updated with what is happening in the churches at home and in missions around the world, NMM collects and disseminates information among the associations, churches, partner organizations, sponsors, field workers and friends.

9. Partnership Ministry: We build partnerships with various likeminded organizations for joint mission enterprises at both national and international levels.

FINANCIAL POLICY

The NMM is an indigenous mission. It receives neither

dues, membership fees nor any funds from other organizations for the operation of its mission fields or home office. It looks to God in faith for its support.

Missionaries, evangelists and some office personnel receive salaries through the faithful contributions of Naga Church associations, churches, families and individuals. If any overseas contributions are received they are applied to capital expenditure such as building, vehicles or property.

NMM AND THE CHURCH

The missionaries and evangelists of the NMM are sent to “unreached fields” to establish churches among people that have no church. There is no intention to compete with any denomination or other mission and every effort is made to avoid the development of such situations. The goal of NMM is to establish churches that will become self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

NMM AND OTHER MISSIONS

The harvest fields of the unreached are yet so vast that

we cannot accomplish the task alone. Therefore, we continue to co-operate and coordinate the work through partnerships with like-minded national and international mission organizations. The mission partnership agreements are subject to review and renewal periodically.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. You can subscribe to the NMM Mission News and pray regularly for the concerns shared there.
2. You can start a prayer group in your home or join a prayer group to pray for the work of the NMM.
3. You can arrange to have NMM missionaries invited to your church or association mission conferences to present the missionary challenge and encourage your church or

association.

4. You can sacrificially donate from your monthly income towards the support of missionaries and their work. You can also encourage others to support NMM with their gifts.
5. You can join the **NMM PARTNERS** by committing an annual donation of Rs. 1, 000/- or more for the operating expenses of the ministry.
6. If the Lord is calling you, you can offer yourself to the **NMM** for missionary service.
7. You can write and tell us what you intend to do, with the Lord's help, to share in the ministry of the NMM.



God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.

~ Hudson Taylor



Naga Christian Fellowship, Pune

[Re-published from: NAGALAND BAPTIST CHURCH COUNCIL, Nagaland Missions Movement, Annual Report 2010]

Mr. Achu Chang is the son of Imtichuba Chang from Noksen village, Tuensang District. He is a member of Noksen Town Baptist Church. He did his B.D. at Union Biblical Seminary, Pune and for his internship program, worked in an NGO, ECS for 7 months. His wife is Hichila Chang. He has been working as Pastor NCF Pune since 2004.

NCF was established in 1985. It's church members are around 700-800 people. It celebrated its 25th Year (Silver Jubilee) in February 2010.

God's faithfulness had carried NCF, Pune for 25th years, which the Church celebrated on February 20th -21st 2010, basing on the theme "Aman" – Being secure in the Lord (Deut 7:9).

The Church which initially started with just 30 to 40 members has grown today, by God's grace,

into a congregation of over 700-800 members including national and international members.

NCF Regular Activities

* Sunday Worship-11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M at City Church, Quarter Gate.

* Cell Group Meetings in 12 different parts of the city-Weekly

* Axis 517 (Prayer meetings based on 1 Thessalonians 5:17) – Alternate Thursday

* Women's Prayer Fellowship-Every Wednesday

* Working People's and Family Fellowship-Second Sunday of every Month.

Apart from these regular activities, NCF also has a variety of Special Sundays that are celebrated continually throughout the year. Some of these have already have been celebrated this year while others are eagerly awaited; New Year Sunday,

Ladies Sunday, Men's Sunday, UBS Sunday, Outgoing Core Leaders Sunday, installation of New Core Leaders Sundays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Prayer and Fasting, Freshers' Sunday, Cell Group Sunday (Four times annually), Working People's and family Fellowship, Friendship Sunday, Celebrating Culture, Thanksgiving Sunday. World Sunday School day, Pre-Christmas service, Christmas Service and countdown service on 31st December.

NCF Pune also organizes **special events/meetings** like: NCF and NSUP (Naga Students Union Pune) leaders retreat cum outing, Theological students' seminar, Cell Group leaders orientation, Workshop/ Motivational meet for all the 12 Task Groups/Core teams, Outreach within and beyond the city, Working People's and Family Fellowship retreat, Sunday School Teachers training/workshops, Christmas Carol and outreach, and Annual Camp.

A different addition to the Church Administration structure since 2009 are the **Interns from UBS**

who assist the Pastor and the overall activities of the Church for eight (8) months. Every evening the interns visit students flats & PG taking Bible studies and praying for them. The accommodation, conveyance, and stipend during the internship is provided by NCF.

NCF guest house started functioning since April 2009. This lodging is furnished with liveable quarters and a kitchen for the comfort of the guests: A haven for the visitors and a platform of opportunity for the NCF leaders and members to meet parents, elders and friends from home.

Missionary and Orphanage Support:

God's call is realized in various places; for Ms. Aileen it was received from NCF, Pune. Aileen had worked with YWM for several years but as her financial support was at stake. She was sandwiched between the pressure of family to take up a secular job for her security or to stay in her commitment to serve the Lord. The call from NCF Pune was the confirmation for her that God wanted her to be in full time Ministry. For many years, NCF

has been supporting missionaries, and this year we are supporting Aileen. She is serving in the outskirts of Delhi, working for the Muslim community.

NCF Pune is also supporting five (5) orphans in the city of Pune. Furthermore, we have identified some students in need and are rendering a very small monthly pocket money to two students. These reports are stated as a testament of how NCF, from nothing, has been lifted up and transformed into a supportive and sending church. We are praying that in the coming year we will be able to extend and enlarge our responsibilities and commitment.

Isaiah 54:2 *“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.”*

Prayer concerns:

- 1. Pray that the students and the working people and all the members of NCF Pune, will be a testimony to others.**

- 2. Pray for our plan to have our own church building. We really do not know how, when and where, but unto His Wisdom, Mercy and Richness we submit.**

In conclusion, NCF Pune extends our gratitude to NMM, NBCC, and all our parents and well-wishers for your constant support and encouragement.

We have set a greater goal and have yet to face bigger challenge, but with your prayers and partnership we step forward.

NCF Mission Statement: NCF exists to reach out and disciple young people, to teach and develop love for God, love for His Word and for His people through regular Christian basics such as: quiet time, bible studies, witnessing, fellowship and worship.





Introducing North East Centre for Training and Research (NECTAR)

[By Rev. S. Nengzakhup, Executive Director]

NECTAR stands for North East Centre for Training and Research. It started as an end-result of a series of Mission Consultations held in Shillong by leaders of various Churches and denominations in North East India; through shared concern to train and send out from the region. It was a growing stream, reaching out cross-culturally in partnership with Missions and Churches of North East India and beyond. What was long since dreamed of setting up an interdenominational Missionary training centre for the region finally became a reality.

NECTAR is an indigenous and interdenominational faith venture launched by like-minded evangelical leaders of North East India. It does not exist to compete with the Church but rather to be a helping hand and facilitator to the Church, especially in fulfilling the Great

Commission.

NECTAR is a registered society under the government of Meghalaya, obtaining income tax exemption, 80 G and FCRA certificates.

Vision

To reach the vast numbers of unreached people of North East India and beyond.

Mission

To call and enable the Churches to fulfill their mission mandate towards the completion of the Great commission.

Aims and objectives

In order to achieve the Vision and Mission stated above, NECTAR lays the following aims and objectives:

1. To impart training in cross-cultural mission studies including short term, long term and tent-making.
2. To conduct mission motivation

and mobilization seminars, consultations and conferences to bring awareness, assist and partner with the churches to fulfill their responsibility for world evangelization.

3. To provide skills in Church planting, integral mission, Bible Translation and Literacy, church leadership and management etc.

4. To develop research base for studying global trends in mission and church planting.

5. To initiate Networking and Partnership ministries with like-minded NGOs, Institutions, Churches and Mission Organizations for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Core Values

Integrity, Transparency, Excellence, Relevance, Partnership and Networking.

Training Programs

1. English Teachers Training (ETT). It is a two-month intensive program. The main purpose of ETT course is to encourage and equip North East Indian young Christians to go as self-supporting English teaching missionaries and help improve the Church run English medium

schools in teaching English. It is normally held during mid January to Mid March every year.

2. Cross-cultural Training (CCT): It is a four-month intensive cross-cultural missionary training program for fresh missionary candidates, missionaries in the field without missionary training, pastors, mission leaders etc.,. Normally, the course runs from Mid April to Mid August every year.

3. Mother Tongue Bible Translation and Literacy (MTBT &L): The length of the training varies depending on the level of the trainees and their need. The focus is to train and equip mother tongue speakers to translate the Bible in their own language.

Partnership and Networking:

NECTAR strongly believes in Partnership & Networking because Mission does not belong to one particular church or denomination.

NECTAR partners with Serving In Mission – North East India (SIM-NEI), English Language Institute China (ELIC), Word for the World Bible Translators (WW), Council of Baptist Churches in North East

India (CBCNEI). Associate membership is being sought to the North East India Churches Council (NEICC).

Where are our graduates?

So far about 210 young men and women from North East India have graduated from NECTAR's ETT & CCT. Most of them are working in cross-cultural church planting work while just a handful of them are involved in the church mobilizing the churches into mission. Majority of our graduates work in the eight states of North East India, W. Bengal and Himachal Pradesh. Our graduates are also working in Thailand -2, Bangladesh -2, Bhutan -2, Cambodia-1, Vietnam-1, China-12, Sudan-4, Ghana-1, Zambia-1 and Kenya-2. The Bible is being translated into Bugun, Tutsa and Tagin languages (all from Arunachal Pradesh).

Governance & Management:

NECTAR is governed and managed by Board of Directors comprising church and mission leaders from various tribes and denominations.

Funds:

NECTAR looks up to God to

provide the financial need of NECTAR through His Church general and the North East Indian Churches in particular. NECTAR receives moral, prayer and financial support from individuals, families, fellowships and Churches.

PRAISE Points:

1. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing the need of NECTAR from its inception till date.
2. Praise the Lord for providing committed and qualified teachers for all the training programs.
3. Praise the Lord for all our prayer and financial supporters.

PRAYER Points:

1. Pray for more supporters.
2. Pray for all our graduates working in mission fields for health, financial provision, and fruitfulness in their respective ministry.
3. Pray for a piece of land for NECTAR and a building.
4. Pray for committed new staff for NECTAR.





SERVING IN MISSION (SIM)

[Neiwete Chirhah, SIMNEI Deputy Director, NMM Missionary seconded to SIM. Also served in Sudan for one year]

Founded in 1893, SIM is a community of God's people who delight to worship Him and are passionate about the Gospel, seeking to fulfill the mission of Christ in this world. The purpose of SIM is to glorify God by planting, strengthening, and partnering with churches around the world as we evangelize the unreached, minister to human need, disciple believers into churches, and equip churches to fulfill Christ's commission. Having its International Headquarters in the United States, SIM is an international, interdenominational and intercultural mission organization that serves in all the five continents of the world. SIM's motto is "By Prayer".

Currently, nearly 2000 missionaries are serving the Lord with SIM in more than 60 countries. Nearly twenty million Christians worldwide are

worshipping the Lord today in thousands of churches in and through SIM's 118 years of ministry. SIM's ministries include: evangelism and church planting, mentoring and discipleship, church leadership training and theological education, linguistics, literacy, Bible translation, media including radio ministry, relief and development, health and sanitation, prevention of HIV/AIDS and home-based care for infected and affected patients, education, children and youth ministry, accounting and administration, etc. The Lord can use any profession for His service with SIM.

SIM North East India was established in 2007, having a motto "From North East India to the Ends of the Earth with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 1:8). The purpose of SIM North East India is to facilitate

and partner with North East Indian churches to send missionaries to the “Ends of the Earth” (Acts 1:8) where the harvest is plentiful and workers are very few. This generation of world mission is the generation of North East Indian Christians. Let us bless the nations of the world! SIMNEI is very thankful to God and to CBCNEI and its constituents for the strong partnership we are having for world missions. The majority of our missionaries come from the CBCNEI constituents.

Why did we North East Indian people receive the Gospel first while many other people groups in India and the world remained unreached? The answer to this question is simple and clear: The Lord wants us to be his missionaries to these nations

and tribes; we were reached first to reach others in our turn. We cannot blame our forefathers for not going to the “ends of the earth”, nor can we leave the task for our future generations. Our generation is our responsibility. We have human resources – we have many educated and committed young men and women; we have spiritual resources - we have both young and older men and women who love the Lord so much and who are men and women of prayers; we have financial resources – the Lord has blessed North East India with natural resources as well as resources from other sources. By God’s help, our young men and women are capable of doing missions in foreign lands. And we North East Indian people are accepted well in many countries.



Within three years of its establishment, the Lord has helped SIMNEI to send 17 missionaries to 7 different countries. More than 10 candidates are in

the pipe-line. To send missionaries overseas is costly. Therefore, as of now, sending churches will contribute half of the support requirements and SIM will help raise the other half. Sending churches will contribute for living allowances (salary), provident (pension) fund, passages (ticket fares for first time going and furlough), medical expenses during furlough in North East India, missionary care expenses at SIMNEI office, pre-field cross-cultural missionary training expenses where applicable, pre-field medical check-up and immunization costs, pre-field psychological assessment costs, equipments for ministry (camera and laptop computer) where applicable, pre-field visa and work permit costs. SIMNEI will help raise, as the Lord

provides, house rent, medical expenses including evacuation, field missionary care expenses, visa and work permit fees, language learning costs, children education subsidy, ministry related expenses, income tax where applicable, orientation expenses, psychological assessment costs (field), first-time settlement subsidy (furniture, utensil, etc) where applicable.

In Acts 1:8, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to witness him simultaneously in Jerusalem (among our own localities or towns and villages), Judea (in areas where our own people group live – our district, state, etc), Samaria (among the neighboring people groups and tribes) and to the “ends of the earth” (foreign/overseas countries). As the world’s

population increases, the number of non-believers too is rapidly increasing, especially in our “Samaria” and “Ends of the Earth” regions. After more than two thousand years of our



Lord's death for the salvation of the people of the world and the risen Lord's Great Commission of his disciples to go to all nations with the Gospel, nearly 7000 people groups/tribes around the world are yet to be reached with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. What if, these people are just waiting, waiting for two thousand years, for North East Indian Christians to bring the Gospel to them? We must take these "Macedonian" calls very seriously, lest they wait for too long.

In obedience to our Lord's command and in response to

these "Macedonian" calls, many churches in North East India have a vision to send missionaries to the "ends of the earth" (foreign countries), but they do not know the how, where, and what of this foreign mission endeavor. In response to this challenge, SIM North East India wants to partner and facilitate North East Indian churches to fulfill Acts 1:8 in its entirety by sending out their missionaries, not only to neighboring people groups, but also to the "ends of the earth" where the needs are so great.



NBCC Youth Triennial Conference

Theme *"Being Rooted in the Word of God"*

Date: October 21-23, 2011

Venue: Akuvuto, Dimapur, Nagaland.



Please pray for the:

- * **Speakers for God's anointing power.**
- * **Young people for renewal life for Jesus.**
- * **Host Association & Needed Resources.**
- * **Participants.**
- * **Conducive Situation and weather.**



Missions that Seek Unity in Christ

(A Bible Study on the first Chapter of Colossians)

[By Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI]

I. Introduction:

My prayer is that through this Bible study we are further encouraged and persuaded to deepen our commitment toward Christian unity as desired by the Lord himself (**Jn 17:21-23**).

In Arunachal Pradesh in spite of severe persecution in last thirty years, Christian population has grown to about 16% today. On the one hand, we rejoice for numerous churches already planted and many are coming to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior daily. On the other hand, Christianity has brought more social division and disunity. In a place, where tribal identity and common ancestral lineage bound the ordinary people together so vividly that they would help each other in harvest, join hands with each other in building their thatch houses, and would do all social

activities together, today because of the coming of Christianity, they are divided. In a small town, there would be three denominations often disconnected from each other. In most cases, they would ridicule each other, downplay each other, and even compete with each other.

Observing the situation apparently, one of the political leaders of our state in his public addressed warned the people about the danger of Christianity that destroys culture and divides people. The evidence today only makes his false statement true.

In 1963, **Bishop Stephen Neill** wrote,

"In many areas where Protestant missions have been at work, Roman Catholic missionaries have later come in, and set themselves to 'complete' the imperfect

Christianity of the Protestant converts. Where older churches have been at work, Christians of the Pentecostal groups have come in, and assured the converts that, unless they speak with tongues, they can have no assurance that they have received the Holy Spirit. Anglicans have been known to convey the blessing of episcopacy to those who thought they were getting on very nicely without them. All this is very sad; but it may help us to realize that we are not really so very far from the New Testament and its problems.” (Neill, Stephen, *Paul to the Colossians*, p.11, 1963)

Our energy is wasted in trying to reconvert each other. We are often segregated by

- * the strong affinity to the ethnic identity, custom, and cultural tradition (tribalism).

- * the emotional and denominational loyalty to the sponsoring churches of the west.

- * the preference on

ecstatic worship experience, the charisma, the use of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- * the name and the ownership of the Church

Recently several Baptist Churches are renamed as the Methodist Church. For last twenty years, several other Baptist churches have been renamed as the Believers Church. The spirit of division among Christians is aroused from various quarters. **There are some engaged in the so called mission at the expense of unity.** The high priestly prayer of our Lord does not hold any importance to them.

In a problematic situation like ours is there any hope? What should be our attitude? What should be our strategy? What is the road map in the Bible?

II. The Mystery of our Unity in Christ

The Church at Colosse was a believing community. Paul called them as *holy and faithful brothers* (sisters included) *in Christ (1:2)*. He

thanked God for their *faith and love* which sprang from their heavenly hope in Christ (1:3-5). He acknowledged that the gospel is growing and bearing fruit among them (1:6). Yet the Church at Colosse was **not a perfect Church**. She was young and in danger of **disunity**. The Colossians were under the influence of some new religious and philosophical teachings. Some commentators name the problem as *Colossian Heresy*, but I would like to differ from them.

The problem mentioned in the text is neither unique to Colosse nor it is of a heresy. I believe that it is a problem of any young immature church. It is a pandemic problem of biblical illiteracy, rampant even in our times. A little deeper reflection shall enable us to find our own churches deep into it.

When any teachings, theological debates, arguments, religious practices undermine Jesus Christ and his two great commandments on love, they are likely to cause

a serious threat to the church.

Indeed, the problem of the church at Colosse was of serious nature. The proponents of this new ideology were trying to win converts to their school of religious preferences.

* They were stressing the need for observing some Jewish Laws and ceremonies (2:11-12, 16-17).

* They were laying emphasis on some special or deeper knowledge (*gnosis*).

* They were promoting the need of angels as mediators to God. (2:18-19)

* They were exclusivist. They believed in the special privilege and "perfection" of those select few who belonged to these philosophical elite (2:8, 18-19, 23).

Many immature new converts would become victim of their trap, because their teachings, humanly speaking, had three attractive elements.

1. They had fine sounding arguments (2:4)

No matter how sound the

argument may be if it is done at the expense of unity and love, it is not worth. Paul wrote to Timothy, *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work— which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Tim 1:3-5)*

2. They followed human traditions and the basic principles of the world **(2:8, 20-23)**.

The emphasis was on religious practices, such as circumcision which was already part of their cultural tradition. Hence it was convincing to them.

3. They followed certain religious practices, rituals, festivals, popular celebrations (New Moon or Sabbath Day), practice of piety, humility,

worship of angels, ecstatic spiritual experiences (contemporary worship, or seeker sensitive worship can also become primarily focused more to experience than the truth). These practices had visible impact on self as well on others, and hence they are attractive. They could meet the needs of human sensuality. Often such emphases on subjective experiences induce disunity in the Churches, because humanity differs in this matter.

Paul considered them wrong for two reasons:

1. They undermined supremacy and sufficiency of Christ **(1:15-19; 2:9-12)**; the headship of Christ **(2:8)**, and the finality of the work and the authority of Christ **(2:20-23)**.

2. They made one self-absorbed rather than Christ absorbed. They promoted human traditions and the basic principles of the world **(2:8)**. People were judged on the basis of externals and one’s human ability to practice

religion (2:16-17). These practices encouraged sensual indulgence (2:23). In fact, the followers of Jesus Christ were expected to put to death their earthly nature on a daily basis (3:5-10).

Paul feared that these practices would lead the church astray from the simplicity of the faith and obedience in Jesus Christ. Whether the teachers and proponents of these were sincerely ignorant or carnally motivated, it was sure that they would cause confusion and division in the church.

What was Paul's response for such a threatening situation?

A. The First Response: Pray for Virtuous Life

Paul responded it with **Prayer**. We read them in 1:10-12.

Paul prayed for five things, that

— *they may live a life worthy of the Lord*

— *they may please him in every way*

— *they shall bear fruit in every good work*

— *they shall grow in the*

knowledge of God

— *they shall have great endurance and patience*

These five are the precursors for unity in Christ. I wonder, how many times we pray like Paul. Our prayers are often about activities, achievements, and mission adventures, rather than our life, our ways, our fruits, our knowledge of God, our endurance, and patience with each other.

What is the second response of Paul for the problem impending disunity at Colosse?

B. The Second Response: Preach and Teach the Mystery of our Unity in Christ

Paul took the believers at Colosse back to the Bible. He told them about Jesus Christ once again. That Jesus is the supreme and the sufficient. We think that all Christians know about Christ but that is not entirely correct. Paul mentioned explicitly about the supremacy and the sufficiency of Christ in 1:15-20;

Paul believed in the sufficiency of Christ so much that he goes on to say in verse **24**:

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you

I must admit that I have often become cynical and skeptic of the chronic problems of disunity among Christians and I begin researching for new insight, new idea, new methodology of church management and administration etc., but Paul corrects me when I read **1:24**.

The finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross has the power to bring necessary transformation in us. Because Christ's death is sufficient and in Him all our needs are met, we do not need to look at anything beyond and outside Jesus Christ. We do not have to convert one another to a denomination or church affiliations, but we can rest in Christ together in spite of our differences. We are one in Christ if we choose to simply focus on Christ alone.

Paul considered Jesus Christ as the mystery of God

revealed. In understanding this mystery we shall find our unity. According to him, the antidote to the confusing division in the church is the Word of Christ.

The Word of God in its fullness is the *mystery* revealed in Christ. And this mystery is the key to the unity of not only churches but all humankind.

What is this mystery? The Greek word *mysterion* simply means *hidden thing*. In its usage, in Paul's time, the word *mysterion* meant secret religious matter confided only to the initiated, or entrusted to the select and not meant for the ordinary. The *mysterion* is *not obvious to the understanding of the common*. It is hidden from the ungodly and wicked men but plain to the godly. In our context it is not yet plain to many immature believers. Our ministry is to make it plain to them.

The word *mysterion* appears fifteen times in Paul's writing (**Rom. 11:25; 16:25; 1 Co. 15:51; Eph. 1:9; 3:3f, 6, 9; 5:32; 6:19; Col. 1:26f; 2:2; 4:3; 1 Tim. 3:16**), seven times

in Ephesians and four times in Colossian. The context of all the references is God's plan of reconciling all nations to himself. The mystery was hidden but it is now made known in and through Christ. That in Christ, Gentiles are also included. God has now removed all barriers. God wants to bring all humanity under Christ. Paul was precise in **3:11**. He wrote, *Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

This *mystery* was kept hidden for ages but now God has chosen to reveal it to his saints, who are not only Jews but also Gentiles. (**1:26-27**) It was upsetting news for the Jews in the first century. It may be upsetting for some so called exclusivist, holier than thou, sheep stealing groups coming from the churches of our time.

Paul wanted all believers to understand this *mystery*. He required them to comprehend the implications of the sufferings of Christ, grow in maturity, and

be united to each other in love. And thus, enjoy the fullness of Christ. In fact, the fullness of Christ in us requires us to die in Christ so that we may fully unite to Christ and hence unite to all his followers.

Conclusion:

So like Paul, it is our turn now:

First to Pray consistently for the virtuous life of the followers of Jesus Christ

Second to Preach and Teach the Mystery of our Unity in Christ

Practically speaking:

1. We must labor struggling with all his energy to help the Church grow mature.
2. We must make the Word of God known in its fullness.

3. We must help the churches to focus on the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ. Refrain from any teaching, no matter how sound they may be, refrain from emphasizing any religious rituals, practices, spiritual disciplines of piety that makes one self-absorbed undermining

the supremacy and the sufficiency of Christ. Let us major on the major teachings of Jesus Christ and not get distracted by petty small religious practices and theological preferences.

4. We must teach them to put to death their self and put on Christ on a daily basis.

5. We must encourage them to seek peace. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Matt 5:9).*

6. We must guide them to seek the wisdom of Christ and obey.

7. We must teach them to pursue unity in divine unconditional love for enrichment in Christ for that is the hope of the glory for all humanity.

Prayer:

Almighty God! please help us to live a life worthy of you, enable us to honor you in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in your knowledge and wisdom, having great endurance and patience with one another, living as one family, witnessing one Gospel, representing one Church, and serving one another and serving the one and the only Lord Jesus Christ. Help us do mission without undermining our unity in your son Jesus Christ. Amen!



“Our deepest calling is not to grow in our knowledge of God. It is to make disciples. Our knowledge will grow - the **Holy Spirit**, Jesus promised, will guide us into all truth. But that’s not our calling, it is His. Our calling is to prepare the world for Christ’s return. The world is not ready yet. And so, we go about introducing a dying world to the Savior of Life. Anything we do toward our own growth must be toward that end.”

~ Jeffrey Bryant



R e f l e c t i o n

*Pabitra Kumar Achowe (Board Member,
Christian Literature Centre, CBCNEI)]*

Don't wait for another day to trust in the Lord
Today is the day, there may be no other,
Forsaken you may be, not forgotten.

He watches, you are not alone,
He holds each precious tear in His hand,
Reads in it, the silent complaint.

There is no reason to fret, it isn't over yet.
He waits, not because He is busy someplace else
He waits because He wants to comfort you first.

Says He, smile pretty dove,
you are mine,
And I'll love you till the end of time.



The Church was badly in need of painting. So the Pastor decided he'd do the job himself. But all he had was one bucket of paint. So he got a bunch of buckets and some water, and he thinned the paint enough to cover the entire Church. Then he spent all day painting. That night it rained very hard and washed all the paint off. The Pastor was quite discouraged and asked God, "Why...why God, did you let it rain and wash off all my hard work?"

To which God thundered His reply, "REPAINT, REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"

A Report from Mongolia

Aphrezo Krose with wife Sylvia



The Seventh Asia Lusanne Congress on Evangelism was held in Ulaanbaatar from June 1-4. The theme of the Conference was Unchanging Gospel for Changing Asia. More than 200 leaders from all over Asia attended the program. Dr. A. K. Lama, the General Secretary presented a paper on "Training Pastors in North East India. The Churches in Mongolia is growing fast. Several missionaries are working hard to reach out the unreached people group. The needs are enormous. Rev. Ricky Medom, Chaplain NCF, Delhi was also a delegate from the northeast India in this conference. He went to visit and stayed with Alphrezo Krose, a missionary from Northeast India. A brief report and reflection from Ricky Medom is included here. "Aphrezo Krose from Medziphema (Nagaland) is a Certified Football Coach from the Dutch Football Association trained in Amsterdam. His main

focus and work is among the Mongolian Youth, drawing their attention and energy to sports which otherwise could easily be turned to Alcohol & drugs. And the Mongolian Youth, not all are Christians, who attend his football classes are already growing in their skill and temperament as they learn to control their emotions and practice Self-control. They also learn Obedience & Humility by being disciplined. Something like this can hardly happen in a Church setting or sitting in a boring class room.

This is Transformational Mission at its best. And in the 21st Century this is the way to go if we are to succeed in Evangelizing the World. Each one using their God-given gift and talent to serve as Missionaries. Businessmen, Artists, Musicians, Sports people, Academicians working

as tent-makers and spreading the Good news of Jesus Christ. Traditional Missions have proven to be ineffectual, irrelevant & at time downright unbiblical and unethical in their approach thus being unwanted in many countries and regions. Many so-called Missions group merely try to transplant their denomination or particular group. Some try to show their growth and activities by poaching on what others have done, claiming established ministries to be their own as they unashamedly muscle their way in. This is Mission expansionism at its worst and sad to say being practiced by some of our own Missions organizations.

Instead of being stuck in the past and unable to move forward except going round in circles wasting precious resources, we should humble ourselves and be courageous enough to come out of our boxes. God is continually at work and great things are being accomplished by those who are obedient to God and being led to go where God wants them to be. Many Naga youth like Aphrezo are at the cutting edge of Missions, whether they are acknowledged

& recognized by our home boards & Church organizations or not.

With 95% of Nagas being declared as Christians, the evangelization of our people is done. What we need is a National renewal which would produce a Christ-honouring, Bible-meditating Nagaland using as our motto the Command that Christ gave us: Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul & Mind & Love your neighbor as yourselves.

Much of Asia is still unreached. It remains as the least evangelized Continent with vast populations of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists & Communists. Naga Missionaries and Naga Churches can provide a substantial and effective Force to evangelize Asia & the World. Large numbers of our youth are already in Mission fields or are ready to go with the right training, guidance and direction. The Church can be part of this great movement in various ways.

For a start, encourage those already in the field. Visit them intentionally not just as an aside from tourist jaunts! Even Church/ Denominational leaders consider meeting missionaries as

secondary from their 'whatever main work'. Or others use the excuse of meeting missionaries/mission fields but spend more time shopping and sightseeing! Spend quality time with them, listening to them, caring about their trials and victories they experience. Visit their mission fields. Send them cards/gifts on their special days like birthdays and anniversaries or Christmas, etc. Or better still offer to pay their fares for home visitation once a while to rejuvenate and reconnect with loved ones.

Local Churches/Mission Boards can designate certain percentage of their budget and commit it to fund trainings & field trips for cross-cultural missions. A major reason for failure in Missions is due to lack of proper cross-cultural and language training. A sound foundation will ensure fruitful partnerships. But these require funds that individuals can hardly raise on their own."



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT COURSE LEVEL 1

CBCNEI in partnership with the Children's Bible Ministries(CBM), New Zealand will be organizing a five-day Teachers' Development Course Level 1 from 7th to 11th November, 2011 at the CBCNEI Conference Hall, Guwahati. The Churches interested in training the Sunday School Teachers are requested to recommend names of those who have a heart for and are involved in Children's Ministry for attending the course, through their respective conventions before 15th October, 2011 by completing the Registration form given below.

Participants will be provided free boarding (regular meals + accommodation) during the training period but the participants/respective Conventions will be responsible for the participants' own travelling expenses and incidentals.

Only 6(six) seats are reserved for each Convention. So please hurry up and submit the particulars on the Registration form duly completed to your Conventions with registration fee of ₹ 300/- by way of Bank Draft/Multicity Cheque drawn in favour of CBCNEI at Guwahati.

continuation of Part II, published in Issue 62 Vol. 1

What Kind of Parent are You? and How will that Affect your Children? Part-III



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.

Case Study 1

Arenla's parents loved their daughter, and wanted her to bring them honour. They surrounded her with rules and punished her if she broke a rule. For fear of criticism or punishment, she obeyed. She never argued, never spoke to boys, and if she reached home too late her mother shut her in her room. Her parents were like 'Policemen'.

When she grew up and started work, friends invited Arenla to stop at a hotel and drink a glass of wine on the way home from work. They invited her day after day. Of course, her parents were not present to impose a good decision. What would Arenla do?

Case Study 2

Lian's parents believed that if they provided for all his wishes he would always love them. When he was younger, they always let him watch his favourite TV programmes, told his sister to wash his plates for him, gave him a bicycle, and paid for extra coaching when he did not focus enough on his math.

When he was under 12 years old, his weak parents did not help him make rules for himself, because they hoped he would love them so much that he would not disappoint them. They have not been firm with him. They are 'Worm' Parents (flabby and without back-bone).

When he was at college, friends

told Lian about watching pornographic movies on the internet. They said he was a 'Mommy's boy' if he would not watch them too. What will Lian do?

* * *

The Principle

One of the well researched principles in parenting is that **parents must coach their son or daughter to have the rules inside them.** Then they can make their own good decisions.

If the parents make the rules and tell them to their teen-agers, the teens have not learnt to make good decisions themselves. Then they will face temptation without the tools to resist. That is a recipe for trouble.

Results for Arenla in Case study 1

The pressure of her friends, peer pressure, may push Arenla into going against her parents' instructions. She may think, "Father and Mother will not know. I'll just try a glass of wine this once." She may move to frequently drinking wine when this is far from her family's values.

Arenla's parents were "Policeman Parents". They made a great many rules but they were *their* rules. They were not written in Arenla's heart because her parents had not focused on training her to think wisely for herself, with God's rules in her heart. They had only focused on forcing her to obey them.

When Arenla became a teen-ager, the peer pressure from her friends easily made a barrier between Arenla and her parents' rules. Why? Because the rules were not inside her. Now she was away from her parents and they could not make many decisions for her. **How much better if her parents would teach her to write wise rules in her heart for herself!**

This is the method God uses with humans, and the method parents must use with their young people. Listen to this scripture. "Teach me, O Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so *that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart*" (Psalm 119:34).

If Arenla follows 'with all her

heart', she chooses to place the rules inside herself, and there is no half-heartedness.

Results for Lian in Case Study 2

For Lian the opposite problem occurs. His mother and father's parenting is slack. They did not imprint fair and firm decisions in his heart, ready for when they were not present. His parents may be horrified when they find their son does not know how to say 'No' to his friends and has let himself regularly watch porn.

They have themselves to blame. They did not teach him the ability to set his own standards in his heart. They did not even tell him the rules. There was nothing to stop this teen-ager agreeing with the wishes of his peers, and peer pressure easily came between him and his parents' instructions.

Lian had never learnt how to make good decisions. He did not have the rules in his heart.

His parents should have taught him from Proverbs 3:3-4, "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, *write them on the tablet of your heart*. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and humankind."



C o r r i g e n d a

Baptist News

Vol. - 62, Issue-01, Jan – March 2011

Corrigenda

In OBITUARIES Page – 69 where Mr. Kth. Thamon, mentioned as the former Executive Secretary of TNBA (Moyon), belongs to Tarao tribe and not Moyon as printed.

Introducing Associations under CBCNEI

Dear readers, in this issue we introduce Nagaon District Baptist Association, Assam and Kuki Baptist Association, Nagaland. Please pray for them.

- Editor



1. Nagaon District Baptist Association, Assam

[By Yohan Ao, Executive Secretary]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S PROFILE:

- **Accepted the Lord as personal Savior and took water Baptism on 20th January, 1985.**
- B.Th. from Servanthood Bible College, Dimapur, Nagaland
- Worked as the fellowship in-charge –cum-Youth Director of Lumding Baptist Church for 2 years.
- Joined Moria Mission Field as an evangelist among the fiwa Tribe in Assam for 2 years.
- BD degree from Eastern Theological College Jorhat, Assam 2000
- Served the South Bank Baptist Mission, Jorhat among the Mishing Tribe in Assam as an Evangelist-cum-field Treasurer for six years.
- At Present, the Executive Secretary of the Nagaon District Baptist Association from April, 2010.



NAGAON DISTRICT BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION: Nagaon Town Baptist Church was the pioneer Church of Nagaon District Baptist Association. It was established in 1844 on 8th February by Dr. Miles Bronson and Dr. Pit

Holland Moore. Gradually the Church expanded to Udmari and Balijuri. In the year 1903 under the leadership of Dr. P.H. Moore, Nagaon Dist Baptist Association was established. The following year 1904 the first NDBA Annual conference was held at Udmari Baptist Church.

NDBA celebrated its centenary celebration in the year 2003. At present, our Association comprises of 22 local Churches with a total membership of 2150. Annual income of 2010 was 2, 38,875 (Two lacs thirty eight thousand eight hundred seventy five only)

Present Association officers and workers:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. President | Mr. Aminath Degal (Dejoovalley) |
| 2. Vice President | Mr. Siril Horo (Bordol) |
| 3. Exe. Secy | Mr. Yohan Ao (Lumding) |
| 4. Treasure | Mr. Bishram Horo (Topotjuri) |
| 5. Youth Promoter | Mr. Lorance Horo (Singimari) |
| 6. Area pastor | Mr. Krorontio Nayak (Dejoovalley)
Mr. Sunil Horo Udmari |
| 7. Evangelist | Mr. Kornal Prodhan (Chapanala) |

PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2011-2012:

- To develop financial strength and office infrastructure.
- To invest leadership.
- To develop proper system of the church and their spiritual spare.
- To place Mission work as a core of NDBA.
- More attention to be given to the Sunday school and youth dept.
- To give more attention to Sunday School Children and the youth





Kuki Baptist Association, Nagaland

[By Rev. H. Minlien Singson, Executive Secretary]

The Kuki Baptist Association Nagaland (KBAN) was established in the year 1953 as one of the Baptist Associations under the Nagaland Baptist Church Council with its head office at Khaibung, Medziphema. KBAN has 14 churches with 3191 baptized members; and also has a branch centre at Ahthibung Hill Town, under Peren District. The branch centre covers six villages where, Rev. Janglam Singson is placed as the in charge of the Pastorate and administration. The general aim and objective is to build the kingdom of God by demonstrative participation through corporate faith, work and life of the Kuki Baptist Churches in Nagaland. KBAN also endeavors to initiate unity and nurture all the Kuki Baptist Christians, Church workers for the mutual and spiritual development

all over Nagaland.

There are seven departments under the association such as General, Mission, Finance, Women, Youth, Development, Christian Education and Property. The mission centre runs a vocational institute known as Dorcas Training Centre to impart weaving and tailoring training for the drop-out students, widows and down-trodden girls. They are being inducted and given the basic Bible knowledge and from time to time trainees and production units employees are





sent out to visit different churches and also to the people of other faith. They are trained in order to survive themselves and also mould their life spiritually. This training centre is looked after by the women department of KBAN. Under the Youth Department, there is a Praise and Worship team in the association level formed in 2006. The youth department is headed by the Youth Secretary, who took up the programs- True Love waits and Sports Ministry, where many youths from different churches have taken initiative to lead a clean and spiritual life. Under the Mission Department, a mission field was opened in 2006 at Bokhaghat, Assam and also missionaries are sponsored for Tawang of Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh mission fields. Apart from the Association, the Churches also sponsor 13 missionaries outside of Nagaland, recognized by the

Association. The Association also has a partnership ministry with Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM) and Nagaland Missions Movement (NMM). Under the Development Wing, a wing called Northeast Rural Development Agency (NERDA) with its head office at Ahthibung Hill Town under Peren District is established. The main objectives are to uplift the poorest and marginalized sections of the society through various means; conducting trainings, seminars, retreats and awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with Nagaland Development Outreach, 9 Self Health Group (SHG) are being formed and still more to form. There are many widows who are daily wagers; are helped to understand about capacity building in the form of SHG. All these activities are under taken by the development wings. Apart from the activities like plantation of trees and bamboo are taken up with the help of Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, headed by Mr. Palal Misao, Development Secretary

of KBAN and also GBs of Saijang, Pielhang and Inbung village who have donated the land for the bamboos and trees plantation. Please pray for the growth and upliftment of KBAN ministry.



Christian Writers' Workshop

New Woman Ministry is organizing a "Christian Writers' Workshop" from 25 - 29 August, 2011 in Pine Brook Centre, Barapani.

The resource person is Dr. Beulah Wood from New-Zealand, a visiting professor of SAIACS, Bangalore. She is a well known writer and has authored many books to her name.

Any one interested may fill the form. The registration fee is Rs. 500/- and the food and stay is Rs. 1500/-. Only two seats are allocated to each church or Institute.

For further details please contact:

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~ Circulation Manager ~

Taking Care of Your Vision

[By: Dr. John Sangma; Incharge Medical Officer, Babupara Christian Hospital, Nisangram (A Hospital Unit of CBCNEI in East Garo Hills)]

1. Conjunctivitis: Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the mucous membrane that lines the inner eyelids and covers the white of the eyeball. Symptoms include sudden onset of irritated, red eyes, watery discharge, burning, and sometimes itching and difficulty in bright light. It can occur in one eye or both the eyes.

Causes: The most common cause of conjunctivitis is a viral infection. Other causes include seasonal allergies, bacterial infection, and reactions to eye medications.

How it is transmitted? Viral conjunctivitis can be transmitted from one person to another by casual contact, sharing towels or pillow cases, facial contact, or sharing of cosmetics. It can occur before, during, or after a bout of cold and running nose because the same virus which causes the cold can cause conjunctivitis. Viral conjunctivitis is very contagious in the first 10-12 days and may last up to 2-3 weeks. Epidemics tend to occur in closed institutions (e.g., schools, hostels, hospitals, camps, nursing homes, workplaces). Other methods of transmission are through air droplets and possibly swimming pools. It is also spread by ophthalmologists' contaminated fingers or contaminated instruments and eye drops.

Allergic conjunctivitis usually occurs in the spring and summer and is not contagious. It causes itching in addition to redness and tearing. It is caused by allergies to pollens from plants.

Bacterial conjunctivitis, like viral conjunctivitis, is contagious. Most people, who develop bacterial conjunctivitis, also have other eye conditions such as dry eyes or inflammation of the eyelids.

There is a sexually transmitted type of conjunctivitis, called chlamydial conjunctivitis, which often produces symptoms of long duration.

Basic therapy and treatment: Hygiene is very, very important. Hand washing is a must. Treatment varies depending on the specific cause of conjunctivitis. For *viral conjunctivitis* using a cool wet cloth 3-4 times day and applying artificial tears will relieve the symptoms. If there is a suspicion of *bacterial conjunctivitis* antibiotic drops or ointment are usually given. *Allergic conjunctivitis* may be relieved by over the counter medications of anti allergic eye drops. Supportive therapy is important, such as sunglasses, artificial tears, and cool compresses. The virus is shed in the tears. Bedding and towels need to be washed frequently. The patient should not share towels with others. The use of steroid is controversial. Let your doctor decide on the use of steroids.

In **Vision Centre**, Babupara Christian Hospital, we came across many patients who lost their quality vision following the rampant use of a steroid eye drop called **BETNESOL N** which is available easily over the counter and frequently prescribed by the quacks and the pharmacists. Every household in our area is familiar with Betnesol N eye drop which has become a topic of serious concern. No self medication of **Steroids** please and definitely not Betnesol.

Means of prevention: It is necessary to pay attention to the health education of population as well as to improve hygienic habits. Avoid close contact with persons suffering from viral conjunctivitis. Do not share bedding or towels with infected individuals. Emphasis must be placed on prevention of spread of the disease, so your child may be quarantined from school for up to a week or two until the symptoms subside. The most important precaution is to be extremely strict with hand washing. Practice good hygiene and please wash your hands, wash your hands and wash your hands...

2. Cataract: A cataract is an opacity or cloudiness in the natural lens of the eye.

Problems associated with Cataract: Like a dirty window, a cloudy lens makes it difficult to see well. Patients with cataracts usually

complain of blurred vision. This may interfere with tasks such as driving or reading. Other common complaints include double vision, poor night vision, increased sensitivity to light and glare, spots in your vision, less vivid perception of colors, temporary improved nearsightedness, changes in eye pupil color, frequent eyeglass or contact lens prescription changes, colored haloes around sources of light at night, and dimness of color vision. Occasionally neglected cataracts can “hypermature” causing an increased pressure within the eyeball, causing pain, loss of vision, redness, and watering from the affected eye. This is a medical emergency and should be attended at once, or eyesight may be permanently lost.

Causes: The development of cataracts in the adult is related to aging, sunlight exposure, those who have diabetes or other health condition smoking, heavy drinkers, poor nutrition, eye trauma, systemic diseases, and certain medications such as steroids.

Treatment: As far as Allopathy is concerned, there are no medicines to treat cataract. The answer lies only in surgery where the cataract is removed and replaced by an artificial lens.

Probable Cost: Charged anything between Rs 5,000/- to Rs 50,000/-. Babupara Christian Hospital perform cataract surgery for Rs 3,000/- (Non foldable lens) and Rs 7,000/- (Foldable lens) per eye.

How to prevent? Age related cataract can really not be prevented; the onset can be delayed by adhering to a balanced diet, vitamin and mineral supplementation to diet (antioxidants). Cataract can also be delayed by prevention of excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation by using good quality UV protected sunglasses and a hat with a brim to block ultraviolet sunlight may help to delay cataract. Avoiding injuries to eyes where such professions increase susceptibility to injuries by using protective glasses, avoiding addictives, foods containing preservatives, etc.



The Resolutions taken in the 61st CBCNEI Annual Meeting at Nagaon. (April 29-May 1, 2011, Assam.)

I. APPRECIATION: We the delegates of the 61st CBCNEI Annual meeting record our APPRECIATION to the Host Church, Nowgong Baptist Church, Nowgong; Nagaon District Baptist Association, Nagaon for all necessary arrangement for all the delegates for comfortable stay during the annual meeting. We also wish to THANK Resource persons, in particular; Rev. Reid Trulson; Executive Director, BIM, Rev. Benjamin S. L. Chan, Area Director, BIM, Mr. Roderick D. Shira CBCNEI President, Mr. Sushant Agrawal, Director, CASA and all others. Also thanked Praise and Worship Team, ETC Choir, interpreter, Prince Paul and all the delegates from the CBCNEI Conventions, Associate Members and Invitees for meaning participations.

2. We MOVE: The delegates envisage to move that, all Churches within CBCNEI and the Region are to strife for the greater 'Unity in Love for Enrichment in Christ' through Bible Studies, Pulpit teachings and various other ministries. We suggest that each Convention will develop their own programs and plans toward an achievable unity that will lead to closer co-operations.

3. We ENCOURAGE that all the Churches within the CBCNEI area to Observe Green Sunday/Earth's Day along the International Environment Day on first week of June from 2012. During this preceding Sunday a tree each may be planted by all Church members as a token of participation making this world a greener place for humanity and all other existence.

4. We STAND against the rampant CORRUPTIONS in the Churches and State establishments, as Christians witnesses to the society and world, that we urge every members of the local congregations to maintain transparency and to uproot all corrupt practices within and outside of the Church.

Resolution Committee Members:

- All Regional Secretaries
- Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI
- Rev. (Ms) Toshinano, Member
- Rev. Dr. Mar Atsongchanger, Member
- Rev. Dr. Anjo L. Keikung, Convener.



STAYING AT L. M. HOSTEL WHICH SHAPES

[By *Khaling Benjamin*, *Lewis Memorial Hostel, Guwahati*]

I am grateful to God for all the wonderful opportunities; and to CBCNEI for giving me this space in the Baptist News column. I am Khalin Benjamin - “Jack of all trades but master of none...” — I know a little bit of everything (not literally everything though), but somehow I have some knowledge in the field of computers, that’s how I’m best known in the hostel amongst my friends. I am now in my final semester, pursuing Bachelor of Science in Information Technology in NIIT and belong to Khoibu (Uipo) Tribe from Chandel District, Manipur.

Lately, I have noticed a lot of tragedies in my life as well as with lives of those around me. And I have noticed that the only way to deal with it is by surrounding myself with those who care. I have observed that my friends who take the longest to heal are those who spend most of their time without friends and family. Even if I try to be there for my friends, some would rather be alone and

deal with it on their own that hurts me to see their hurts.

A few thoughts...

Think of the rain as the pain you’re feeling in the moment. Think of it as something you drive through, you walk through, that no matter how fast you run or drive, it still engulfs you and makes you wet, and cold. And maybe you feel alone in that rain. Maybe you don’t think it will ever stop, at least not until you’re soaked to the skin. The rain is coming down until it stops, and no sooner. You don’t know when it will stop, neither do I. But go and get an umbrella, or look for shelter. It will stop. Trust me. Even Noah only had to go through 40 days of rain.

Well, I’m sure it’s purely God’s plan, for my whole stay here in Guwahati. I always passed by this place a lot of times but never ever thought I would come here and pursue my higher education here. Then, through a friend, I came to know about L.M. Hostel and then applied for a seat. By God’s grace, I was selected

amongst many who have applied for the same but couldn't get. I still remember the first day in the hostel, praying for a wonderful stay in this hostel and also to have a good rapport with my fellow friends. You know, it was even more exciting because, this was going to be my first hostel life experience.

When I first came to L. M., I was just a mere listener, not much of a talker. So, I mostly lived a life of an introvert. Never would I volunteer for any good cause, except in some cases where I was bound to be a part of such because of hostel norms. But being here, I've learnt a lot through different activities that takes place in and around the hostel. Staying in this hostel is like a turning point in my life. In my 2nd year of college and my stay in the hostel, I started taking part in Naga Christian Fellowship activities and joined the NCFG Praise & Worship band in the year 2009 as a bassist. I enjoyed being in the band as I am interested in music and also playing instruments. Since we were all students, some had to walk out of the band and also the place for their further studies elsewhere. So, in the early part of 2010, we didn't have P&W leader so I along with others started leading the congregation in

Praise & Worship. I am a worshiper and I want to bless the Lord with songs of praise. I want to sing songs that glorify Him, honor Him, to sing about who He is and what He has done for us. But I must also confess, I am not a good leader, neither a good singer but thanks to NCFG for giving me this wonderful privilege and accepting me for who I am. I am so blessed each time I lead the people into Praise & Worship. It's a great challenge for me personally because I am a guy who has a serious problem facing the crowd, speaking to them and singing too. It was something that I've never done before. But, through the course of time, I've learnt with every mistake I made and now I must say that my stage fears have decreased tremendously. My prayer is to live an exemplary life not for the sake of earning accolades from people but to receive blessings from the Lord.



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