

# Contents

Editorial	2
Love for Perfect Unity	4
Put on Love for Perfect Unity in Mission	8
Leaders & Pastors Conference	10
The Book of Luke: Hope, Purpose, Redemption	15
The first Woman Pastor Installed in the Church in Assam	25
News Clippings	27
A Memorable Picnic	39
Former CBCNEI Missionary & Staff	42
“Can We Imagine A World Without Books”	44
In His Footsteps	47
CBCNEI Archive and Library	53
Naga Christian Fellowship, Chennai	55
From the Assistant Editor	60

## ***Baptist News***

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

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

### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Editor:** Rev Dr A. K. Lama

**Assistant Editor:** Ms Kaholi Zhimomi

### **Sub-Editors:**

Dr Asangla Ao

Mr Atungo Shitri

**Design & Layout:** Siamliana Kiangte

### **Circulation:**

Jatin Gogoi

Jinoy G. Sangma

Babul Boro

### **Subscription:**

One Year ₹ 150 (US\$20)

Two Years ₹ 250 (US\$35)

Three Years ₹ 400 (US\$50)

Five Years ₹ 600 (US\$80)

### **Contact information:**

CBCNEI, Mission Compound  
Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam-781001

Phone: +91-361-2515 829 (O)

Fax: +91-361-2544 447

eMail: editor@cbcnei.com

website: www.cbcnei.in

Facebook: facebook.com/cbcnei

*from the desk of editor*



Dear friend,

The theme of the year 2013 for CBCNEI family is *Put on Love for the perfect unity* (Col 3:14). As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be the people of the BOOK but we are also called to be the people of the LOVE.

Love is often misunderstood and misrepresented. It is frequently used synonymously with feelings of lust, emotions, affinity, often mingled with the desires of personal pleasures. Love is often triggered, for good reason or bad, by our selfish interest. Love, we know, is often limited in its scope and its impact. However, the persons who are regenerated by the new birth and who claim themselves to be the children of God are called for the LOVE that is not merely a feeling but an action based on the facts given in the BOOK. The BOOK tells us that *God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son* (Jn 3:16). That LOVE is an action, broad in scope for all humanity, and of course is self-less. St Paul reminds us that God has poured in us that same LOVE by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5) and those of us who are indwelt by this Holy Spirit has its first gift: LOVE (Gal 5:22).

Children of God have this LOVE that controls, guides, and influences their attitude and actions. This LOVE leads them first of all to LOVE their Saviour and Lord supremely. Secondly, it enables them to forgive their offenders and love in action even when they are not worthy of it. This second action, in fact, insures the unity within the family empowering them to Witness and Serve. The wisdom writer wrote, *Love covers all transgressions* (Pro 10:12), not condoning them but by forgiving them. We must allow God to deal with those *transgressions*, while we focus on

to love and live in harmony with each other.

Yes, we are called to *Put on Love for the perfect unity* within the family, Church, Associations, and Conventions. We must reflect and ask what is keeping us divided, segregated, and separated from our fellow Baptists? Can we put on Love to forget and forgive the past and unite for the future? For the sake of our posterity, our children and our grandchildren, can we put on that LOVE?

This issue of Baptist News is intended to address the theme from various perspectives. We are glad to include here Rev Zhabu Terhuza and Dr Jolly Rimai's perspectives on the theme. We welcome any other perspectives on the theme to be published in the consecutive issues of the Baptist News. Please send your article to us.

I am glad to introduce Ms Kaholi Zhimomi, our new Assistant Editor. She is well trained in English literature and theology. This is her first issue in the making. We hope that the content and the quality of the Baptist News shall improve. Please uphold her in your prayers and help her out in improving this magazine.

Through the Baptist News, we desire to connect Baptist family with one other. It will happen when Churches, Associations, Convention would begin sharing their news and pictures with the editorial team.

We also desire to encourage our members to think, reflect, articulate their Christian views, write, and publish. The Christian Literature Center of CBCNEI with the help of Asia Theological Association (NZ) shall host a Writers' workshop from August 7-10, 2013. If you are interested to be a writer, please register yourself at the earliest.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings.

Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama  
General Secretary.



# Love for Perfect Unity

*Rev. Zhabu Terhuja, President, Eastern Theological College, Jorhat*

## Introduction

There are many books on 'love' and we might have read most of them. We may ask, why ask why write again? Nevertheless, love being the essential character of a Christian, it is good to keep reminding ourselves again and again of its importance. Assuming all the readers agree on the kind of love we mean, defining the word is avoided. Rev Keviyekielie said at the Nagaland Baptist Church Council Annual Conference, "The opposite of love is not hate, but complacency." Yes, hate is a term used by the

world. But, selfishness, indifferent attitude, insensitivity, stubbornness, etc are antonyms of love we talk about. Although it is, instead of calling it divine love or biblical love I prefer calling it Christian love to mean that it is a duty of all Christians.

Almost every moment of our life demands that we live with love. Love is something easy to talk about but we often ignored in practice. Away from the pulpit those who preach, "Jesus says we must love our enemies" might like to avoid people who oppose them. To love is a commandment. Jesus said, "Love one another (John 13:34,

15:17).” Loving one another is the way others can know we are Jesus’ disciples.

### **The Great Commandments**

I guess our congregations have heard sermons on the Great Commission more than the Great Commandment. The positive impact of the Great Commission is that it has spurred many churches to actively engage in missional works. And, how effectively is our sermon on the Great Commandment impacting Christians for the Kingdom of God? The Great Commandment must grease the wheel of the Great Commission. For Christians, love is the basis of doing.

In I Cor 13:1-3, Paul said, “Even if I have all the spiritual gifts to perform great miracles, or to fathom all knowledge and mysteries, or give away all that I have to the poor, or even offer myself a martyr for Christ, if I have not love, I gained nothing.” It is the same to say, “even if I or my family or my church involves a lot in missional activities, if I have not genuine love for God, or if there is no love in

our interpersonal relationship, then all the good works are forfeited.” Without love our expenses and sacrifices can end up in unprofitable conscience pleasing exercises.

The Great Commandment says, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your entire mind;” followed by “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” It is difficult to love deeply someone you do not know. Therefore, to love God with all our heart and soul, we must have intimate knowledge of God. In Rom 10:2, Paul spoke about the the great zeal of the Jews in meticulous observation of the law, yet he said their zeal was not based on the right knowledge of God. A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God himself.” The bottom line question is how big you see your God. Our view of God, our understanding of Him affects all our actions. And, God is much bigger than we find

Him in our mind box.

### **Do we all have the same degree of love?**

Describing the member parts of the Body of Christ, Paul says some are more honorable and some are less; some parts are more prominent and some less. The look and function of all these parts also differ from one another. Likewise, the intensity of love of all members also is different in degree. It depends on 1) how much we know God, and 2) how intimately we are related to Him. From here, stems up our reverence, worship, loyalty and service. This is why the Word of God teaches that we must grow up in love till we all reach the fullness of the maturity of Jesus Christ (Eph 4:13).

Although our deeds of love are different, it is important to know that Christian love has God as its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15)." Christian love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal

5:22). Christian love is not only for those who do good to us. It seeks the welfare of all (Rom 15:2), and works no ill to any (13:8-10). It seeks opportunity to do good to all people and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith (Gal 6:10).

We say and sing we love God. The litmus test of that confession is how you react to the people you live with. I John 20&21 says, "...for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God must love his brother also."

### **A Lesson from the Church in Corinth**

Flipping through the first epistle to the Corinthians, we find the Church in Corinth was in a mess. A commentator said, "The Church ought to be in the world, but in Corinth the world was in the Church." Division, self-acclamation, envy, jealousy, immorality, abuse of gifts and freedom, suppression, court cases fill the pages of the

epistle. Love was the main key to open the eyes of the believers to see things through the right perspective and change them accordingly. Reading the second epistle is very different in language from the first epistle. M R DeHann said, "if love can change lives in Corinth, it can change life anywhere."

Never before than today has the world ever contained so many people who are loaded with fear, hurt and brokenness. These people need the attention of our love. Within the Church, the love of many people is growing cold as described of the last days. Here comes the Word of God for the day: "And over all these, put on love, which binds them (virtues) all together in perfect unity." (Col 3:14) If love becomes the denomination in all our social

transaction, then our missions shall be united beautifully and perfectly like putting together pieces of a jig-saw puzzle.

### **Jesus, our Master**

Jesus came to this world on a mission of love. Most of the time, his actions raised the eyebrows of many people. Many looked at Him with skepticism. His way of doing even created doubt in the mind of John the Baptist, and certainly it was repulsive to the Pharisees. He took steps that people thought the most holy person would never do. The challenge for us is to emulate our Master. Just live out loud your Christian love. Sometimes people may disagree with you, look at you with suspicious eyes, and interpret your intent wrong. But as long as it is genuine Christian love, just put it on.



Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth

*Col 3 : 2*



# Put on Love for perfect Unity in Mission

Rev Dr J. Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI

## Whose Mission is it anyway?

Mission springs from God's grace and loving nature. Mission is God's mandate, plan, provision, power, and intent. However, in His providence, He allows us to be part of His Mission to seek and save the lost.

God's mission started in the Garden of Eden itself when He came looking for Adam and his wife and said, "Where are you" (Genesis 3:9). God came looking for disobedient fallen human wanting to reconcile with them. 2 Peter 3:9 also says "... but (God) is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance".

In Genesis 3:21 God killed an innocent Lamb and out of its skin He covered the shame and guilt of Adam and Eve. This is a typology of God sending His Son Jesus

Christ to die for us and cover our sins through His death. And Jesus demonstrated the love of the Father on the Cross. It is this love that should compel us to love the lost.

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:6-10, "*we were weak, ungodly and enemy to God and while we were still sinners Christ died for us.*" Mission is an activity of God arising out of the very nature of God. The living God of the Bible is a sending God, which is what 'mission' means... He sent His son into the world. He sent the apostles, and the seventy, and the Church.

**Church and Mission:** Mission is not just a department of a Church, but it's a lifeline. The Church of Jesus Christ exists for the sole purpose of carrying on the work that He came to do, namely, to seek and to save the

lost.

God is a missionary, Jesus is a missionary, and therefore, if our Church belongs to God, it has to be missionary as well. Where is God's Heartbeat? God's heartbeat is for the lost souls. He did not want any to perish but all should repent and be reconciled to Him.

There are thousand souls crying from hell. In India sixteen people die without Christ every minute, and 23,000 everyday. Can we respond and save one today before they go to hell? It is very urgent!!!

Mission is not simply part of Church ministry, but the Church itself is mission. Neither the Church nor the mission can be separated from each other. The Church was founded by mission and mission grows through the Church.

We should not be a silent spectator but partners of God in His mission. God's purpose of establishing a Church is for mission. New Testament Church without mission is not a Church in its real sense. Because, God is a missionary, He has missionary heart. Jesus is a missionary Savior, so a Church founded by God through Christ must be a missionary

Church.

Our Church was founded by the work of a missionary, and if we stop mission we are selfish, and dead. God's blessing ceases to flow in if our Church is not a missionary Church. God wants His mission to continue through the Church.

**Why is Unity necessary for Mission:** *"Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand"* (Matthew 12:25). We are in a mission and how can we think of winning the mission when we are divided? We need to identify our common enemy and put our efforts together to defeat the enemy.

In Mission we are not able to make great impact because we are divided and our force is not strong. Therefore, Churches need to partner with each other and work together, supplementing and complementing each other rather than competing with each other. Mission is a mandate to the church and we must fulfill it together.

*"Partner together, finish the Task"*





The much awaited and deliberated meeting “Leader & Pastors Conference” surpassed our expectations. It was a blissful gathering of two hundred and seven eight lay leaders and pastors from all over Northeast India and beyond, along with a twenty-three member choir team from Lotha Baptist Church, Dimapur, Nagaland and four Resource persons from Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, USA and one from the BIM, apart from the General Secretary, Secretaries and Staff of CBCNEI and Student Volunteers from Naga Christian Fellowship, Guwahati and Lewis Memorial Hostel Chaplain and the hostel mates.

Rev Dr Danny Wood, Sr. Pastor; Rev Dr Michael Wesley, Sr. Pastor; Rev Jeremy J. Griem, Missions Pastor; Rev Chris Horton, Disciple Maker; Rev Tracy Hipps, Executive Director, Christian Service Mission; Rev Dr A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI; and Rev Taku Longkumer, Consultant, BIM led the delegates into various

Plenary Sessions and Seminars with their powerful and thought provoking messages, bible studies and teachings.

### **Topics Discussed at the Conference**

- \* Developing Yourself as a Preacher: Rev Dr Michael Wesley
- \* Building Pastoral Ministry Team: Rev Dr Danny Wood
- \* Developing your Church for Great Commission: Rev Jeremy J. Griem
- \* Developing Discipleship Ministry for Church: Rev Chris Horton
- \* Developing Men's Ministry in the Church: Rev Tracy Higgs
- \* Effective Church Administration and Management: Rev Dr A. K. Lama
- \* Networking and Partnership Missions: Rev Taku Longkumer

### **Bible Studies: The Book of Luke: Hope, Purpose, Redemption**

- \* Jesus: The Message and the Mission (Luke 4:14-22)
- \* Purpose: Three Would be Followers (Luke 9:51-62)
- \* Redemption: Pilate(Luke 23:1-25)

### **Response Cards from the Delegates**

These are the few responses

i. One of the best seminar/conference attended, timely arranged/organized Conference in NEI, satisfied with the logistic arrangements

ii. Three Amazing things experienced from the Conference:



- a. Financial Management of the Conference
  - b. Making new friends and fellow ministers
  - c. Humbleness of the Leaders and Resource Persons
- iii. It was a blessing to attend the seminars and sessions
- iv. It energized me spiritually, its strengthened me and reminded me that Gospel is unique, mandatory and urgent
- v. We as pastors are always confined to our own Churches but this program came as a refreshing to me. It red iscovered that knowing Christ is intimate, personal, closer and not a high profile relationship
- vi. I want to testify that I received blessing from the sharing of Rev Danny Wood where he highlighted about "Excuse" that we make as ministers. My Church members are not supportive financially, my Church leaders are not encouraging therefore I used these as an excuse but I am challenged to look forward and work no matter what may come
- vii. I want to congratulate all the people involved in the success of the Conference. It should not be an end but a beginning of a new relationship among the Baptist Churches in Northeast India
- viii I am humble and blessed by the bible stud ies and seminars and I recommit my life to serve God till I die
- ix. I thank the volunteers for their timely help and guidance and making everything comfortable and the cooks in the kitchen for the wonderful food

### **Critiques and Suggestions**

1. Suggest to include topics on women, youth and children
2. It will be encouraging for leaders to come again therefore, it's a request to the organizers to organize this type of programs Biennially or Triennially

3. Highlight on Globalization, Justice and Peace
4. Sharing Administrative insights from other associations
5. It will be enriching if there are topics on marriage and building family relationship

### **Comments from the Speakers at the Conference**

#### **Rev Taku Longkumer**

Baptist members are so independent so many times we struggle as Association, Convention, Church, people and family to work together but it is a process and I hope we will be able to reach out to South East Asia. To fulfill this we need to come together as one and let God use us.



#### **Rev Tracy Hipps**

I am inspired by learning about your culture and how you seek God. I have watched how God worked in and through you and in your culture and in your language. Thank You for hosting us and inviting us



#### **Rev Jeremy J. Griem**

This is my fourth visit to India and every time I am here I am blessed by how we can learn from you here in India. My encouragement to you is to "conclude the task" of taking the Gospel to every tribe. Let every tribe know about Christ



#### **Rev Danny Wood**

I want to thank you again for making it possible for a second visit. I appreciate your kindness, patience, your courtesy, generosity and hospitality. Remember that it is important to build a Pastoral Team. We are created for building



relationship; built that team, pray for that team. We thank you, we love you and we will pray for you

**Rev Chris Horton**

Thank You for attending my seminar. I have been amazed by the sense of unity among you. May this unity continue to grow.



**Rev Dr Michael W. Wesley**

Thank You for having me. I assure you that “the best is yet to come” therefore continue to press on. Release the burden here before you and go and serve the Lord.



**My Heart Leaps Up**

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.



- William Wordsworth



# The Book of Luke: Hope, Purpose, Redemption

*Rev Dr Danny Wood Sr. Pastor, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, USA*

Rev Dr Danny Wood led the bible studies during the **Lay Leaders & Pastors Conference** held at CBCNEI, Mission Compound on the theme, **“THE BOOK OF LUKE: Hope, Purpose, Redemption.”** We are delighted to publish the bible study materials in the Baptist News which we believe will enrich our readers. In this issue we are publishing the first bible study on the topic **HOPE** and the other materials will be published in the following issues.

## **THE BOOK OF LUKE: Hope, Purpose, Redemption**

### **Jesus: The Message and the Mission – (4:14-22)**

There were great reports about Jesus all through Galilee which was about 25 to 40 miles east of Nazareth. When Jesus came home, the people were excited! On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue **“as was His custom,”** **“and He stood up to read”** (vs. 16) -it was customary to have visiting teachers come and teach. Jesus was given the scroll of Isaiah. He found the specific scripture reference He wanted which indicated that He knew the Scriptures well. The OT “bibles” of that day had Hebrew texts with no punctuation, no chapters no verses so He had to know them well to turn right to this passage. He read from Isaiah 61:1-2. The Jewish

rabbis interpreted this passage to refer to the future Messiah, and the people in the synagogue knew it. It was a passage of hope that one day God would come and save His people. And Jesus said that this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

### **Here is the Message and Mission of Jesus:**

**1. Proclaim good news to the poor-** the poor were the downtrodden, disadvantaged, helpless and usually overlooked. The Good News includes them and everyone else. Jesus did not come to raise their standard of living but give them something richer...forgiveness of sins and guarantee of eternal life. This is not just physical poverty but a moral and spiritual poverty.

**2. Proclaim liberty to the captives-** set free; release “captives”- Sin imprisons the mind and enslaves the heart. Today we are in bondage to money, sensuality, guilt, powers, position, and prestige. Jesus proclaims liberty and freedom from guilt and forgiveness of sins.

**3. Recovery of sight to the blind-** We are blind to our sin which blinds us to Scripture and the Savior. We are to see our sin and then see the need for a Savior. ***Acts 26:17-18, “Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, so then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.”***

**4. Set at liberty those who are oppressed-** crushed in spirit, shattered by hard experiences of life, suffered the cruelty of verbal, emotional and physical abuse. Jesus gives liberty and freedom to those who see no way out of their situation. He gives hope to those who seem to have no hope.

**5. Proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor-** his reference here is the “***Year of Jubilee***” described in Leviticus 25. Every fiftieth year was set apart as the “***Year of Jubilee.***” The main purpose of this special year was the balancing of the economic system: slaves were set free and returned to their families and all debts were

canceled. **Here Jesus was proclaiming a new start.**

When Jesus spoke these words, He was proclaiming Himself as the one who would bring this good news. He was the “Anointed” One, a king in the line of David, the King through whom the promises to David would be fulfilled. Jesus had come to evangelize the poor, proclaim freedom, give sight to the blind, release the oppressed and give people a new start. Jesus was the promised Messiah and focused on calling people back to God. His message and mission was one of **hope, purpose, and redemption**. The Isaiah passage was one of **hope** that the people had looked to for years and now Jesus is saying that He is the one to make this passage become a reality. There is hope for the poor, captive, blind and oppressed.

There is **purpose**: Jesus has a specific purpose to proclaim the Good News, to provide liberty, freedom and a new start.

There is **redemption** because Jesus is not giving them a social revolution, medical revolution or political revolution. He is coming to bring spiritual deliverance from the power of sin and that will require a high price...His life

The Jews pictured their Messiah as a military conqueror who would free them from Rome. Instead, Jesus was a conqueror who would free them from sin- the sin that had caused their captivity and oppression in the first place- and restore them to wholeness. Rather than be slaves to sin they could now be conquerors in Christ. You can imagine how shocked they were when Jesus boldly said that this passage was written about Him and that He had come to usher in the year of the Lord’s favor!

## **“HOPE: THE CENTURION”**

### **LUKE 7:1-10**

Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount and went into the city of Capernaum. (vs. 2)- **“Centurion”**-Capernaum was a customs post thus warranting some Roman soldiers. The Centurion was their

leader and meant that he was the commander of 60 to 100 men. The Centurions were the backbone of the Roman army in charge of discipline. The ordinary duties of the centurion were to drill his men, inspect their arms, food and clothing, and to command them in the camp and in the field. **“servant who was highly valued”**- Roman soldiers had many servants who actually trained and fought with them. This man could have been his personal attendant whom he had a close bond. **“was sick and at the point of death”** -Seemed to be in a hopeless situation. (vs. 3)- **“heard about Jesus”** -from his teachings in Capernaum, the healings and the forgiving of sins. **“elders of the Jews”** -prominent leaders in the Jewish synagogue and community.

He had the Jewish religious leaders go to Jesus to make the request. Felt they could gain an audience with Jesus more than he could. **“heal his servant”** -**“heal”** -the word’s etymology is the idea of “carrying someone safely through a dangerous ordeal.” This is what he was asking Jesus to do. He had nowhere else to turn. Jesus was his only hope. So he asked Jesus to work a saving cure that would rescue his friend from death. But then again who else can deliver us from death? Who else can carry us through our last ordeal and bring us safely to the other side? The only hope for meeting the dying and desperate need of lost humanity is the life that comes through Jesus Christ. As we are dying with the sickness of sin, we should call on Jesus to come with all the grace of his saving cure.

(vs. 4) -**“pleaded with him earnestly”** -with intense effort. They began and kept on pleading. **“he is worthy to have you do this for him”** (vs. 5)- **“He loves our nation”** -unheard of. Romans saw the Jews as people to be ruled, natural enemies. He worked for Herod Antipas who was a hated ruler over the Jews so this centurion loving the nation was out of the ordinary to say the least! **“built us our synagogue”** -at his own expense from his own resources. This is a man who was not a Jew but was evidently

attracted by what he had seen within the Hebrew religion, so much so that he had built the synagogue. (vs. 6)- Lots of things happen in verse 6. Jesus agrees to come to the Centurion's house. A messenger is sent to the Centurion telling him Jesus is coming. Probably shares that good news with his ailing servant. Then he begins to have second thoughts. Ever done that? He begins to struggle with his request. He feels very uncomfortable with what he has just done. Sends one of his friends out to head them off as they come down the street and tell Jesus not to come. Don't bother yourself; don't trouble yourself. Why? Because "I am not worthy to have you come under my roof." Interesting the reason the elders pushed for Jesus to come is because the Centurion WAS worthy. Now he is telling Jesus not to come to his house because he is NOT worthy! (vs. 7a) -This is why he sent the elders to plead for him because he did not feel worthy (deem that he deserved) to make this request of Jesus.

## **I. Worthy**

### **A. Recognize your own unworthiness by comparing yourself to the superior worthiness of Jesus**

It is amazing that Jesus was a Galilean peasant, and the centurion was a Gentile, a man of wealth and some local importance. Yet, the Roman officer not only regarded himself as undeserving of having Jesus come under his roof, but even unworthy of meeting Jesus in the street! The Centurion saw himself as he really was. He had a wholesome consciousness of his own sin and knew he was unworthy. What made him unworthy was the worthiness of Jesus. He compared himself to the superior worthiness of this powerful healer that had righteous authority. The centurion apparently realized that one who has power over disease, demons, life and death, and who can heal with a spoken word, must be divine. And if Christ was divine, then, a Gentile sinner was unworthy to meet him.

### **B. God will help you not because of your merit but because of**

## His mercy

So the elders are telling Jesus that He needs to come and heal this man's servant because the Centurion is such a great guy. The elders saw lots of needs all around them but because of the excellence of this man, then surely he is worthy for Jesus to take his limited time and heal his servant. They were looking at the outside of a man and his works and determining whether he was worthy for the Lord to work in his life. Jesus looks at the inside and none of us is worthy. What God requires is perfect righteousness. By that standard, no one is worthy except the Lord Jesus Christ. **Therefore if God is to help us, it will never be because of our merit, but only because of his mercy.** The elders believed this is the type of man for whom Jesus needs to do a miracle...because he is "miracle worthy."

We have a tendency to label people as those who are "miracle worthy" and those who are not. How prideful would it be for him to expect Jesus to come to his house and heal his servant because of his contributions to the community? How prideful would it be for you to say that God needs to heal your body, increase your finances, and protect your family BECAUSE you are in ministry and because of all you have done for Him and for others? **God will help you not because of your merit but because of His mercy.** Some of you are on the opposite end of the spectrum and don't think you are "miracle worthy" because your life is a train wreck. Your life is too messed up for God to work a miracle in your life. The ground is level at the cross. We are all sinners saved by grace. God owes us nothing, yet He extends his compassion to us. God honors us with His grace, not because we deserve it but because He cares for us. The Centurion knew that God owed him nothing but he believed Jesus could heal and he knew Jesus cared enough to do so.

## II. Authority

(vs. 7b-8)- Luke has talked about Jesus' authority over disease,

over demons and even his authority to forgive sins. Centurion grasped Jesus spiritual authority and took it to a new level. He believed Jesus could do a long distance healing! No need to touch or get close to the one who is sick...just speak the word and with your authority that will be enough. Because of his position, the centurion could delegate responsibility with a word and know that the job would be done. He himself was *a man under authority* because final authority rested with the Roman emperor. The emperor delegated responsibility to various officials, such as this centurion. Thus, when the centurion gave orders to soldiers under him, he spoke with the authority of the emperor. The centurion was accustomed both to obeying and to being obeyed. He understood that because you are under authority you are able to exercise authority.

He realized that Jesus' power and authority came from God. Because He was ever under God's authority, Jesus was in the place of complete authority over demons, disease, and over all the forces of nature. Jesus had at His command incredible, invisible spiritual authority. When Jesus spoke, God spoke. Jesus could merely speak the word and heal the servant. **Jesus' authority is in his identity and not what He has done in the past.** The Centurion knew of what Jesus had done but he saw Jesus as more than a miracle worker or great teacher...he saw Him as divine. Don't miss who Jesus is...He is the almighty Son of God and can give you hope for your seemingly hopeless situation because of who He is.

### III. Faith

(vs. 9)- **"marveled"**- amazed; astonished; a wonder with admiration. Marveled at the Centurion's faith. Only twice does Jesus marvel. One time was in Nazareth at their lack of faith and now here over the Centurion's great faith.

Depth of his belief

- a. Believed that Jesus had absolute power over disease
- b. Believed Jesus could heal his servant by not even physically going to him but by just speaking the word

Jesus was so impressed with this man's faith that he turned to this Jewish crowd and said the faith displayed by this Roman centurion is a greater faith than Jesus had found even in Israel—the very people who were supposed to know about God and how He works. This must have ruffled a few feathers! How do you think those newly appointed disciples felt...Andrew, Peter and John?

**A. Impressive faith is seeing yourself as you are and seeing Christ as He is**

You are a sinner separated from God and in need of a Savior. Christ is the Son of God and your Savior.

**B. Impressive faith is humble faith that makes no claims on Jesus**

You don't expect Him to answer a prayer, perform a miracle because you are worthy. You don't demand that He do what you wish because of the deeds you have done. We will not be healed by the worthiness of our works, but only by the trust of our faith in Jesus Christ.

**C. Impressive faith is trusting in Jesus' authority and power**

Our Lord looks for one thing— simple trust in His authority and power. He recognized Jesus' authority thus he knew that Jesus had the power to do something that he had never seen...heal a man long distance.

Whatever your hopeless situation, Jesus has the authority and power to help you through it and give you the hope you need. Jesus said He had not "found such faith." If you "find" something it means you have been looking for it. Jesus was looking for faith. Throughout his earthly ministry He searched the hearts of men

and women for faith and He continues seeking today. When Jesus shared this He was inviting them to trust in Christ with their very own faith. He was challenging people to put their trust in Him. They had heard about Jesus, knew He had the power to heal. Now they were invited to believe in His word.

Jesus turns to us with the same invitation. He can give you whatever healing you need- whatever comfort in your grief, whatever forgiveness for your sin, whatever hope for your future. All you have to do is trust him with a simple and confident faith.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever felt that God should answer your prayers or do a miracle in your life because you are in the ministry? How does this differ from the Centurion's belief in Jesus?
2. Jesus' authority is in His identity. How does this give you hope?

**Amaze the Lord...trust Him at His word and boldly step out in faith.**



“Some people will always throw stones in your path. It depends on you, what you make with them, wall or bridge? Remember you are the architect of your life.”

~ *Anonymous*



## A Note of Appreciation

*Mr Pawan Bhuyan, Property cum Finance Secretary, CBCNEI*

CBCNEI expresses appreciation and gratitude to those individuals, churches, fellowships and organizations who have been partnering/supporting the Ministries of CBCNEI through their sacrificial giving. The following contributions have been received by us.

### **Towards Mission Project**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Christian Literature Centre Guwahati | ₹ 100,000/- |
| 2. Naga Christian Fellowship, Shillong  | ₹ 5,400/-   |
| 3. Wokha Baptist Church                 | ₹ 21,000    |

## Writer's Workshop

*a platform for young theologian and Church leaders to improve composition, language and style in writing personal story...*

**August 7 - 10, 2013**

**Resource Persons:**

Julie Belding, Ingrid Albuquerque & Dr A. K. Lama  
CBCNEI Conference Centre, Guwahati

*Register at the earliest for lower registration fee benefit.*

*Contact Program Coordinator or visit [www.cbcnei.in](http://www.cbcnei.in) for information*

# The first Woman Pastor Installed in the Church in Assam

*Rev Dr L. J. Sangma, former General Secretary, CBCNEI*



*Ms Nambe*

Women folks in the entire CBCNEI Churches for the past many years

were not treated equally like the men folks in the Church Ministry, especially in the Pulpit Ministry, even though they were qualified. Still today women are looked at and considered as subordinates even in the Christian Ministries.

It was in the year of 1962, during the CBCNEI Annual Conference at William Nagar Town Baptist Church, East Garo Hills,

this issue was thoroughly discussed in the business session. The body resolved to encourage Women's right in the Churches within CBCNEI jurisdiction and to Ordain Women for Pulpit Ministry.

After twelve years, the Ao Baptist Arogo Mundang (ABAM) of Nagaland Baptist Church Council ordained Dr Nokshangchila Ao for full time Pulpit Ministry and sent her to serve as one of the Chaplains at Christian Medical College Hospital (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Thereafter, Mrs Senangshila Benjamin Ao from the same Association was ordained for full time Christian Ministry. Then the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) ordained

Ms Kim Vaiphei, the then Women Secretary of MBC. After few years, three Garo Women, who were theologically qualified, were also ordained by the Garo Baptist Convention (GBC). Till today, the Assam Baptist Convention (ABC), Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention (KABC) and the Arunachal Baptist Convention (ABC) have not ordained any women.

Recently, Pillangkatta Baptist Church (PBC), one of the constituent members of the Kamrup Asomia Baptist Sobha (KABS) of the Assam Baptist Convention, installed a woman Pastor Ms Nambe alias Punam K. Marak, as the Associate Pastor by Rev Dr L. J. Sangma, on the January 27, 2013 in the presence of a huge number of local congregation. She was given an equal Pastoral Administration and

Pulpit Ministry, including the administration of Baptism and celebration of the Holy Communion. She was also given authority to look after the Sunday School, Youth Program, the Women's Program, Home visitation and Church Library.

Ms Nambe was sent by the Women's Society of her Church for a three year Bible School Course conducted by the Garo Baptist Association No. 1, at Nishangram which she successfully completed.

We praise God with deep gratitude for this opportunity given to Ms Nambe to move forward in her life and ministry. We earnestly request the Churches to uphold and remember our small congregation in your prayers so that the LORD may do mighty works through Ms Nambe and our Church.



Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
then a house full of feasting with strife.

*Proverbs 17 : 1*

# N e w s C l i p p i n g s

---

## **Seminar-cum-Curriculum Workshop on Peace Building (Sept 20-22, 2012)**

A Seminar-cum-Curriculum Workshop on Peace Building was organized at Eastern Theological College under aegis of the Justice and Peace Ministries of CBCNEI and BIM. Altogether 59 delegates registered for the program along with four volunteers making a total of 63 participants from seventeen theological colleges (represented mostly by principals, vice-principals and academic deans) and two Church bodies. The semi-

nar was targeted at getting selected resource persons from the region in presenting papers from their own field of expertise and moderators from the same field were entrusted to moderate and act as course designers towards curriculum drafting. The outcome of the presentations and discussions was entrusted to the moderators/course designers to bring a course outline to contribute towards curriculum building on MA course on Peace building. This is still in the process of drafting. Once the documents are gathered, they will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for further deliberation and necessary action. The M.A. Program is expected to be launched in the 2014 academic session.



**Lewis Memorial (LM) Boys in Youth Bible Camp (Oct 19, 2012)**



Six boys from Lewis Memorial Hostel, Guwhati attended a Youth Bible Camp held at Dharamsala in Sikkim on October 19, 2012. They all were blessed through this camp and expressed their gratitude to the Lewis Memorial Hostel Ministry.



**Interfaith Advance Christmas Program at Naogaon, Assam (Dec 12, 2012)**

The Justice and Peace Ministries of CBCNEI and Assam Baptist Convention (ABC) organized an Advance Christmas at Nagaon district of

Assam where members of the District Administration and Interfaith Religious leaders and members were invited. The Deputy Commissioner of Naogaon conveyed Christmas greetings to all the persons present on behalf of the district administration. The Imam of the Masjid also conveyed Christmas greetings. Around 800 people came and filled the District Library. It was a joyous



occasion and the people were blessed by gesture of hope and peace by our Church. The significance of Christmas was conveyed to the people from the word of God by Mr. R. K. Raychawdhuri, General Secretary, ABC. The Peace and Justice Ministries thank the leaders of the ABC and especially Mr. Raychawdhuri for the pro-active initiative in

organizing this program and also thank BIM for the support and financial assistance granted to us to implement the program.



### **Music Workshop (Dec 13-15)**

The Music Ministry of CBCNEI in collaboration with the Board of International Ministries (BIM, USA) organized a music worship workshop on the theme: **“Worship Wars-Seeking True Worship”** (John 4:23) from Dec13-15, 2012 at CBCNEI Conference Centre. The biblical

examples and worship practices throughout Church history to provide a foundation for the decisions worship leaders make each week was explored. The main discussion was on the fundamental elements of meaningful worship that can be implemented in any stylistic form of worship, interspersed with the theory and the practical for leading worship sessions.

The topics included in the sessions are, *‘What is Worship?’* *‘The Biblical Mandate and Definition of Worship,’* *‘Blended*



*Worship: Treasuring Tradition While Converging with Contemporary,' 'Planning Blended Worship,' 'Transforming Worship: Authentic Worship in a Changing Culture,' 'Developing Worship Team Ministry,' Beyond "Worship Wars" Unity in Worship' and "Practical application of the biblical teachings of worship."*

Altogether, 35 registered and 3 non-registered participants attended from all the conventions. The response was very encouraging. The participants expressed their desire for more of such programs in the future. In response, CBCNEI is planning for a follow-up program in the early part of December this year, 2013. The program as the participants expressed will be on *Praise and Worship Seminar* with high profile worship leader from the US. The Council thank the BIM ministries for the support in reaching out to the local congregations of the Council.

### **Langham Preaching Seminar, Level Three (Jan 14-18)**

The Langham Preaching Seminar, Level three, was held at CBCNEI, Guwahati. Having completed Level one and two training on preaching, 28 enthusiastic participants attended this program and left with a motivation to return for the next level. Dr Paul Windsor (New Zealand); Rev Dr Geoff New (New Zealand), and Rev Dr A. K. Lama, General Secretary of CBCNEI, were the resource persons.



## **19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention, Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) (Jan 17-20)**

Host: Phom Baptist Christian Association

Venue: Nyengching, Longleng

The 19<sup>th</sup> triennial convention of the Nagaland Baptist Church Council under the theme “*In*



*step with the Spirit*”, hosted by the Phom Baptist Christian Association (PBCA). Rev Keviyekielie Linyu, president, NBCC declared the convention open in the presence of hundred of delegates from different associations, along with the General Secretary Rev Dr L. Anjo Keikung and his cabinet and the members of the host association.

The speakers of the Conference were Rev Linyu, Rev Dr L. Anjo Keikung and Rev Dr W. Pongsing Konyak. A special greeting was delivered by the Deputy Commissioner of Longleng. The

Bible Study was led by Rev Zhabu Terhuja, President, Eastern Theological College, Jorhat.

The delegates were blessed by many beautiful songs and special presentations by the PBCA, United Sangtam Baptist Lithro Ashimukhong (USBLA), Sangtam Baptist Church Tuensang, Nagamese Baptist Churches Association, Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang, Changtongya Town Baptist Church, Eastern Theological College (ETC), Jorhat and Phom Lempong School.

Two important seminars were conducted on the topics “*Human trafficking*” led by Asha Sanchu, Director Miqlat Ministry, NBCC and “*Right to Infor*





ation” by Dr W. Pongsing Konyak, Director, Medical Ministry International, India.

Some of the main highlights of the conference were:

- The special thanksgiving service held for the completion of PBCA’s 60th year.
- A special presentation on *Clean Election Campaign* by Dr Hovithal Sothu; a DVD *“Free and Fair Election”* was released and screened after the presentation which was followed by the signing of the pledge card by the congregation.
- Installation program of new NBCC officers. Rev C. Lima, Executive Secretary, USBLA (Sangtam) was appointed as the new President of the Council and Rev Mathung, Pastor, Kohima Lotha Baptist

Church and Mrs Kakheli Jimomi Asso. Pastor (Women) Dimapur Sumi Baptist Church, Dimapur were appointed as the Vice-Presidents of the Council.



### **Leadership Training Program**

Nocte Baptist Churches Association (NBCA) in partnership with CBCNEI/TLA hosted a two day leadership training program from January 29-30, 2013 at Mission Center Paokam. Around 300 participants came for the program. Rev Dr A. K.



Lama, General Secretary of CBCNEI was the resource person. Many appreciated and returned with blessings to serve the Lord.

The picture is attached herewith.



### **CBCNEI Conference Centre Kitchen upgradation (Feb 4)**



The Conference Center, CBCNEI has a new kitchen to benefit all those who use the Canteen facility. It was dedicated on Feb 4, by Rev Dr A.K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI in the presence of all the Secretaries, CBCNEI staff and the canteen staff.



### **139<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GARO BAPTIST CONVENTION (GBC) (Feb 6 - 10)**

The 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Garo Baptist Convention was held at Malangkhona Baptist Church, Krima (Association) No. VIII. It was opened by the General Secretary, Rev R. G. Momin basing on the theme “*Christ, the Hope of the World*” (John 16:33).

Inspite of the week long *bandh* called by the Rabhas, huge number of believers came from all over Garo Hills, Khasi Hills and the adjoining Assam. On Sunday morning Worship Service Rev Stafford K. Sangma Asst. Pastor of Tura Baptist Church delivered the message. The other speakers were Rev Dilseng M. Sangma, Rev (Mrs) Selitha N. Sangma, Rev Janang R Sangma, Sundarsing A. Sangma. Over hundred thousand people gather to worship and hear the word of God. The Bible study was led by Mr Morningson R. Sangma, an evangelist serving in Assam.

Altogether 1192 delegates from Associations, Centers and the Churches under GBC attended



the conference and participated in different programs. Mr Roderick D. Shira was re-elected as the President and Mr Hayward N. Sangma was elected as the Vice President for 2013-2015. The next Annual Meeting will be held at Damal Asim, Krima IX (Association. IX, West Garo Hills) and Rev Dr J.M. Ngul Khan Pau, former General Secretary, CBCNEI as the Speaker.

We are blessed by the presence of our very own, Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI and Rev Helien Singsith, Secretary, Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) – NEI, Shillong.

Rev Paul Morton and three of his compatriot from Valley View Baptist Church, Ohio, USA attended the conference as part of their Mission partnership program. The team also ministered in the interior Songsarek village in Garo Hills under Association IX. Rev Bruce Burk of the LEAD Institute also attended and grace the occasion by his presence.

The Annual Conference witnessed tremendous support from both Meghalaya and Assam government by providing security to the faithful believers who wished to attend the same against all odds. To God be the glory!!!

## Adi Baptist Churches Fellowship (19 - 21 Feb)



Under the Theme *“One Lord, One Faith and One Baptism,”* the third Adi Baptist Churches fellowship was conducted at Yingkiang Town Baptist Church. All the association leaders from four associations and some Pastors and Church leaders attended the fellowship. Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary CBCNEI, was invited as the Resource Person. He along with Mr Rabindra Basumatary and Mr Jinoy Sangma attended the program.



## A New Place of Worship

The Swami-Camp Baptist Church at Hayuliang which was demolished by the “All Mishimi Student Unions” on Oct 7, 2010

was re-constructed through the generous contribution from



Angami Baptist Church Council (ABCC), Mission Department. The Church was dedicated on Feb 26 by Pastor Viletuo from Kirupluma Baptist Church along with the Deacon Youth Chairman, ABCC Executives, Wakro Mission and missionary from Medu. There were about seventy local Christians who turned up to witness the dedication program. The message was delivered by Mr Weirlulie Suohumvo ABCC (missionary to Anjaw Dist).



## Garo Pastors Retreat

The Pastors of Krima No. V, under the leadership of Mr Mansil G. Sangma, Executive Secretary, met together for

Pastors retreat. Around 40 Pastors came to CBCNEI Conference Centre for the retreat program. Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary of the Council was the Resource person.



### Thangal Naga Baptist Association (TNBA) Ordination



Rev Tsipitongla (Apilla) Thangal, Executive Secretary, Thangal Naga Baptist Association was ordained on March 3,

2013 at Ningthoupham Baptist Church.



### Poumai Baptist Churches Pastors Retreat (Mar 5)

44 Pastors from the Poumai Naga Baptist Association came to CBCNEI on 5th March 2013 for a retreat program. Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI was invited to speak to them on “Pastoral Ministry, Challenges and Joy.” They were encouraged by the Word of God.



### Mission Conference (Mar 3-5)

In partnership with Manipur Baptist Convention Mission Department, a Mission Conference was conducted for



the Pastors and Leaders of Thangal Naga Baptist Association under the theme “Life is Mission.” All together, there were over 500 pastors and leaders from different Churches who attended the program.



### **Mission Report (Mar 14-15)**



On the Theme “*Mission in 21st Century*,” the Association of Gorkha Baptist Churches Nagaland conducted its first Mission Seminar at Generation Countdown Youth Ministry Center, Dimapur, Nagaland. 65 Pastors and Church Leaders attended the program. Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI and Mr Shashi Kumar Bhattarai, Co-ordinator, Nepal Campus Crusade for Christ, Kathmandu, Nepal led the semi-

nars on the topics, *Church and Mission; Faith and Missionary witness; Contemporary Challenges for Mission in North East India; and Role of Laity in Mission.*



### **The Theological Education Committee Meet (Mar 23)**

The CBCNEI Theological Education Committee met to discuss on the issues concerning theological education. The Committee approved 11 new students and also renewed 14 students’ grant of sholarship, sponsored by CBCNEI and BIM.



### **GOOD FRIDAY Evening Program at Guwahati Baptist Church (Mar 29)**

The Justice and Peace Ministries of the Council participated in the Good Friday evening program organized by the Christian Endeavour Department of the Guwahati Baptist Church (GBC) at the Church premises with an intent



to invite people of other faith to see the love of God on the cross. The Justice and Peace Ministries participated with two choreographies based on the love of God on the cross by 4B Satribari Christian Hospital Nursing School, and a song by Naga Christian Fellowship Guwahati. The Youths of GBC presented a skit depicting the passion of God on the cross.

Around 50 people from other faith came and attended the program. Outside of the Church premises we also distributed

around 400 New Testament Bibles to passerby.

The program was a blessed one for our Church members as well as those people of other faith who came and attended.



### **New Appointments**



Ms Nekheni Athini (left), Ms Kaholi Zhimomi (center) and Mr Dipom Zille (right) joined the Council as the Librarian; Assistant Editor, Baptist News; and Assistant Accountant respectively.



Teach me, and I will hold my tongue;  
cause me to understand wherein I have  
erred.

*Job 6 : 24*



## A MEMORABLE PICNIC

*Lianzami Leivang, Proprietor, Zopar Exports Pvt. Ltd.*

After attending the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the White Memorial Hostel (WMH) on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012, I started my homeward journey with my heart full of sweet, loving, sad and also shocking memories of my hostel life. While we were all having lunch, Rev Dr A.K. Lama came and requested us to write about our old experiences or true stories during our stay at the WMH for the "Baptist News." I therefore took this opportunity to write about one of my most memorable incidents I experienced in my life here at the WMH some decades ago.

In 1952 during the month of *Bohag* i.e. the first month in the Assamese Calendar or the month of April/May according to the English Calendar, Assamese people all over Assam were celebrating the *Bohag Bihu* Festival. Influ-

enced by the festive wave the WMH girls requested Ms Marion Grace Burnham, the Superintendent of WMH for a picnic far away from Guwahati town. She agreed and we decided to travel to Bhoguwa, a beautiful picnic spot which was located beyond Borjhar. The most awaited day arrived and we started our journey in a bus loaded with food. We were accompanied by two of our hostel cooks and of course not forgetting Ms Burnham's small green car.

We reached our destination very excitingly and safely. After having light refreshment we went around exploring and admiring the scenic beauty of the place. While our seniors were busy preparing food, the juniors were busy surveying the area. We collected fire wood and crystal clear water from the nearby stream.

We took pictures and enjoyed the natural beauty of Bhoguwa. The afternoon went by quickly and it was time for lunch. Just as we gathered around for food some girls spotted something big moving on top of the trees surrounding us. I looked up and saw many big moving creatures and assuming it to be monkeys I shouted "they are big sized monkeys." We began counting but since there were so many of them we got confused. As we stared at them they started to laugh and mock us by clapping their hands and started to come down from the trees. When they began to approach us, to our utter surprise we noticed that they were not monkeys but drunken naked men with their bodies fully smeared with ashes. To me they looked like big sized monkeys.

The senior students requested them to leave us alone but they continued to come closer making loud sounds. Since they were coming nearer towards us Ms Burnham ordered us to throw all the food, and get inside the bus. We hastily collected our belongings and rushed to the bus and fled the place before they could do us any harm. We were petri-

fied and anxious by the commotion that surrounded us but thankfully none of us were hurt and we safely proceed towards home. Our picnic was cut short by this incident; we were hungry, thirsty and angry too. But we thanked God for His protection and Ms Burnham's quick decision. On our way home some of the girls immediately began composing a memorable song about the picnic and all of us started to sing and dance to our hearts content. The first line of the song was "*Bhoguwar picnic pahori nejaba*" (Don't forget the picnic at Bhoguwa). By the time we reached the hostel we were very tired, exhausted and hungry but since it was already very late we all went to bed with empty stomach.

This picnic was such an unforgettable one as we not only faced danger but we also experienced the protection of our Almighty God and we as well created a memory of a lifetime. The song that we composed together in the bus still holds a special place in my heart and I always fondly remember those days when I sing it and treasure it all my life long.





## FORTH-COMING CBCNEI TRAINING PROGRAMS

*Siamliana Khiangte*  
Program Co-ordinator

CBCNEI along with its partners will be organizing various training programs, seminars and workshops. These are mainly for the Churches within CBCNEI family to enhance its ministries. We welcome all of you to register well in advance in order to get low registration fee benefit.

Given below is the list of program and venue. If you would like to be a part of these programs, please email me at [siamliana@cbcnei.com](mailto:siamliana@cbcnei.com) or call 09859981628.

Sl. No.	Dates	Training/Workshop/-Seminar	Venue
1	July 2 - 5, 2013	Advance Mission Leaders Training	CBCNEI Conference Centre
2	July 7 - 8, 2013	Training of Trainers in Peace Building	CBCNEI Conference Centre
3	July 9 - 13, 2013	Peace Building Workshop	CBCNEI Conference Centre
4	Aug 7 - 10, 2013	Writers Workshop	CBCNEI Conference Centre
5	Aug 12 - 22, 2013	Missionary Training Program	CBCNEI Conference Centre
6	Sept 18 - 22, 2013	Holy Spirit Renewal Conference	Dimapur
7	Sept 26 - 29, 2013	Family Enrichment Seminar	CBCNEI Conference Centre
8	Oct 1 - 4, 2013	Celebrate Recovery	CBCNEI Conference Centre
9	Oct 21 - 25, 2013	Sunday School Teachers Training	CBCNEI Conference Centre
10	Oct 29 - Nov 1, 2013	Youth Leaders Workshop	CBCNEI Conference Centre
11	Nov 14 - 17, 2013	Sunday School Teachers Training	CBCNEI Conference Centre
12	Nov 20, 22, 2013	Church Music Seminar	CBCNEI Conference Centre
13	Nov 26 - 30, 2013	Exegetical Preaching & Biblical Seminar	CBCNEI Conference Centre
14	Feb 7 - 9, 2014	Finance Management & FCRA Training	L. M. Hostel Auditorium, CBCNEI
15	Mar 11 - 14, 2014	Lay Leaders and Pastor's Conference	CBCNEI
16	Mar 26 - 29, 2014	Youth Leaders Conference	CBCNEI



*R. Lisen Ao*

## Former CBCNEI Missionary & Staff

I thank God for giving me this opportunity to share something about my past experience. I am from Molungyimsen village which was founded by Rev Dr A. W. Clark on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1876. My great grandfather was a dedicated Christian literate man. He translated the Bible from English to Ao. My mother was born when he was serving in Darjeeling and named her Emily. When I was born my mother dedicated me to the Lord and advised me to serve the Lord. I decided to study Bible at Eastern Theological College. It was Rev Kijungluba who first guided me through my theological journey. In 1953 I came down to Jorhat to study there. Most of my teachers were American like Dr David Mongtanc and from Indian na-

tional like Mr Earnest. After graduation in 1958 the Executive Secretary of the Ao Baptist Arago Mundang (ABAM), asked me to work with the students in Mokokchung. This student ministry was sponsored by CBCNEI and ABAM. I came to Mokokchung as a student worker and my main responsibility was to evangelize the students. There were many students at Mokokchung town by that time and therefore the work was very challenging. We had prayer service every evening and morning and the youth leadership training every saturday night and we participated in the devotional services of the local Church by singing songs, joined the Church choir, and witnessed the Lord in different hostels and in the Chris-

tian Endeavour Conventions. As member of youth body working under CBCNEI I had the privilege of working with Rev Beers and ABAM Executive Secretary Mr Meren who had great heart for youth ministry in CBCNEI. There were different Conventions under the banner of CBCNEI in places like Gohalkhana, North Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nagaon, Golaghat, Guwahati and the students participated in all the CBCNEI activities. There were many students at Laming therefore the CBCNEI expanded its ministry there too and students came together to celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday Service every year. Many Naga students attended and were baptized year after year. Under the leadership of Rev Beers, CBCNEI youth ministry expanded. I also had the opportunity to serve CBCNEI as the assistant clerk at Golaghat under the secretarialship of Ms Murice. In 1960 the CBCNEI selected me to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Baptist Youth Conference held at Tokyo,

Japan. After the Conference I traveled to Manila to meet our student there. I also visited Hongkong, Thailand and Rangoon. At Rangoon I met many Christian students who were living in fear and were not able to preach the Gospel to the local people because of the strict regulation of the Government. After coming back I continued my ministry with the students and nurses at Guwahati, visiting colleges, and organizing different youth programs. Northeast India is like a flower garden with different talents and qualities. During those days all the people from different states came together to worship the Lord. It was filled with joy and love. I realized that God has special purpose for us, the Northeast people. God wants us to be instruments of peace, go to every corner and preach the Gospel and evangelize India but we are falling behind, separating ourselves into different tents. What we need now is to love one another and serve the Lord with one heart.





# “Can We Imagine A World Without Books”

*Angam G. Chahong, Assistant Director, CLC, Guwahati*

Once a wise man said, “I want to be just a common man with lots of books to read rather than a king living in the palace without books.” What kind of a world would we live in if no books ever existed? We can recall the statement of Thomas Jefferson: “I cannot live without books.” It is beyond our imagination to think of a world without books.

For centuries, books have been written in an attempt to share the truth, knowledge, inspiration, discoveries and value of life. Books make such an impact that changes the way humankind thinks and understands. The histories tell us that every generation has been influenced by the resources from books. It’s one of the finest technology humankind has come up with.

Books exist to transmit truth and ideas. When an idea is conceived, it is a thought; when a thought is conceived, it is a concept. The generation of humankind has changed from the Stone Age to a highly technological age through the transmission of all those ideal ideas and concept in literatures (scroll, scribble or book). The human ability to reason, analyze and imagine is a wonderful gift from God (Isa 1:18). God inspired human mind to write many books that have inspired and has changed the world.

Books have been creating characters and stories that have ingrained in cultures around the world inspiring the imagination of many. Through books, the world of science, the society, government and politics have

tremendously changed. It has been correcting the views on racism, feminism, individualism and discrimination. There can be no doubt that the Bible has done more to change the face of the world than any other book. The entire Roman Empire changed from paganism to Christianity. Spreading of the Good News of Jesus has changed the major part of the world. Since then Christianity became the single largest religion in the world, which has so much value impact in the life of people without any discrimination. The impact of the Bible in North East India is significant. It has changed the entire community of so-called tribal backward community of head hunters to soul winners. Before the invention of printing, Christian Bible was not widely available. Some of the faithful were very adept at memorizing large portion of the Holy Scriptures. But today we are blessed to have many translations of the Bible along with multiple commentaries, dictionaries and other biblical helpful resources to empower, to know and have better understanding. Indeed it is

true that every scriptural passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval (2 Tim 3:16).

I cannot think of living without books at all and in fact books have been an inseparable part of my life. There are many sources of information such as media and modern technology, such as internet, yet books appeal to me more than anything. When I start reading a book, it takes my mind to places where I have never been, and imagine the people I have never seen with the help of the vivid descriptions and illustrations that the book offers. Thinking about a world without books is unthinkable. My intellectual and understanding level and my patterns of thought are immensely shaped by the books I read. Reading Bible has transformed my philosophy of life completely. Imagine what kind of life would it be if no book ever exists?



# **63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting Council of Baptist Churches in North East India**

**Dated : April 26-28, 2013  
Venue: Akuvuto Thahekhu, Dimapur**

**Theme: Put on Love for Perfect Unity (Col 3:14)**

## **SPEAKERS**

***Rev P. Bonny Resu, General Secretary, APBF  
Rev Dr Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary NCCI  
Rev Dr A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI***

## **The Officers of CBCNEI**

President : Rev. Dr. Kavito Zhimo  
Vice President : Rev. Athang Sebu  
General Secretary : Rev. Dr. Ajoy Kumar Lama  
Property Secretary : Mr. Pawan Bhuyan  
Missions Secretary : Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai  
Secretary, Justice and Peace: Mr. Athungo Shitri  
Finance Secretary designate : Mr. Vikato Shikhu

**Host :  
Western Sumi Baptist Akukuhou Kuqhakulu  
Nagaland Baptist Church Council**



# In His Footsteps

*Dr Samip Baruah, National Sales Manager, ITC Limited Chennai*

It has been my desire to visit the Holy Land after accruing some personal savings. I was praying to God to open a way for me to visit Israel so that I could witness with my own eyes and understand and appreciate all the rich history recorded in the Holy Bible. Finally I got an opportunity to go on a trip to the Holy Land. After preparing for months I along with my wife Pranita and my daughter Stoottee arrived at Israel on 1st May 2012, for a fifteen day trip to see the biblical sites of Israel which are the foundations of our faith. I want to divide my journey into the four parts (a) Jesus' Birth (b) Jesus' Death (c) Jesus' Resurrection (d) other experience.

Our tour started with a trip to Jerusalem. The cities are connected by taxi service and buses. We hired a guide to

take us to different Holy and historical sites at Jerusalem. Our aim was to visit all places Jesus travelled and other important historical places. We met the guide at Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is hilly and the approach roads are like the roads in Shillong, Meghalaya, of North East India. Since Israel is a developed country, the roads are concrete; the approach roads are very beautiful with flowers everywhere. I was surprised to see the city filled with seasonal flowers in the midst of a desert. I was assured that it really is a place of



milk and honey.

### **Jesus' Death Place - The Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

Our first stop was the Church of Holy Sepulchre, the place where Jesus was crucified, laid and resurrected. The Church was dark and crowded with tourists from all over the world and we had to take turns to see the exact place where the cross hung. There were lamp stands and chandeliers lighted everywhere and the golden and brass metallic cross of Jesus was placed at the point where Jesus was crucified. Interestingly, it is to be noted that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is controlled by a host of Churches namely the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, Coptic Syrian and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. There were small churches or chapels of these Churches on every side of the Calvary. Beside the Calvary there is a rock called the stone of Uncion where Jesus was placed, anointed with ointments, wrapped in linen shroud, the common preparation done for the burial of the Jews. There is also a place where candles are placed with a big pillar which is thought to be the spot where

mother Mary gazed at her son with compassion, dying on the Cross of Calvary.

At the side of the Jesus' tomb was an unkept, dark and dirty tomb. We later came to know through our guide that it was the tomb of Joseph the Arimethea who laid down the body of Jesus. It laid in ruins because of dispute between the different Churches as to who would maintain the tomb. Joseph of Arimethea and Nicodemus were the two people privileged to carry the body of Jesus and lay Him in the tomb. The cave of the man who claimed the body of Jesus now lay in dirt and forsaken, there were hardly any tourists/people to come and see it.

### **Jesus' Resurrection at the Garden Tomb**

We visited the Garden Tomb which is also believed to be the place where Jesus got resurrected and discovered by General Gordon, a British officer. It is an interesting place because, we know from the scriptures, which states that Jesus died in Golgotha, the place of the skull. The place of the Skull called Golgotha looks like the face of the skull. In Jerusalem there is a lot of confusion over the place of

Jesus' Resurrection but one of the volunteers there explained and I quote his exact words, "we get carried away regarding the exact spot of Jesus' resurrection, but it is important to understand, appreciate and remember the fact that Jesus Rose again, overcame sin, death and hell." Then we went to the place called the Via Dolorosa or the way of the cross through which Jesus carried the cross. There are fourteen stations where Jesus stopped while carrying the cross along the path of the cross with the last five being located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. All the fourteen places were marked with a bronze plate and written with roman numerals. As we walked and inspected these places we were filled with emotion and tears and was reminded of the bible verse in John 19:17, "and he bearing his cross forth into the place called Golgotha." Yes Jesus had to take up the cross, experienced sin and shame for you and me. Each station is unique of the fact that God passed walking and taking the cross with blood and pain. We could also see that the fourteenth stations had houses surrounding. It was supposed to be the place where the soldiers and the Jews ridiculed and

mocked Jesus. Jesus did bear the unbearable pain and said that, "whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny

Himself and take up the cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). We need to take up the cross and lead a life acceptable to Lord Jesus to be a true disciple of Jesus.

### **Jesus' Birth- the Church of Nativity**

As we completed our tour in Jerusalem, we decided to proceed to Bethlehem. Bethlehem incidentally falls in the Palestinian Territory and Authority and hence the locals discouraged us to go there claiming it to be unsafe. But reminding ourselves that God looks at the heart (I Samuel 16:7) and He knows our intentions we proceeded to see Jesus' Birth place- The Church of Nativity, where Jesus was born and laid in a manger. Although Bethlehem was deemed to be insecure there was no lack of enthusiastic tourists and sacred pilgrims. There was a huge number of visitors trying to touch the place where baby Jesus was born. The place contained a bronze star of Bethlehem signifying the star that shone on this place when Jesus was born.

We were moved with emotions and I started singing the song, "Away in a manger, No crib for a bed, the Little Lord Jesus, No crying He makes." My faith was reaffirmed of the fact that we believe in a wonderful, excellent Counsellor, Almighty God. I had the privilege and experience to see, touch and feel the place where Jesus my Saviour was born. Next to the Church of Nativity is the Church of St. Catherine which is the section of the Church of Nativity belonging to the Roman Catholics and administered by the Franciscans. It is at this Church that telecaste "Midnight Mass" of Christmas in BBC every year.

After the Church of Nativity we proceeded to the Church of the Shepherd's Field the place where the host of angels assumed to have appeared proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ. I was so humbled by the fact, that Jesus' Good News was shared to the humblest of the humble people of the world, the shepherds.

Then we went to Church of the "Milky Grotto" of Mother Mary. As we entered the Church, we saw a host of pilgrims coming to see the Church, the priest of the Church was explaining about the

incident in the Bible where King Herod gave the instructions to kill all the children below six months of age in Bethlehem (Matt 2:16), the milky grotto was the spot where Mary and Joseph hid Jesus and fed him milk before they ran off to Nazareth. It is believed than as Mary fed Jesus, milk from her breasts felt on dry ground. It is traditionally believed that any women who could not bear a child come and pray and their prayers were answered.

### **St Peter's Church, Gallicantu, Jerusalem**

We then came back to Jerusalem and visited the St. Peter's Church, Gallicantu. This Church is built up on the place where Peter denied Jesus three times. We inspected the Church and found the underground cave which is believed to be the place where Jesus was arrested and kept before being taken to Caiphas the high priest for trial. The dungeon was lit up with lights at the top there was a hole which penetrates down the floor to the dungeon for the keeper of the prisoners to be able to see the prisoner from the top. The dungeon reminded me of the dungeon of the lion's den where Daniel was thrown.

## **The Church of Ascension, Mount of Olives**

After this, we walked up and went towards the Mount of Olives. On the way, we came to a place called Dominic Flevit, it is the place where Jesus cried for the city of Jerusalem. We reached the Church of Ascension at the Mount of Olives built upon the place where Jesus ascended to Heaven. The Church of Ascension is a place of worship for Christians and Muslims alike. The Church looked like a desolate Church with no decoration and surrounded by walls. Then we proceeded to the room of the Last Supper. The room was big and full of tourists. We thank God for the privilege to see the room where Jesus took His last meal before dying on the cross of Calvary. Next to the Last supper room was David's tomb. There were many Jewish pilgrims, praying loudly and reading Psalms and also some Gujarati Muslim friends who had come from Bombay to pay their homage to David.

## **The Garden of Gethsemane**

The next day, we went to the Garden of Gethsemane. The Garden had olive trees which were around 1700 to 2000 years old

preserved since Jesus' time. The branches of the olive trees spread out like banyan trees. Another thing we came to know is that the olive tree moves forward in metres after every 10 to 15 years. This is the place where the disciples fell asleep, (Luke 22:40, 45, 46) when Jesus was praying to His Heavenly Father. The rock where He prayed was placed inside the Church.

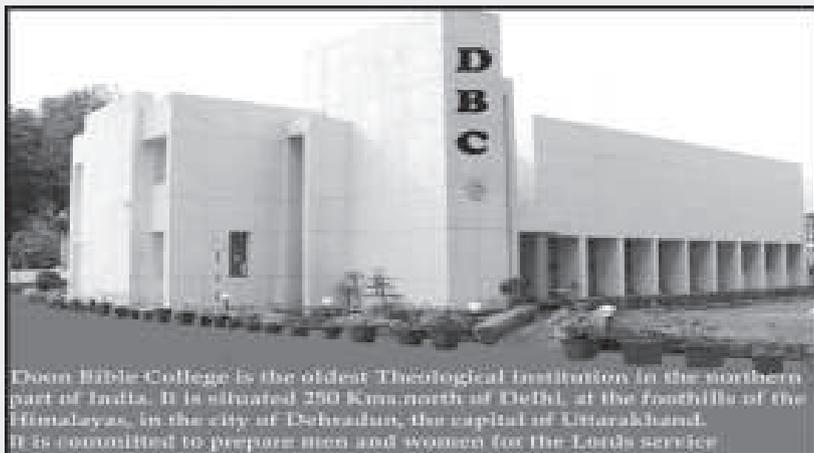
## **God's Anger at the Dead Sea and Lot's Wife-Pillar of Salt**

We also have the privilege to take a trip to the Dead Sea and we also saw the Pillar of Salt. Then we took a dip in the Dead Sea. We observed that there was not a single plant or fish in the Dead Sea and everything floats on the water.

I am sharing my experience so that I witness the living God who came to this earth and resurrected. It is in this Holy Land that everything that we read about Jesus in the Bible occurred. The Bible says in John 15:27 that our lives need to bear witness to the world and I continue to share my thoughts and also energy to spread the reality of the Good News of Jesus Christ.



**DOON BIBLE COLLEGE DEHRADUN**  
**UTTRAKHAND**  
*(Accredited by ATA)*  
*Founded in 1943*



DBC invites applications for admission from born again and committed men & women for the following regular theological courses:

<b>Course offered</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Medium</b>
Bachelor of theology	+2 Pass	3 Years	English
Graduate in Theology	10 <sup>th</sup> pass	3 Years	English
Certificate in theology	below 10 <sup>th</sup>	2 Years	English

*Note: The admission process begins from January till May All the courses start from the mid of July.*

For prospectus and Application please send ₹ 200/- by demand draft or money order to:

Registrar

Doon Bible College

61, Rajpur Road

Dehradun-248001

Uttarakhand

Phone: 0135-2747405, 2746456, Mob: 9634008312

Email: doonbc@rediffmail.com



# CBCNEI Archive and Library

*Nekhini Athini, Librarian*

CBCNEI Archive and library is situated at the old office building of CBCNEI. It was established during the time of Christian Missionaries back in 1847.

The main objective of the CBCNEI Archive and Library is to collect, organize and preserve the old historical records of the Christian documents, mainly of the Council. It is a reference and research centre for research scholars, Christian scholars, tribal studies, cultural studies, history, geography, and linguistic.

## **Collections:**

The library has a huge collection of documentary heritage of early missionaries since 1847 till the present time. It has a collection of more than 2000 documents. Some of the rare documents

found in this library are given below.

## **PAST RECORDS:**

- \* American Baptist Missionary since 1836.
- \* Missionary reports since 1846.
- \* Baptist missionary Magazine since 1887.
- \* American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
- \* Church Record since 1868

First newspaper in North East India: Arunodoi (Assamese) since 1846-1853 8 Vols.

The library has a rare collection of reports of some of the indigenous tribes of North East India like Assamese, Garo, Naga (Ao, Lotha, Sumi, Tangkul, Angami, Anal, Rengma, Sangtam), Adi,

Abor, Miri, Dalfa, Hindi, Mikir, Manipuri, Nepali, Rabha, Thado, Kerki, Oriya and photographs of early missionaries in North East India. Apart from these rare documents the library has different documents consist of journals, newsletters, reports, reviews, Bible commentaries, Christian education, Bible Encyclopedia, Bible dictionaries, different books on sermons, Autobiographies, biographies and hymns. To keep the history of the works and

contributions of early Baptist Christian alive for future generation, the library has digitized all the rare documents. We are looking forward to create a digital library very soon which can collect, organize and preserve the documents in electronic format using a digital library software which is accessible through Internet.

We need your prayer and financial support.



**ADMISSION OPEN**

**NICHOLS-ROY BIBLE COLLEGE, Sohryngkham, Shillong  
(affiliated to Asia Theological Association)**

**for**

**Bachelor of Theology - 3 years (XII passed or equivalent)**

**Session begins from 10 June 2013**

**Admission Forms can be downloaded from website.**

**[www.chogmai.org/nbc](http://www.chogmai.org/nbc)**

**facebook: [www.facebook.com/NBCSohryngkham](http://www.facebook.com/NBCSohryngkham)**

**Contact: Academic Dean (+91 9612922323) | email:  
[academicdeannbc@yahoo.com](mailto:academicdeannbc@yahoo.com)**



# Naga Christian Fellowship, Chennai

Pastor Wabangtoshi Jamir, Naga Christian Fellowship, Chennai

The first ever NCFC Sunday school camp was held on Jan 26, 2013 at the YWCA, International guest house, Chennai. The resource person was Ms Temsurenla Longkumer, Chaplain, CMC Vellore. All together there were four teachers and sixteen children. The theme of the camp was *“Small beginnings”* based on Matt 13:31. There were three sessions. The first session was for the teachers, Ms Temsurenla talked about the importance of relationship with God and the children. She illustrated the significance of small beginnings. She also talked about Sunday school teachers classroom etiquettes. The second and the third sessions were for the children. She captured the attention of the children with stories from the bible using visual aids. There was also a discussion hour be-



tween the older kids and Ms Temsurenla. Along with the spiritual teachings the children also enjoyed physical activities.

It was a spiritually uplifting time for both the children and the teachers. During the final sessions there was a time of worship and prayer. The tangible presence of the Lord was felt and the children were lifted up in worship and surrender. When the call was made to dedicate and commit their lives to Jesus, four of the children stood up and gave their life to Jesus. We

thank the Lord for visiting the children during the camp and blessing them all. This camp was not only an eye opener and first time experience for the Sunday school students and teachers but also for the parents and the church as a whole. This gave the NCF, Chennai a greater realization of the responsibilities towards the younger children in bringing them up in the way of the Lord and teaching them the word of God and various other creative activities.

The Naga Christian Fellowship Chennai's annual camp was held at Yelagiri Hills from Feb 22-24, 2013, a hill station in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu with the theme "**Affirm.**" The camp was led by Mr Takameren with 77 campers. This camp was definitely another barrier breaker as there were five special guests from Singapore, Pastor Mark Poh and his wife Aye Lan and three prominent church youth leaders Alvin Tay, Jarrold Ng and Nathaniel who came to



India just for the camp. Pastor Mark Poh and his team emphasised on the importance of the Holy Spirit through the various sermons and morning devotions.

The camp was a spiritual retreat experienced by the campers. Not only were they spiritually enriched but physically too they were blessed with the activities and sports they couldn't have received in Chennai. The Praise and Worship team which was collaborated with Jarrold Ng and Pastor Alvin stirred the hearts of many. We could feel the overflowing wave of the Holy Spirit working among the campers as many cried and waited on the Lord. It is a fervent hope that each camper met what he/she desired for.

Pastor Mark felt in love with the Nagas when he first visited

Nagaland in 2001. He believes that there is a vision of great works for the Nagas and could feel the presence of God amidst them. He adds that there is a reason for the vision. This vision says Pastor Mark is especially for the young people to reach out to the unreached people. When Pastor Poh was in the ICU for 12 days, God gave him a vision to raise young people for revival. Filled with the spirit he says ***“God planted a vision while I was dying.”*** He strongly gave out a message saying ***“I want all of you to be affirmed. Challenge each camper to go and seek God.”*** He appeals us to ***‘come out of our comfort zone.’***

NCF Chennai has been blessed by 90% students and young pro-

professionals with few families. In the last twenty-seven years of its ministry in the city of Chennai many people not only Nagas but people from other regions involve in the NCFC ministry. Apart from its regular ministries to the students, working professionals, families and sick people in the city, NCFC extends help and encouragement to the Nagas and North-east India people in Pondicherry, Vellore, Coimbatore and Salem. It is challenging to minister to the young people in a place so far away from home but we continue to press on towards the vision and for which we earnestly request all of you to help us through your prayers as to keep us going in such a time as this.



## A Note of Congratulation

We could like to extend our happiest note of congratulations to :



Mrs Lumthaina Longmei & Mr Siamliana Kiangte (Moon) for the baby boy God has blessed them. Baby Edward Remliana Kiangte was born on September 9, 2012.



Mrs Priscilla & Mr Yousuf Pille for the baby girl in their family. Baby Esther Pille was born on December 15, 2012

Welcome to the CBCNEI family baby Edward & baby Esther.

***May God Bless Your lives.***

### CBCNEI CONFERENCE CENTRE

#### A.C. ROOM

Single - 4  
Double - 7  
Triple - 1

#### NON A.C. ROOM (Bath Attached)

4 Beded - 1  
6 Beded - 1  
Double - 6

#### Common Bath

Double - 4  
Triple - 2

#### Dormitory

19 Beded - 1      7 Beded - 1  
21 Beded - 1      5 Beded - 1

#### CONFERENCE HALLS

Conference Room New Block (AC) ₹ 2000/-  
L. M.Auditorium (Non AC) ₹ 3000/-  
Training Centre (AC) ₹ 1000/-

Contact: 0361-2736874 | 9085322961 | [confcentre@cbcnei.com](mailto:confcentre@cbcnei.com)

# O b i t u a r y



Mr Davis Narzary, 35, the former Mission Secretary of Guwahati Baptist Church left for his heavenly abode on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013. He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1977. He joined Boston Computer

Training Centre, CBCNEI as its staff from 2003-2004. He earned a BD in 2009 from Eastern Theological College, Jorhat under the scholarship program of the BIM/CBCNEI. He then worked at GBC till December 2012, before he finally left to take up teaching ministry. He is survived by his father and mother, a younger brother, sister-in-law, his young wife Mrs Lesley and a son master Nazel. The CBCNEI family mourns his loss. In the funeral service held at Guwahati Baptist Church, Rev Dr A. K. Lama the General Secretary, CBCNEI prayed, *"We needed him, the Church, society and his family needed him but we are comforted that You have taken him to be in Your bosom... today we grieve and we celebrate his life."*

May God continue to heal us all especially his family and friends.

***Ecclesiastes 12:7*** - *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*



## *From the Assistant Editor*

Eleanor Roosevelt, the longest First Lady of the United States once quoted, ***“the purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”*** Ever so often, I keep reminding myself of this simple yet so optimistic lexicon on life. I believe I have been walking with this purpose. My life until now has been so meaningful though not free from pessimistic minds that try to dampen my spirit. As I concluded my D.Th program from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute, Chennai, under the Senate of Serampore University in January 2013, I prayed to God to lead me to the right direction where I could reach out and have a newer and richer experience. This life course thus led me to the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India (CBCNEI) as the *Assistant Editor* of the Baptist News. Reading and writing has always been my passion and to be doing what I love is a blessing in itself. I thank God for placing me here and the Council for accepting me. I want to thank my family for their blessings and letting me go my ways respecting my decision. As I begin to write a new chapter on my life’s journey I trust that this is going to be a beautiful story filled with wonderful sketches of life.

For those who are new to the Baptist News, I would like to briefly mention that it is a quarterly publication of the CBCNEI mainly consisting of news and activities of the Baptist family in Northeast India for our members and well wishers to read and get connected with each other. And to all of you, new

and old we remind you that you are the core of the Baptist News. We are open to articles, news, events, jokes, poetry, issues concerning your Church or family or society and we even welcome lovers of food or food bloggers to contribute your scrumptious recipes. It is our pleasure to also convey to our readers that we give away awards to the person with the best article in every issue. And if you'd like to be one of the winners we encourage you to email us your article at [editor@cbcnei.com](mailto:editor@cbcnei.com) or connect with us on Facebook/cbcnei. Your thoughts, feedbacks and suggestions are welcome!

Kaholi Zhimomi  
Assistant Editor



***T-Shirts to promote CBCNEI's Ministries.***

***To order, please contact:***

***Atungo Shitri, Secretary, Justice & Peace Department  
098540 24121 | [ashitri@cbcnei.com](mailto:ashitri@cbcnei.com)***

Dear Readers,  
Please send your stories, testimonies, reports, articles and Church News.

You can mail to:

**The Editor Baptist News**  
**CBCNEI, Panbazar**  
**Guwahati, Assam-781001, India**  
**email: editor@cbcnei.com**

## **The Baptist News**

The Baptist News is non-profit publication of the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India. It is published quarterly.

### **Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this Publication do not necessarily represent the official position of the Council. Each contributor is solely responsible for the views expressed in his or her article.

### **Mode of payment:**

Demand Draft/Postal Money Order in favor of "Council of Baptist Churches in North East India" payable at Guwahati.

### **Contribution:**

If you want to contribute towards the CBCNEI ministries please send it to the following address:

*The Finance Secretary*  
*CBCNEI, Panbazar,*  
*Guwahati, Assam 781001 India*

### **Change of Address:**

If your mailing address has changed, please inform us by sending your both old & new address (with pin number).

Send your article or letter to:

*The Editor, Baptist News*  
*CBCNEI Mission Compound*  
*H B Road Panbazar, Guwahati*  
*Assam-781001, India*  
*email: editor@cbcnei.com*

## BAPTIST NEWS SUBSCRIPTION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (CAPITAL LETTER): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (CAPITAL LETTER): \_\_\_\_\_

Village/Street : \_\_\_\_\_ Post Office: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Ptn/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phn./Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Association/Convention \_\_\_\_\_

Institution / Others(specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Period of subscription : One year ₹ 150/-(\$20)  Two years ₹ 250/- (\$35)  Mode of payment:

Cash

MO/DD

Three years ₹ 400/- (\$50)  Five years ₹ 600/- (\$80)

Starting from: January / April / July / October (*tick issue to start from*)

Mail to:

*The Editor*

*Baptist News, CBCNEI Mission Compound*

*H. B. Road, Panbazar, Guwahati - 781001, Assam, India*

*Phone No.: 0361-2515829*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cashier: \_\_\_\_\_

*For office use only:*

Mail this form to with the payment detail to:

**The Editor Baptist News  
CBCNEI, Panbazar  
Guwahati, Assam-781001, India  
email: [editor@cbcnei.com](mailto:editor@cbcnei.com)**