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## Baptist News

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

The Council comprises Assam  
Baptist Convention, Arunachal  
Baptist Church Council, Garo  
Baptist Convention, Karbi  
Anglong Baptist Convention,  
Manipur Baptist Convention  
and Nagaland Baptist Church  
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*from the desk of editor* 



Dear friend,

This month we have witnessed two phenomenal events which give hope to those who aspire to be an agent of CHANGE in our society. First, the result from Delhi Legislative Assembly election that took many of us by surprise. A newly formed party of political novices with limited resources was able to fetch 28 seats and dethrone a powerful ruling party. Given in the existing corrupt system, no psephologist or political analyst dared to predict it. If anyone had asked me about its chances to fetch these many seats prior to the election result, I would have responded *impossible!*

The second is the funeral service of late Dr. Nelson Mandela which drew top leaders of fame from all over the world. It was a historic event of the century. Dr. Nelson Mandela, a black leader from a remote poor village, spent 27 years in a single cell dungeon for plotting to overthrow the white ruling regime of Apartheid South Africa by violence. Who would have ever thought that the prisoner would become the greatest president of the century? He became great because he not only librated the oppressed but also the oppressor. He fought for the right of his enemies, extending his love and forgiveness to them. Could somebody have predicted about such a glorious ending of a life that was incarcerated for long? *Impossible* is the answer.

These two events should compel Christian leaders to reflect on the *possibility* in God who can turn a person's integrity, Christ like

love and forgiveness, and commitments to serve people for CHANGE into God-size possibility. Yes, it is *possible*.

We have arrived to the end of 2013 and we would like to end it with optimism of God-size possibility. Through this Baptist News, we desire to bring awareness on various issues in our society that needs a God-size possibility of CHANGE. In this issue, we are focusing on Children—the defenseless, vulnerable, future of our Church, Society, and our Nation. The editorial has been able to solicit few articles that look into various possibilities of extending ministry to our children. Much is left and much could be said. The objective is not to be comprehensive but to draw our attention to the areas of concern and to help us reflect with the questions such as: What is our role as a follower of Jesus Christ in ministering to our Children? What can we do as Christian parents? What can we do as Church? Our desire is to see that the readers are made aware, challenged, and encouraged to engage and become the agent of CHANGE.

The editorial team would be glad to hear from you sometime. Let us know your point of view on certain issues that you are facing in your immediate context. We welcome your suggestions, articles, and the report that will enlighten the members of the Baptist family across the world.

From all the editorial team, we wish you a very Happy New Year 2014.

Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama  
General Secretary



# Understanding of Childhood: Pastoral Counseling Perspective

*Phanenmo Kath, Teaches Pastoral Counseling & Psychology at Eastern Theological College, Jorhat Assam. Presently pursuing D.Th in the area of Family Therapy, at FFRC, Kottayam*

***Psalm 127: 3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruits of the womb a reward, Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.***

Childhood is considered to be an important period in human life. The period of childhood begins at about the age of two and extends

to the time when children become mature in 13-15 years. On the ground of social exposure of children, childhood is subdivided into early childhood (pre-school age) and late childhood (school going age). In this article infancy is excluded to be fair to the theme "Childhood," but that doesn't meant infancy is not an important stage.

## **Early Childhood**

Based on the foundation laid in the babyhood, a child

makes a number of developments during early childhood. Like the ability to eat solid food and eat independently, ability to communicate with others, get accustomed to surroundings, develop relationship with peers, and also pets. A child who has successfully resolved the crises in the early phases will be able to see himself/herself as an individual distinct from others. Children of this stage will try to make more contacts outside the family circle and enjoy playing with their peers. They ask innumerable questions about the things they observe around them and they imagine being adult. Children who are understood and properly guided by parents will further develop the inner strength, social skills and sense of security.

Those children who failed to develop a stable relationship with their mothers during childhood may lag behind in acquiring new skills. For example, children who feel secured make explorations

of their surroundings with higher confidence and go back to their parents when they encounter failures or threat's in life. But children who lack the basic trust will experience high anxiety while facing a new situation or people. Such children due to lack of initiative which is characteristic of this period, may not venture and as a result will remain arrested of normal progress. Likewise children, who are over protected or under protected, abused, discriminated, frequently criticized or feel threatened also may experience impairment in the development of their personality.

### **Insights for Parents**

Express unconditional love to the child by way of holding, hugging and playing with the child, listening to its fantasy stories, answering the countless why and how questions with poise and in loving, soothing tone.

A very important aspect of parenting at this stage is the

healthy boundaries for child's function. While granting the child sufficient freedom to explore, express, and demand their needs, parents must discipline the child respecting the rules and limits. The child must know how to behave during dining time (eating with clean hand, without wasting and without disturbing others), play time and prayer time.

The play time experience is the key determinant of a child's varied development. Solitary play is important as it makes the child self-sufficient. But children need to have opportunity to play with peers as it provides opportunity to employ their newly acquired skills. It is also important as socialization in early childhood mainly comes through playing with peers. Children having no play-mates generally spend much of their time before television. While TV viewing has some advantage it has many disadvantages as well. Studies say too much

TV has many harmful effects such as: development of sedentary (inactive) lifestyle, imbibing unhealthy values, becoming aggressive towards peers, having sleep disturbances etc. Too much social exposure (for example keep children most of the time in a kindergarten setting where they have many toys and friends) and too little exposure (deprived of friends and leave to play alone most of the time) are equally damaging to a healthy development.

The parent relationship and family environment are two other important elements that influence the development of children. Children feel comfortable when parents are together, express happiness, communicate warmth, care and respect for each other. On the other hand, children become anxious, sad and confused when parents yell, abuse, fight or threaten each other. Family conflicts and unpleasant, fearful family environments are capable on inflicting last-

ing impairment to children.

**Three A's method:** Acceptance, Affection and Achievements are said to be the three essentials to make person happy and content. They are interrelated components and hence a person who experiences acceptance may also receive affection and will make achievements. When parents and significant other people communicate love, the child accepts itself and strives for achievements. On the contrary children who are being constantly cursed, abused and teased tend to think that they are unworthy of love and respect. They develop thinking and behavioral patterns manifesting depression or aggression. Communication of unconditional love and acceptance to a child is the only way to redeem it from detrimental patterns.

It is normal for a child to commit mistakes in its efforts to bring out something creative or in its social interac-

tion or in violating a moral code. An authoritarian parent may punish the child emotionally and corporally without giving the child a chance to explain or protest. A permissiveness parent on the other hand may not give the seriousness that the situation demand and may support the child indirectly to continue the behavior. But an authoritarian parent would give due seriousness to the situation but will use empathy to understand the child and will earnestly correct the child by reminding it of the freedom and limits. When the parents are clear about the disciplinary policy and are consistent in carrying out, children will know what is expected of them and will not feel that they are unfairly punished.

### **Late Childhood**

Late childhood extends from the age of six to twelve years. This is a significant period in the development of an individual as their social world is remarkably

broadened and encounters age-mates with values different from what they know. They need to develop a number of new skills like adapting to the discipline of the school, getting along with different types of school-mate, developing skills in reading, writing, sports and calculating. Late childhood is called “gang age” in the sense that older children tend to identify with children of the same age and sex in dress, behavior, and opinions. Sometimes they even go against parental standards out of fear of rejection by the gang. Children who have low self-esteem and unpleasant family environment may especially feel attracted to gangs and may spend more time with it discarding studies or family responsibilities. They also may develop habits like smoking or behave rudely to members of opposite sex or children having different styles than theirs. This behavioral change in children may cause growing friction

and conflict between parent and children and the relationship may get further worse.

### **Insight for Parents and Teachers**

School-going children develop their personality on the foundation laid in the previous stages. Deficiencies in language skills and socialization skills may prevent a child from smooth sailing. Therefore, conscious effort must be there on the part of parents to equip the child with necessary skills through remedial measures. Sunday school can be of great help in this matter if it is carefully planned.

Parents in our context play safe by not allowing older children to play with age-mates in the neighborhood to avoid the ill effects. Tuitions, music classes, video games or martial art classes are arranged with a view to creatively engage the older children. But while gangs have negative impacts, they also play an important role

in the development of a child. Therefore, what is needed is to teach children as authoritative parents to play responsibly and to respect the family rules even when they play with friends.

Another thing to keep in mind while bringing up older children is to be a model for them. Children tend to imitate elderly characters when they feel it is matching to them and worth copying. For instance, a child may use abusive language like his/her father doing to mother to get things done effectively. Parents and other elderly people at home must be cautious while they express emotions, deal with failures and problems, managing time, relating with neighbors, behavior in the church or while praying.

Parents allow young children to sit before TV or play with the cell phone to keep them engaged, or to pacify while crying. They marvel at the skill of their child while playing games in the computer. These things become a mat-

ter of great contention between parents and children once they are in the school. Permissive parents still don't interfere and children may go without control and some may develop addiction to these objects. Parents must exercise control over children's use of electronic gadgets and discipline them to use it at permitted time under supervision of parents

### **Spiritual Development**

The combined research of psychology and religious studies has provided important insights for understanding a child's spiritual development.

Psychologically, Erik Erikson has noticed that the primary developmental tasks of children from birth to adolescence include trust versus mistrust, autonomy versus shame, initiative versus guilt, and industry versus inferiority. Pastoral theologian, however, have noted that these tasks also have a religious dimension. Lewis Sherrill (1963) asserts that a

child's first (and ongoing) encounters with the love of parents have a strong relevance for how the child will also perceive the love of God. Therefore, a stable and trustworthy relationship with parents lays the foundation for the child's capacity to trust God. An unpredictable, abusive, or harshly judging parent will likewise affect the qualities which the child attributes to God as authority.

Donald capps (1983) also notes that accomplishment of these development tasks of childhood has strong implications for the child's moral and religious development, including the child's personal sense of hope, will, purpose and competence. These stages also can affect the planning and use of ritual in church life. Fowler (1987) points out that the stages of faith development usually associated with childhood (such as intuitive-projective and mythic-literal) should be considered in understanding the various ways in which a

congregation is 'present' to a child through worship, Christian education (Sunday school) and pastoral care.

Attention to these kinds of insights will enable the caregiver to minister to children with sensitivity and skill.

### **Conclusion**

Family values, spiritual and religious expressions, relationship with extended families, inter-personal exchanges of warmth, care and support influence children in developing conscience. Conscience is the deep awareness of person about the right and wrong or the good and bad based on the moral code they have developed. It is different from the choice of good or bad in early childhood based on the pleasure or pain that accompanied behavior. If conscience is sufficiently developed in a person, he or she may not intend to do wrong things. More over they would feel guilty when they violate the moral code instilled in them.

Childhood being a very crucial and important stage of life, psychologist like Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson and others have suggested that holistic and systematic approaches to child's development is inevitable for parents and care-givers. Most psychologists attribute childhood experiences having lasting impact on the personality and life traits of a person. Consequently, it is imperative that parents and care-giver be serious about holistic approaches to child's

development, so that we raise competent and Godly children for this demanding and challenging generation.

***2 Timothy 3:14-15 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from who you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writing, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.***



*“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”*

*- Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom*



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-NATAL CARE OF THE CHILD

*Dr. Ezamo Murry, Professor, Dept. of Christian Ministry, Eastern Theological College, Jorhat*

**Emotional Health:** A pregnant pianist in her daily practice of piano went through her music with accentuated pieces with ascending and descending phrases of her score. Her excited fetus would kick the wall of her abdomen as she hit the accelerated notes with excitement. This repeated every time she rehearsed the same music. After she delivered her baby she kept the baby in a cradle and practiced the same music. The baby repeated his emotional jerk when the mother came to that accentuated music ex-

actly as he did inside the womb. It is also reported that following the death of some celebrities or figures of world importance their fans who happened to be pregnant at such time give birth to children with a high rate of abnormality. Many such examples are cited to remind us of the emotional health of the unborn baby. The emotional state of the unborn may help determine the emotional state of the person after birth.

**Nutritional Care:** Nutritionists prescribe various tonics

and food supplements which are often labeled “Mothers’ Choice.” Certain food factors such as iron-rich food are said to be a must for the carrying mother. It is possible these food elements help in building and developing the cells of the fetus as well as keep the carrying mother strong. This is true even among the food gathering rural communities who struggle daily to bring food that the pregnant woman likes or craves. The carrying mother needs weight gain to a certain level. Beside those traditionally recognized mothers’ food pregnant women should not neglect consulting physicians for supplementing the required food and maintaining the required weight.

**Psychological Health:** At the symbiotic stage fetus and mother share experiences. The society therefore, keeps a mother safe from stress, shock, and any

traumatic experience. Among the pre-literate societies the mother to be is prevented from seeing dead bodies, going to forest lest she meets wild animals that will frighten her, seeing an appalling accident that will frighten her. She is not exposed to any situations that will cause stress, depression, and trauma. Such emotional experiences of the mother are shared by the fetus as exemplified by the pregnant pianist.

Parents should not wait for the baby to be born to develop a holistic growth of the person keeping in mind that the formation and growth of a healthy person begins from the state of fetus. God created the nature of the person and the civilized humans innovate the methods of nurture of the person considering the all round growth of the person caring through the preconception and prenatal stages.





# Talitha Cumi<sup>1</sup>: Children as an Encounter in Between

*Dr Kaholi Zhimomi, Assistant Editor, Baptist News*

Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” (Mk 5:41) [NKJV]

Children are vulnerable in any situation, whether be it in the family circle or in the society. They are often the trapped between having to bear the aftermath of parental conflict or hurled around by the society. They are the most neglected group in the society and because of their innocence they become the high risk group. We as Church too have failed to acknowledge the importance of children. Jesus’ miracu-

lous work of raising Lazarus from death is an often used and quoted bible passage but seldom do we deliberate upon the raising of the young girl in Mk 5:41. Both these miracles of Jesus articulate the same disposition that is of the “*raising of the death*” but how frequently does the little girl’s story appear in our sermons? This reflects the disregard of the important place of children even in the church. With such

negative approach towards children there is an increasing growth in the degrading situation of children at home as well as in the society.

The report on violence against children has progressively expanded over the years. Violence against children has got no perimeter of geography, race, class, religion and culture. In India particularly the Northeastern regions child abuse within the family circle is recurrently a hidden phenomenon. Child labor, prostitution, forced marriage, child trafficking, lack of education, and poor health have become serious issues for contemplation. But intra-family abuse or abuse that takes place in institutions such as schools or government homes usually go unnoticed and these crimes go unreported. The neglect to check the safety of children within the protected structure leads to emotional and mental imbalance in children, culminating to crimi-

nal activities, teenage pregnancy, and other physical, emotional and psychosocial problems.

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) violence against children can be "physical and mental abuse and injury, neglect or negligent treatment, exploitation and sexual abuse. Violence may take place in homes, schools, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and in places of detention."<sup>2</sup> Violence against children has become a foremost risk to global development and one of the major obstacles to gender equality. Many female children are victims right from the time when formed in the mother's womb. With the modern technology gender testing has become a key tool of violence against girl child. With the deeply cultural embedded attitude towards female domain there is still a widespread practice of Female Genital Mutilation in many parts of the world.

In November 2012, the United Nations (U.N.) passed a resolution condemning female genital mutilation as harmful to women and girls and encouraged member states to take measures to ban the practice. It was the first time the General Assembly's human rights committee addressed the problem. It is estimated that between 100 and 140 million girls and women worldwide have been victims of female genital mutilation. Each year, three million girls are subjected to the practice in Africa.<sup>3</sup>

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) released a study report on child abuse. The report discusses incidence of child abuse nationwide. According to the report the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) estimates that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence. International Labour Organiza-

tion (ILO) estimates show there were 218 million child laborers in 2004, out of which 126 million were engaged in hazardous work. UNICEF estimated 3 million girls and women in sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt and Sudan are subjected to female genital mutilation every year. The study of the MWCD found a wide spread incidence of child abuse. Children between the ages of 5-12 are at the highest risk for abuse and exploitation. The study found that 69% of children reported to have been physically abused. Out of these 54.68% were boys. 52.91% of boys and 47.09% of girls reported having been abused in their family environment. Of the children who were abused in family situations 88.6% were abused by their parents. Every two out of three school children reported facing corporal punishment. In juvenile justice institutions 70.21% of children in conflict with law and 52.86% of children in need of care and protection

reported having been physically abused. With regard to child labor 50.2% of children work all seven days of the week. 81.16% of the girl child laborers work in domestic households, while 84% of the boy child laborers worked in tea stalls or kiosks. 65.99 % of boys and 67.92% of girls living on the street reported being physically abused by their family members and other people.<sup>4</sup>

The Governments need to accept that children issue is an urgent situation that needs to be dealt with. But unfortunately many Governments lack systems for consistently checking the abuse of children in whatever level. Children have suffered abuse from the hands of adults and its impact is becoming visible. There is also a growing recognition of the impact of violence on the mental and physical health and well-being of children throughout their lives.

We usually blame the Gov-

ernment for the lack of proper system to ensure the safety of the children. But ***what is the church doing to prevent violence against children? Or what is the role of the church in promoting the needs of the children?*** Preventing and responding to violence against children should be everybody's business not only the Government. The church must re-examine the theological messages it communicates in light of the experiences of victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. We must treat with extreme care the important, but often-misused, concepts of suffering, and forgiveness. Situations of violence and abuse exist in families in virtually every congregation; tragically, no church or community is exempt. Christian families and communities are not immune to any kind of violence.

The church is therefore challenged to listen to the stories of victims and survivors and assist in giving guid-

ance to those church members experiencing domestic violence and sexual abuse especially children. The church should not only be a sanctuary for spiritual retreat but a refuge for people who are hurting and a place of healing and comfort. It should provide a platform for addressing these issues. Christians should be in forefront voicing out against these issues like domestic violence and sexual abuse. The church should create a climate of openness, acceptance, and safety that encourages victims to speak of their pain and seek relief and healing. The clergy and lay church leaders need to work along with the community agencies or Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) on prevention strategies and to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children, victims, offenders, and other family members. There should also be policies and procedures for keeping children and vulnerable adults safe from

abuse in church facilities and programs. The church from time to time should undertake new programs ecumenically or as part of a community association. There is also a need for peer support groups for spouses, adults who were sexually abused as children, and for rape victims. A trained resource person or professional counselor should be appointed for essential counseling and assistances for any children or church members needing assistance. The church as whole should re-examine, and change if necessary, scriptural and theological messages, cultures, and traditions that legalize violence or abuse.

Violence of any form is always spiritually destructive. It threatens self-respect and mutual trust, giving rise to feelings of personal and social powerlessness. Violence destroys our human capacity to create and transform community, both interpersonal and political. Our call, therefore, as a church should

be to end violence of any kind whether in public or private domain. The church must be the centre of breaking the silence against any kind of injustice or violence existing in the church or the society. No violence against children or be it anybody women or adult is justifiable. Violence against weaker group of people is preventable but it all need to start by addressing factors that give rise to violence and taking measures to ensure the safety of the victims. We the churches in Northeast India especially churches under CBCNEI should be a platform for creating awareness of violence and children abuse in any form. The Baptist churches need to take measures in their respective parish for child development and protection for in doing so we are in the process of building tomorrow's church, society and nation.

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> a Syriac or Aramaic expression, meaning, "Little maid, arise."

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/child-abuse-child-violence-india.htm>, as browsed on Nov 27, 2013

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.stopvaw.org/violence\\_against\\_the\\_girl\\_child](http://www.stopvaw.org/violence_against_the_girl_child), as browsed on Nov 27, 2013

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/child-abuse-child-violence-india.htm>, as browsed on Nov 27, 2013



*"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."*

*- Margaret Mead*



## A Devotional: My Favorite Things

*Karen O'Kelley Allen, a certified Clinical Research Professional, UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, Alabama, USA*  
[www.confrontingcancerwithfaith.com](http://www.confrontingcancerwithfaith.com)

The song “My Favorite Things” can be heard during the Christmas season with its words of winter imagery. It refers to simple things in life like “raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens, bright copper kettles, and warm woolen mittens.” The song spurred me to think about some of my favorite childhood Christmas memories. And like the song, they were simple things.

One “favorite thing” was a silly game my sisters and I used to play involving a plastic candy cane. It was the only candy cane ornament we had so we took delight in hiding it in different

places on the Christmas tree. The goal was to find it thus giving the privilege to the finder to be the one to hide it again. It was like “Christmas ornament hide-and-seek.”

Another favorite thing was sugar cookies. My mother used a handed-down recipe to make dozens and dozens of sugar cookies which we decorated with colored icing. The kitchen and den would be covered in cookie dough, flour, and bowls of icing. We cranked out snowmen, wreaths, reindeer, bells, and holly with green, white, blue, red, and yellow icing. My younger sis-

ter Nancy would haphazardly squirt icing all over the cookies with little regard to color or shape while my older sister Elaine was more methodical in design, color sensibility, and cookie appeal. I helped wherever needed. Our sugar cookie production quickly became a tradition that continues to this day some fifty years later.

Another favorite was the annual O'Kelley caroling party. My father served as host since it was his idea (according to my mother). Families were invited to go caroling around our neighborhood and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Of course refreshments consisted of sugar cookies, hot chocolate, and cider. What fun it was to cozy up in our winter coats, scarves, and gloves and see the smiles on familiar faces as we stood shivering and singing. Over time it became too difficult for my father and others to

trek the steep mountainside where we lived so the caroling party was brought inside. Although not as much fun for us kids, it was still enjoyable. I became the designated organist for our indoors Christmas sing-a-long. I enjoyed the chance to show off some of our home organ's unique sound effects.

Gradually we enhanced the party with drama and readings. My father would provide historical information on the carols we sang but quite frankly, it was desperately boring. The drama involved my sisters and I acting out "Twas the Night Before Christmas" using either a hillbilly, Irish, or a Louisiana Cajun version.

The O'Kelley caroling party was an anticipated sing-a-long event for many. When my father died, we dedicated one last Christmas caroling party in his memory. It was well attended as we celebrated Jesus' birth and my father's life.





*As reported by Khurshheed Alam, Secretary, Assamese Christian Fellowship (ACF)*

**Assamese Christian Fellowship (ACF)** was founded by some Assamese young Christians intending to spread the good news of Jesus in Assam. ACF started two projects: **Grace Children Home** and **Grace English Academy (GEA)** on its own premise at Singimari village, Nowgaon, Assam.

GCH has been the project of Assamese Christian Fellowship since 2005. From the very beginning, GCH also has been a pioneer rehabilitation center for the poor, orphans and destitute children. Grace Orphan Home was established at Singimari in

2005 with six children and at present there are 20 children. The Home accommodated children who are underprivileged and victims of human-made or natural calamities in Assam and North East India. They also shelter children who are robbed of their tender parental love and care, and forced to live in misery. Grace Orphan Home aims to provide shelter to such children, making a difference in their lives with a touch of divine love and tenderness. They have four Bighas of Myadi land belonging to ACF from where they serve the entire com-

munity of Singimari, Uttar Ameri, Borkok and Rajagaon and some other nearby villages through various programs. Here are a few of them:

### **Awareness Program cum Free Medical Camp**

Health Family awareness program is conducted twice in a year at the Grace Children Home premise. Dr. Sanjib Barua and Dr. Jayashree Hanse Borah help treat the children and also the village people free of cost. Dr. Sanjib Barua, who is the Advisor of the Home, visits the Home at least two times and more if necessary. He gives free health check-ups to inmates and village people. Dr. Joyshree Hanse Borah (the Medical Advisor) from Guwahati visits the home from time to time.

### **Summer Training Program**

A three day Awakening Program was organized at Singimari Baptist Church. Many women of this village benefited from this program. Along with this program, a parent's meet also was organized. Mrs. Binita Rai from Guwahati helped in the training.

### **Children's Program**

On 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 a two day awareness program was held for the children of Grace Academy. There were 60 students who held the program. Mrs. Benu Pradhan from Shillong and Miss Chaya Momin from Guwahati both representatives from Priscilla Center, Guwahati, helped the children in singing, encouraging, dancing, playing and lots of games.

### **Prayer Need of the Home**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2013 just before the



Home's 8<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day celebration, on a heavy storm affected the compound. The whole building collapsed and fell to the ground. Yet with God's grace, the members of the home prayerfully prepared for the Foundation Day. Many well wishers came forward and support the Home with their prayers and material things. We are in prayer that God will supply our needs according to His richest blessings. After the damage, the rebuilding has begun but they are not able to complete the building because of the financial constraints. The children are at the moment studying in the classroom without walls and roof. The Home needs continuous prayer, cooperation and financial supports in their strife for helping children in need.



*We know that the outcasts and misfits are the children most likely to become violent, so it only follows that we must pull them into the arms of love and/or acceptance, and find a place where they fit. If our system doesn't have a place where a child fits, there's something wrong with the system, not the child.*

*- WILLIAM G. DEFOORE, Anger*

## **Oriental Theological Seminary** *Nagaland Baptist Church Council*

### ***Being Transformed to Transform***

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

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The M.Min degree is a professional course of studies for those who have already earned a Bachelor of Theology Degree from a recognized institution.

#### **Master of Theology in Inter-Disciplinary Studies (M.Th - IDS): Two-Year Degree Program**

The M.Th (IDS) degree is a two-year advanced program with an M.Div/B.D degree as its pre-requisite.

#### **2014-15 Admissions Information:**

Interview Round I – April 29, 2014

Interview Round II – June 17, 2014

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# “The Promised Seed”

Genesis 3:8-19

Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI

***Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.***

Who started Christmas? Who planned Christmas? The above verse tells us God has been “Waiting for the right time.” How long has God waited for the right time?

Understanding Genesis is foundational for celebrating Christmas. Our Christmas celebration becomes more meaningful if we know the “Why Christmas?”

**God created the world;**

God made human beings, male and female, in His image. He gave human beings dominion over His creation, over all of the created order, to act as His steward. He gave human beings the blessing of fellowship with the living God, of being the representative of the living God in the world. He has blessed man with a companion and with the gift of marriage. He has told man through this marriage to fill the earth. He placed them in a beautiful garden which He has planted.

**But,** as you will remember, in Genesis 3:1-7, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. God said the day you eat of this fruit you will die. Yet

they ate and they were separated from God. It was an act of faithlessness; an act of refusal to believe the word of God. Adam did not believe in God's word. He had no idea what it would take to undo the act. He had no idea what it will cost God by his disobedience.

Christmas is a redemptive act. It is a reclamation process, it is an act of salvation, and we need to know that it is reclaiming from the curse.

**Genesis 3:14-19** *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In*

*pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of life which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it:' "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

**I. The problem: Original sin disrupts divine-human fellowship and human relations**

The things that come along with this original sin are spelled out for us in verses 8-13. There we see the separation between human being and God. **Verses 1-7** Sa-

tan came to the woman in verse 1 and challenged God's word: "Has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Satan's implication to the woman is that God is being unreasonable. His assertion to the woman is that God is not good - 'How could a good God withhold anything from you?' The devil is planting a *seed of doubt* in her heart as to whether God is good. And then he comes back with a great challenge and said in verse 4, "You shall not die!" He directly contradicts the word of God. He basically says 'Your God is a liar! That won't happen!' So, first God's goodness is called into question, and then His word is called into question.

And where is Adam in all this? In verse 6, the woman just turns around...he's right there.

Paul tells us that Eve was genuinely deceived in this case; Adam knew exactly what he was doing (1

Tim.2:14). It was an act of rebellion. The good God gave Adam everything that he had, but Adam decided to rebel against Him.

Isn't it interesting that when Eve turns to Adam and she takes the fruit, she gave it to him and said "take and eat." **He ate and the world was under curse.**

Thousands of years later Jesus sat around the table, and He will say to His disciples, "Take, eat, this is My body offered for you." This reversed the curse.

## II. The consequences:

God's words to the woman in verse 16: "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth; in pain you will bring forth children."

And then to Adam He says in verse 17,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it;' Cursed is the ground because of you;

in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you.”

Third, they were chased out from the garden/ separated from God. Vs 23-24

It is for this reason we sing, “*Joy to the World.*” Remember the stanza that goes,

*“No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;*

*He comes to make His blessings flow as far as the curse is found.”*

It is God in His redeeming grace and mercy reversing the consequences, the effects, of Adam’s sin. Adam’s sin brings curse; thorns and thistles into the earth: Christ’s work reverses the effect of Adam’s sin. He is the second, faithful, Adam.

### **III. The solution: The promise Seed**

What’s the solution? The solution comes in God’s

word to Satan in verse 15: “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.*”

Christmas was planned by God on the day human being disobeyed Him. He promised a **Seed from the woman, not man** because Jesus has no earthly father, but needs a mother to be born in this world.

### **IV. What cost God for Adam’s disobedience?**

- His son!!! Have you ever imagined how much God’s heart must have been broken knowing that He is sending His son to DIE?

**Christmas is a defeat to Satan,**

**a joy for human race,**

**and a heart break for God.**

Let us be always be reminded of this as we prepare for Christmas. God bless you. Amen.





# Children of Alcoholic Parents

*Rev Namsang R Marak, Faculty, Harding Theological College, Tura*

The impact of alcoholism is measured by its effect on the alcoholic such as, absence at work place, road fatalities etc. New research concentrates on the impact of alcoholism on family, especially the children of alcoholics. Studies have reported on the family transmission of alcoholism. It has been shown that alcoholics have more biological relatives with an alcohol problem than do non-alcoholics. Furthermore, these people have a higher probability for developing alcoholism earlier in their lives, and experiencing more severe effects

of alcoholism.

People who have a family history of alcoholism or who themselves suffer from a mental health problem such as anxiety, depression, or bipolar disorder are particularly at risk, because alcohol may be used for self-medication.

Howard Clinebell wonders, if genetic factors played a significant role for the vulnerability to alcoholism. He states that the incidence of alcoholism and other chemical dependencies among children of alcoholics is far higher than the children of

non-alcoholics.<sup>1</sup> Caruso also claims that the children of alcoholic parents are four times more likely than other children to become alcoholics and that the earlier a person starts drinking, the higher their chances of dependency.<sup>2</sup>

There is no doubt that children of alcoholics are particularly vulnerable to alcoholism and other addiction. Transmission of alcoholism from parents to children would seem to be question of social learning rather than hereditary. Obviously the emotionally depriving, chaotic atmosphere of the addicted family systems produces high rates of alcoholism. However, the social/peer pressures of young drinking also should not be overlooked.

### **1. Effects of Alcoholism**

The risk factors of alcoholism include social environment, stress, mental health, genetic predisposition, age, ethnic group, and sex. Alcoholism has profound social

consequences for alcoholics and the people of their lives which are discussed as under.

### **Effects on the Family**

Alcoholism is also known as a family disease. An alcoholic can totally disrupt family life and cause long lasting harmful. Alcoholism is responsible for more family problems than any other single cause. According to H. Silverstein, one of every four families has problems with alcohol. Each member of the family may be affected by alcohol differently.<sup>3</sup>

Family and marital problems often start because of alcoholism, but spouses and children may also contribute to the drinker's habit and make it worse. Some of the families allow heavy drinking to continue rather than deal with serious family problems and keep the habit going in exchange for keeping the family together. Family members use denial to rationalize the drinker's alcohol

dependency. In the beginning, denial is understandable because every family loves and wants to protect its members, but there comes a time when denial negatively affects family members. When family members deny the obvious and refuse to look for help, their behaviour can trigger multiple emotional problems in the children of the family.

According to Silverstein, members of alcoholic's families very often become co-dependent. Co-dependency is an unconscious addiction to another person's abnormal behaviour. Silverstein stresses that unknowingly, co-dependent family members often become "enablers." Silverstein defines an enabler as "a person who unknowingly helps the alcoholic by denying the drinking problem exists and helping the alcoholic to get out of troubles caused by his drinking." <sup>4</sup> For example an enabler will clean up the alcoholic's vomit and make

excuses to his or her boss, teacher, or friends. An enabler lies for the alcoholic, and thus encourages the alcoholic to continue drinking. Alcohol affects each member of the family—from the unborn child to the alcoholic's spouse. Treatment is complicated and often is not completely successful.

### **Effects on Children**

Children are the unwilling victims of a disease called alcoholism which generally is the centre of their childhood existence, and therefore shapes their personality and behaviour as adults. Alcoholism is a disease of denial, that is, those suffering from it often refuse to admit they are affected by it. Alcoholics with a long history of family alcoholism have more severe symptoms and more social problems versus those families without a history of family alcoholism. Parents in such a situation tend to insist to their children that their alcoholic

symptoms are neither serious nor permanent in nature. Many alcoholics authentically believe that their alcoholism is hidden. Unfortunately, the impact on children from families with an alcoholic parent is both enduring and direct. Consequently, the children of alcoholic parents are confronted with various dilemmas.<sup>5</sup>

G. Berger warns that parental alcoholism may affect the foetus even before a child is born. According to him, in pregnant women, alcohol is carried to all of the mother's organs and tissues, including the placenta, where it easily crosses through the membrane separating the maternal and foetal blood systems. A pregnant woman who consumes alcohol during her pregnancy may give birth to a baby with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). Children with FAS have difficulties in learning, attention span, judgment, memory, problem-solving, and frequent behaviour problems. They may also have problems with

social skills. They are often impulsive, poorly coordinated, and have impaired speech and hearing. FAS and its effects are permanent, often leading to lifelong problems with mental retardation.<sup>6</sup>

Berger further explains that children of alcoholics more often have problems in schools. Often these children have difficulty in establishing relationships with teachers and classmates. Some children of alcoholics have such behavioural problems as lying, stealing, fighting, and absenteeism.<sup>7</sup> These children tend to drop out of school voluntarily in large numbers than any other group of children. This has been especially the situation with affected male children of alcoholic parents. It has been reported that, they have had significantly more suspensions from school, poorer academic and social performance in school, and more anti-social behaviour.<sup>8</sup>

Children of alcoholic par-

ents, also have a greater incidence of problems with alcohol and substance abuse themselves in later life. This leads to a greater risk of developing not only emotional problems but physical problems as well. Adult children of alcoholics often don't relate their problems to having grown up in a family with an alcoholic parent. Some adult children of alcoholics have problems with abuse of and difficulty in establishing healthy, rewarding, long-term relationships with spouse and others.<sup>9</sup> They are frequently failures as parents themselves, often make poor career choices, and almost all adult children of alcoholics have a negative self-image. They find difficulty facing reality, traceable to early family experiences.

Adult children of alcoholics often have feelings of worthlessness and failure. They also may have problems with family responsibility because their alcoholic parent was irresponsible and

didn't provide them with basic children's needs.<sup>10</sup> Thus, the entire family is, in fact, engaged in a struggle to control an uncontrollable situation. As a result, the methods utilized by affected children to cope with their parent's alcoholism initiates a variety of behaviour which inevitably proceeds into adulthood. Very often, these adults do not relate their problems to having grown up with an alcoholic parent. They become depressed and dissatisfied with life, without understanding why.<sup>11</sup> In the end alcoholism is a very serious disease which must not be taken lightly. Alcoholism affects many people and the families of those people, both directly and indirectly.

### **Violence in the Family**

Crime and violence are associated with alcoholism. Incest and battering are common in alcoholics' families. There are cases of father-daughter incest and domestic violence, involving a

family member who is an alcoholic. Incest and battering victims often blame themselves for what has happened. Because they feel so guilty, ashamed, and helpless, they themselves may turn to drinking as the way to escape the pain.<sup>12</sup>

### **Effects on the Spouses**

Alcoholism also has negative effects on the spouse of an alcoholic. The spouse may have feelings of hatred, self-pity, avoidance of social contacts, may suffer exhaustion and become physically or mentally ill. According to Berger very often the spouse has to perform the roles of both parents. Family responsibilities shift from two parents to one parent. As a result, the non-alcoholic parent may be inconsistent, demanding, and often neglect the children. Having financial difficulties is another issue that families of alcoholics have to deal with. The family may have to give up certain privileges because of the large amount of money

spent on alcohol and also possible joblessness. Alcoholism is a major factor of premature widowhood and also is one of the major reasons for divorce.<sup>13</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Alcoholism is a serious disease in which people have an overwhelming desire for the mental and physical effects of drinking alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is one of the most widely used drugs in the history of the world. People with alcoholism, who are called alcoholics, feel a strong, continuing urge to drink. A person with alcoholism may be anyone-whatsoever his or her age, sex, vocation, or social status-whose use of alcohol causes a continuing problem in any area of his or her living; his or her marriage, job, health or self-esteem. Even though drinking damages things that are important to him or her, one continues to drink, showing that he or she has lost, to some degree, his or her ability to control his or

her use of alcohol.

**(End notes)**

<sup>1</sup> Howard Clinebell,

*Understanding and Counseling Persons with Alcohol, Drug, and Behavioral Addiction*, 57.

<sup>2</sup> Kevin Caruso, “Causes of Alcoholism” @Alcoholism Info.com.org. 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

<sup>3</sup>H. Silverstein, *Alcoholism* (New York: Franklin Watts,1990),65.

<sup>4</sup> H. Silverstein, *Alcoholism*, 65.

<sup>5</sup> [www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

[Child-Of-An-Alcoholic/58576...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

<sup>6</sup> G. Berger, *Alcoholism and the Family* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1993), 37.

<sup>7</sup> G. Berger, *Alcoholism and the Family*, 75.

<sup>8</sup> [www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

[Child-Of-An-Alcoholic/58576...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

<sup>9</sup> [www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

[Child-Of-An-Alcoholic/58576...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

<sup>10</sup> G. Berger, *Alcoholism and the Family* , 67.

<sup>11</sup> [www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

[Child-Of-An-Alcoholic/58576...](http://www.experienceproject.com/stories/Am...)

<sup>12</sup> G. Victor Roch, S.J. & V. Lawrence Benedict, S.J,

‘Alcoholism: From the Culture of Addiction to a Culture of Recovery-Role and Response of the Church’ in *Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection*, 697-698.

<sup>13</sup> G. Berger, *Alcoholism and the Family*, 13.





## Sponsor a Child North East India Committee on Relief & Development (NEICORD)

*As reported by Butesen Ozukum, Communication Officer, NEICORD*

*Email: [charity@neicord.org](mailto:charity@neicord.org)*

NEICORD initiated and started the Child Sponsorship Program in 2010. It was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 by Late Rev. Dr. I. Ben Wati, who was the Founding Board Chairman of NEICORD at that time. NEICORD as an organization has been involved in providing different relief during and after disasters as well as organizing, training and mobilizing different community development programs in different parts of North East India since its inception. The organization engages in all these activities with the hope of reinstating the lives

of the people irrespective of caste, creed, color or religion.

The vulnerabilities of children and their exposure to violation of rights in different forms is not a new phenomenon especially to the Indian context. We think and talk about all these realities as if it is happening in some other corner in India. However, the status of children even in the North Eastern states is not very encouraging. Five of our North Eastern States are at the bottom list of EDI (Educational Development Index). The hunger index in some of the



North Eastern States is higher than that of all India average which is 44%. An average of 70.5% out of every 1000 children in Meghalaya dies within a year. According to the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 '*Telegraph*' Assam has been included among the top eight Indian states for the highest number of children being trafficked for employment as forced laborers.

When talking about child trafficking and child labor, we always cite poverty as the underlying cause. Without denying the fact that poverty is an important factor, other factors such as social exclusion and lack of quality education also play an

important role. Taking the concerns of community development and with the belief that the development of a community is very closely related with the development of a child, NEICORD has taken this noble cause of sponsoring children.

Most of these Children are referred to as 'Invisible Children.' Many of these children expressed their desire to be in school with proper clothing. These children are silently suffering and dying unnoticed, not being able to come out of their poor environment and abject poverty. It was painful to hear the stories of young mothers who see their children

helplessly die from different curable diseases due to poverty. With all these convictions, NECORD started finding individual and corporate sponsors who had the heart to help these children after hearing their stories.

Currently NEICORD is helping children from two communities in Brynihat area and three communities in East

ilies to have healthy, bright and smiling children in their homes.

NEICORD approach individuals, churches and different groups either through personal contact or through the Churches or through different programs of NEICORD, to come forward and help these children. As of now, there are two types of spon-



Khasi Hills. The main objective of the program is to connect the poor and the needy children of these areas with concerned groups to ensure quality growth of the child and to enable fam-

orship: Sponsor a child by donating Rs. 700 per month, or give a one-time donation of any amount. By opting to sponsor a child, NEICORD connects the sponsor with the Child that he/she is

sponsoring by giving updates about the child's education and health status from time to time. NEICORD also organizes timely visits to these sponsored children and tell them about their sponsors. NEICORD encourages them to take hold of the opportunity of having someone with a generous heart to help them and study hard. NEICORD also encourages the children to write letters send it to their sponsors. The amount of Rs. 700/- is used for the monthly education fees of the children either in the form of school fees or tuition fees (for children

who attend free schools), gifts on occasions like the child's birthday, children's day and Christmas. Along with these, certain amounts are also set aside to provide medical help for the child in case of sicknesses. The one time donations are spent in organizing different programs like free medical camps for the communities in general, programs for teaching songs to the community children, programs on teaching basic hygienic habits for the community children, programs where we bring all the children together and let them play



games and open up themselves, etc. The amount is also used to provide school uniforms and books for needy children.

With the generous contribution of different individuals and groups, NEICORD has been able to organize free medical camps for all the identified communities in the past 2-3 years. NEICORD has also been able to organize different programs for all the children in general for each identified communities. NEICORD also connect a lot of individuals and groups to different children and have been helping those individuals and groups in educating the sponsored children. It has tremendous testimonies of children whose academic results have improved tremendously after being introduced to dedicated tuition teachers with the help of the sponsors. NEICORD is creating rays of hope in the midst of hopelessness to many children

and are looking forward to expanding their horizons to wider communities.

Through this program NEICORD provides ample opportunities for individuals, organizations, and Church based groups like Sunday school groups, youth groups, etc., to extend their helping hand to our own brothers and sisters who are not experiencing the same joy of living with the facilities and comfort that we are enjoying today. There are many more communities in North East India who needs help like the other communities and it depends on generous people like you and me to reach out to them.

If you are also willing to be one among the sponsors or donors, NEICORD is always willing to lend you a helping hand in getting in touch with these children. You are always welcomed to just give a call or send a mail to the NEICORD office.



# Ebenezer Orphanage Home (EOH)

(ANATH ASHRAM)

INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE RAZHUPHE

Near DC court, Dimapur-Nagaland



tered under the society Act of 1860. It is run by Mr. Akum Amri a Hindustan Bible College, Chennai graduate. He is married with two children of his own one boy and one girl.

Ebenezer Orphanage Home established in **2005** is an orphanage that endows free shelter, food, clothes and school education to orphans and under-privileged children without any distinction and discrimination about their religion, caste or tribe/ community. Ebenezer Orphanage Home is promoted and run under the aegis of Ebenezer Welfare Society, a non-profit charitable organization. Ebenezer Welfare Society is duly regis-

The main Aim and Objective of the Home is to provide an object oriented scheme for the orphans, destitute and Under-privileged children and monitor them till they are self sufficient or independent. The Home is also a centre for providing, promoting and advocating loving nurturing care with a home like environment to the children.

The children at the Ebenezer Orphanage Home are

taught spoken English, Music, Games & sport. They are also trained to do manual duties and a sense of Dignity of Labor by timely selling of homemade food stuff. The children are also given exposure to church and society by visitation of different churches and places by presenting song, choreography, skit, drama etc. The home also has a well quipped Library where the children could read and learn from different books and magazines.

There are many children in the streets and homes but Ebenezer Orphanage Home targets on mainly on the Orphans, Semi- orphans, and Children widows deserted by their families, Children of ex-prisoners and Children victims of terrorist violence. Ebenezer Orphanage Home from its humble vision of serving the children have helped and empowered many children. Presently



there are 22 children. The youngest is studying in Class-A and the eldest in Class-9.

### **Continue to pray for the Children**

Pray for the good health of the children.

Pray for all the child sponsors and well-wishers that God will continue to bless them and they will be able to continue to their sponsorship.

Pray for the good health of all the teachers and staff that they will be able to give better service.

#### **Contacts:**

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**Note of Gratitude**  
**by Rev Dr Jolly Rimai,**  
**Mission Secretary, Mission Department,**  
**CBCNEI**

The Mission Department, CBCNEI, expresses deep felt gratitude to the following sponsoring bodies, individuals, Churches and Fellowships for their generous support towards mission work:

- Ø Yikhum Baptist Church Wokha
- Ø Rongkhon Songgital Baptist Church, New Tura - 794101, Meghalaya.
- Ø Dakkopgre Baptist Church, New Tura - 794101, Meghalaya.
- Ø Naga Christian Fellowship Guwahati, Assam.
- Ø Naga Christian Fellowship Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Ø Ms. Amy Register
- Ø Dr. Dave Register
- Ø Mr. Mungshum Ngemu
- Ø SABAK Aizuto
- Ø Manipur Baptist Convention
- Ø International Ministries
- Ø CLC Ministries

We deeply appreciate their concern for God's Mission through sponsoring the Evangelists of CBCNEI. May the good Lord bless them more so that they continue to be involved in mission.

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

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## Women Seminar held at SBC Sugar Mill, WSBK (Sept 14)

A Seminar for Women was organized by the Sümi Baptist Church, Sugar Mill (SBC-SM) There were about 200 who participated in the seminar which included the resource persons, volunteers and program officials. The

seminar was graced with a blessing from Rev. S. Luhevi Jimomi, Pastor, followed by an inaugural note from Tokato K. Yeptho, Associate Pastor which kicked off the day long discussion on “The Role of Women.” Altogether there were three sessions for the day seminar. The first session was led by Mrs. Ka-



kheli I. Jimomi, Associate Pastor, Women of the Dimapur Sümi Baptist Akukuhou who spoke on the topic “The Role of Women in the Family.” The second session was led by Dr. S. Akatoli Chishi, Lecturer, Trinity Theological College who presented a paper on “The Role of Women in the Church and Society.” The third session was led by Dr. Khelito K. Zhimo, District Tuberculosis Officer, Dimapur who spoke on the topic “The Role of Women in Maintaining Family Health.” She encouraged the participants to be aware of different health schemes provided by the government free of cost under National Rural Health Mission (NHRM). The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks from Kiyeshi Bohoto, Women Leader. The Women Department conveys its gratitude to the Board of Deacons for organizing and sponsoring the seminar.



## **Karbi - Rengma Peace Consultation Meeting**

(Sept 19)

It was held at West Diphu Towa Baptist Church, jointly organized by CBCNEI & KABC. The followings are the proceeding of the Meeting:

- (1) The meeting was presided by Mr. Bernard K. Marak, Executive Secretary of Kamrup Asomiya Baptist Sobha
- (2) Object of the meeting was shared by Mr. Atungo Shitri, Secretary of Peace & Justice, CBCNEI
- (3) Overview of present situation between Karbi & Rengma in Karbi Anglong was shared by Rev. D. Ingti, Regional Secretary of KABC
- (4) Open platform for attendees to openly share concerns. After prolong sharing from various speakers the house decided to form a committee through CBCNEI. This is a mutual committee comprised of members from the Western Rengma Baptist Association and the Nihang

Karbi Baptist Association. Together they will study the ground reality of the conflict that has risen between the Karbi & Rengma. Representatives will travel to different villages and call for peace among them. Additionally, they will appeal to extremist in order to reduce violence and create peace among them. CBCNEI Justice & Peace Department has provided ₹10,000 to each association for travel expenses. The committee

will provide CBCNEI a follow up report within two weeks of their visits.



**Mission Partnership Consultation, Assam 2013 Report (Sept 25-26 )**

The North East India Christian Council (NEICC) in partnership with CBCNEI and

Serving in Mission in North East India (SIM-NEI) organized a mission partnership consultation under the theme “Together in the Gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27) at CBC-NEI, Conference hall in Guwahati. Altogether 60 delegates attended the consultation representing different



mission agencies and the churches of north east India. The resource persons were Rev. Dr. J. Huoplien, Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai, Rev. Dr. Laiu Fachhai, Mr. Neiwete Chirhah, and Rev. W.C. Khongwir.

The consultation was graciously hosted by CBCNEI. The program began with a

devotional thought shared by Rev. Dr. Huoplien Neitham, president of NEICC followed by a keynote address by Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai, Mission Secy, CBCNEI. Laiu Fachhai, the director of SIMNEI, presented papers on three different sessions on the topic; the Biblical basis for partnership, practical ways of partnership, and partnership between mission organization and planted churches. Of all he pointed out the indispensability of ministry and relationships to bear fruit in partnering mission. The deputy director of SIMNEI, Mr. Neiwete also presented a resourceful paper on the principles and practices of partnership among mission organization particularly in Assam. Another significant event of the consultation was the partnership declaration and the formation of the Assam mission

Partnership. The delegates also participated at the end of every session with a thought out discussion and interactions. The consultation ended well with a unanimous goodwill partnership declaration followed by a valedictory service conducted by Rev. W.C.Khongwir, Ex. Com Member, NEICC.



### **Lewis Memorial Hostel Boys for Transformation**

(Sept 29 - Oct 2)

The **Lewis Memorial Hostel Boys for Transformation** program was held at Mission Compound. The speakers were : Mr Gibson Marak, Mr Putisen and Mr Senti longkumer. On the whole the program was successful.



## **Lewis Memorial Hostel Ministry SPORTS MEET**

(Oct 10 - 12)

Lewis Memorial Hostel Ministry Sports Meet was held here at Mission Compound. The entire



hostel was divided into four groups namely: Joshua, Nehemia, Daniel and Joel. The Nehemiah group won the overall championship. During the sports Tug of War was the most exciting feature.



## **Youth Ministry**

(Oct 17)

As per the Council's Executive Meeting decision to organize a youth festival a meeting of youth secretaries and leaders was held at CBCNEI. The discussion was

on youth ministry for the Council's constituent areas and resolved to organize a youth fest biannually or triennially. In the meeting it was decided that in the second week of October, 2014,

three days youth carnival will be organized at ETC, Jorhat as it will be vacation period of the college. The program highlight will include work-

shops and seminars relating to youth issues, music, games among others.



## **Sundays School Teachers' Training**

(Oct 21-25)

In partnership with CBM International Ministry New Zealand, The Mission Department, CBCNEI, has conducted the Sunday School Teachers' Training program successfully for the third time. Altogether 41 participants from six conventions committed to the five days

training program. Hugh Dickey and Jean Morley, CBM trainer and expert, with their rich experiences and vast knowledge of children's ministry taught the lessons skillfully.

The participants learned the basic theology of children's ministry, use of visual aids, children's songs and discovered the art of storytelling to make the gospel more attractive to children. The trainees actively participated in all the activities such as group discussion, games, and making of visual aid particularly flannel

graphs. The trainers also encourage the involvement of the church leaders especially men as they are the key people in making policy of the church that has its impact on children's ministry. The training program was helpful to all the participants as it is designed to benefit both the amateur as well as experienced teachers. At the end of the week, most of the participants expressed their gratitude saying it was their first time to receive such a helpful training. Alongside with them were a few



experienced teachers and church leaders who have gained new insights. At the end of the training,

each of them committed themselves to benefit others from what they have learned. The training program concluded with a message from Rev. Dr. A.K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI, followed by a certificate distribution ceremony.



hosted the event very successfully. Around 260 delegates attended the Conference. Rev Dr A. K. Lama, General Secretary, CBCNEI; Mrs. Alongla PAier, Lecturer, OTS; and Dr Narola Imchen Lecturer, ETC were the resource persons. Mrs. Jaksil A Sangma, Pastor, GBC led the Bible Study. Mr Mukul Rai, President, ABC exhorted the gathering. On Sunday, Dr. A. K. Lama dedicated the new officers of BWNEI. The new office bearers of BWNEI are: President: Rev Ms. Narola Ao, Vice president: Ms Florina D. Shira, Secretary: Ms Lhingboi Kipgen, Joint Secretary: Ms Mibom Dirchi; Treasurer: Mrs Melicent D. Marak.

**5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Baptist Women's Fellowship of North East India (BWNEI)**  
(Nov 1-3)

The Baptist Women Fellowship of North East India met for its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Nagaon Baptist Church, under the theme "Women-Excelling in the Lord." The Women Department of the Assam Baptist Convention,

### **Mission Partners' Consultation (Nov 5)**

Hosted by Mission Department, CBCNEI, the first ever Mission Partners' consultation took place at CBCNEI Conference Hall, Guwahati. Altogether 18 experts and practitioners representing ten mission organizations Alpha India, ARLDF India, FMPB, IEM, Inter Serve, SIMNEI, Seva Bharat, Trans World Radio, World Vision and YMCA attended the meeting. Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI, facilitated the meeting, who, after welcoming participants, highlighted that the purpose of the consultation was mainly to make a greater impact in the mission work.

It was a one-of-a-kind consultation conducted by the Mission Department to identify the strength and the specialized sphere of the partners. Each of the organizations shared their area of expertise and participated in a thorough exchange of experiences, suggestions and opinions. This created a platform for all the partners to explore the possibilities of tapping each other's resource and benefit mutually. The meeting also gives an opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances as relationship is indispensable in engaging mission. At the end of the day, participants were convinced that the vast challenges can be overcome



through genuine partnership and continued efforts. The consultation came to its blessed closure with a prayer.



### **Mission Fair 2013 organized by Nagaland Missions Movement (NMM)**

(Nov 7-10)

Nagaland Missions Movement (Nagaland Baptist Church Council) organizes Mission Fair under the theme, “Mission Possible” where over 500 delegates comprising Mission Agencies such as Bible League Thailand, Christ for the City International (CFCI), Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), India Church Growth Mission (ICGM), Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM), Interserve India, Maharashtra Village

Ministries (MVM), NMM Missionaries, Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF), Serving in Mission North East India (SIMNEI), Trans World Radio (TWR), Wycliffe, Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Pastors, Evangelists, Mission Leaders and senior leaders from Nagaland and other states participated. The resource persons for the Mission Fair 2013 were Dr. Loren Cunningham (Founder President Youth With A Mission), Rev. Dr. Richard Schlitt (International Director for Evangelism, Overseas Missionary Fellowship Singapore), Mr. John Amalraj (National Director and Executive Secretary, Interserve India), Mr. Christopher S. Baskeran (Associate Director- Church Relations/



Public Engagement Group, World Vision India), Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai (Mission Secretary, Council of Baptist Churches in North East India), Rev. Dr. Andrew Kim (Director, Global Connection for Advancement, Korea and Field Dean, William Carey International University, USA), Rev. Taku and Rev. Katy Longkumer (Development Consultants, Baptist International Ministries, USA), Rev. D. Simon Ponniah (General Secretary, Friends Missionary Prayer Band, India), and Master's Beauty (Performing Arts group from Hong Kong).

**Topics Discussed at the Mission Fair**

- Ø Current Trends in World Missions: An Overview, Rev. Dr. Richard Schlitt
- Ø Mission Opportunities Across the Globe, Rev. Dr. Richard Schlitt
- Ø Challenges and Opportunities in India, Mr. John Amalraj
- Ø Challenges and Opportunities in NEI, Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai

Ø Short- Term Mission, Rev. Dr. Andrew Kim

Ø Integral Mission, Mr. Christopher Baskeran

Ø Recruitment, Training and Memembr Care, Rev. Taku and Rev. Katy Longkumer

Performing Arts, Master's Beauty



**Golden Jubilee Celebration, Dibang Lohit Baptist Churches Association (DLBCA) (Nov 9-12)**

Dibang Lohit Baptist Churches Association celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year at Roing, Arunachal Pradesh. The theme of the Conference was *Celebrate the Good News* (Matt 28:18-20). Rev. Banbo Pertin, Executive Secretary, DLBCA and a team of Organizing Committees welcomed more than 2000 delegates, the local political leaders, government officials, and the lead-

ers of Arunachal Baptist Churches Council and Arunachal Christian Forum. During the conference, Rev. Banbo briefed the history of the coming of the gospel in Arunachal. He reminded how the Padam tribes living in the Dibang and Lohit districts area were the first to receive Gospel in Arunachal

Pradesh when the American Baptist Missionaries started their work in Sadiya in 1836. The resource persons were Dr. A. K. Lama, Dr. Asangla Ao, Rev. Wanglong Simai, and Mr. Mark Boje. The Conference ended with the Jubilee Resolution to engage in the missions of God more aggressively.



## Exegetical Preaching & Pastoral Counseling

(Nov 26 - 29)

Transforming Leaders in Asia (TLA) Ministries in partner-

participants attended from Nov 26-29. Dr. Ron Frost, Mrs. Karen Allen, Dr. Asangla Ao, and Dr A. K. Lama were the resource persons.



During the seminar TLA Ministries has donated two motor-bikes for the spread of gospel to Mr Michael

ship with CBCNEI hosted a seminar on Exegetical Preaching and Pastoral Counseling for Pastors and lay leaders in CBCNEI Conference Center, Guwahati. 39 par-

Tandia, Executive Secretary, Sadia Dibru Baptist Association and Mr Panrap Wangno, evangelist, Tutsa Baptist Church Council.



**The Baptist Church, Tezu Golden Jubilee Celebrations (Nov 29)**

The Baptist Church, Tezu (Telluliang)- the mother church under Mishmi Baptist Churches Council clocked 50 years and celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a call on their people to “Arise and Shine” based on Isa 60:1. The Jubilee monolith was unveiled by the main speaker of the program, Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI. It was an epochal event in which the huge church was packed to its capacity, and even overflowing, with people of all ages, coming together to

retrospect the past and give praise to God for His faithfulness. Exposing the theme, the speaker challenged the church in different sessions to stay continuously connected to the source of the light so to arise and shine as God has commanded. He also reminded the significance of the Jubilee which should be marked by affectionate display of love and forgiveness and also to continue the mission of God in reaching the unreached. The celebration was also enriched by many colorful dances by various troupes and presentation of songs



from the choir groups mainly the Evangelical Church of Maraland from Mizoram. It may be noted that the Golden Jubilee Celebration committee also conducted a special jubilee worship service for Women in the afternoon session with Mrs. Niholi Sumi, Missionary, as the speaker. The program concluded well with the beauty of celebration etched in the hearts and

minds of the participants particularly members of the Baptist Church, Tezu. We pray that this church grows in holiness, in strength and vigor, as 'Gold turns into Diamond.'

During that occasion, CBCNEI presented a generator to the association where as Transforming Leaders in Asia Ministries presented a desktop to the Church and a printer to the association.



Children are the brightest treasures we bring forth into this world, but too large a percentage of the population continues to treat them as inconveniences and nuisances, when they're not treating them as possessions or toys.

- CHARLES DE LINT, *The Onion Girl*

Opportunity to work with Christian Literature Centre  
Please send your application to the Director, CLC, M.G.  
Avenue, Imphal Manipur latest by Feb 15, 2014

Sl.No	Post	Branch	Education & Experience	Other Requirements
1	Accountant	1. Guwahati 2. Imphal	1. B.Com 2. Well versed in Tally Erp 9 3. Spreadsheet entry in computer 4. Atleast three years experience in accounting 5. Effective in speaking English & Hindi	1. Proof of membership of Church under CBCNEI family 2. Age Proof between 25 - 40 3. Proof of all academic qualification and experience 4. Physical fitness certificate from a Doctor 5. Recommendation from the Association / Convention leader
2	Assistant Manager (Sales & Marketing)	Dimapur	1. Minimum Qualification: Graduate 2. Work experience in public relation 3. Qualification in Management / English honors is preferred 4. Must have commitment for mission through Christian Literature 5. Willing to be posted anywhere with frugal salary	1. Proof of membership of Church under CBCNEI family 2. Age Proof between 25 - 40 3. Proof of all academic qualification and experience 4. Physical fitness certificate from a Doctor 5. Recommendation from the Association / Convention leader
3	Salesperson	1. Ukhrul 2. Dimapur	1. Minimum Qualification: Matriculation 2. Pleasant Personality and Politeness 3. Good Communicator	1. Proof of membership of Church under CBCNEI family 2. Age Proof between 21- 30 3. Proof of all academic qualification and experience 4. Physical fitness certificate from a Doctor 5. Recommendation from the Association / Convention leader
4	Driver cum Sales assistant	Imphal	1. Minimum Qualification: Matriculation	1. Proof of membership of Church under CBCNEI family 2. Age Proof between 25 - 30 3. Proof of all academic qualification and experience 4. Physical fitness certificate from a Doctor 5. Recommendation from the Association / Convention leader
5	Peon cum chowkidar	Senapati	1. Minimum Qualification: Class VIII	1. Proof of membership of Church under CBCNEI family 2. Age Proof between 21- 40 3. Physical fitness certificate from a Doctor 5. Recommendation from the Association / Convention leader



# “Ministry Among the Street Children,” A Project of World Vision

*As reported by Chonchon L. Rimai, Program Manager, World Vision, Guwahati*

**There is Hope:** A name gives a person identity but to be able to write one’s name is a dream for so many people. For many of the adults in our neighborhood community their children will be the first to know how to read and write their names, something many of us take it for granted in today’s generation. Even a non-formal education can open up new opportunities for these children. We have created a program to teach them some basic things like letters and numbers and eventually link them to formal schools.

**Child Protection:** We work with children living along

the railway tracks. The older kids are runaways and the little kids may still have one parent that lives with them in the street. Many have lost a hand or a leg; run over by trains while in intoxicated state. In another scenario, children live with their parents or caregivers on pavements or encroached lands, in houses made of bamboo, cardboards and plastic sheets. Every time it starts to rain, or it becomes too hot in summer or winter sets in, we wonder where they are or how they can survive during these awful climatic conditions, on top their already difficult living situations. But even under these

conditions you can see joy in the faces of these children.

**Vocational assistance:** Lovely Kaur is 21 years old, and works at a beauty parlor to help support her family consisting of little brother, two older sister and mother. She lost her father at a very young age. Her mother and one older sister became mentally ill. Her mother left home and roamed the city streets. World Vision runs a Non Formal education class in her area and Lovely started attending the center. After hearing her story and her need for a steady income, our Project sent her for 'Beautician Course.' Today,

she is successfully employed and is a blessing to her family as well as a 'model of successes in her community.

**About the Project:**

Guwahati Child Development project, a project of World Vision India, operates in the city of Guwahati. The activities undertaken by this project focuses mainly on Children's welfare and rehabilitation through Non Formal Education classes, linkage to formal schools, provision of nutritional foods, uniforms and books, Health Services, Vocational and Income Generation Programs for the Parents and adolescent boys and girls and Recreational facilities. The project through these centers

assists the children to gain skills and support their need to be reintegrated successfully in the community.



The people in these slums, pavements and communities are made up of migrant population; however, they have been living in these areas for many years. The Government list provides 90 Slums in and around Guwahati city and as such the number of rag-pickers population in the city of Guwahati is quite high. The parents work as daily wage laborers in construction site and quarries and some women works as maids in people's homes, while the children are engaged in look-

ing after their younger siblings, pick rags, or simply loiter around.

Over the past years, the challenge to rehabilitate runaway children especially along the railway tracks remains a challenge. The Project is manned by a Team of seven full time staff, nine Tuitions teachers and nine child monitoring volunteers, prompted by the vision - *“Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness, Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.”*





# “Street Children in Guwahati”

## A Perspective from a visitor from USA

*Ashley Caycedo, an intern for Department of Peace & Justice, CBCNEI*

Despite the ongoing development in Guwahati, Assam, many are living in extremely poor conditions. Children are not attending school and spending hours on the street begging for money. Many run away from home due to domestic violence and alcoholic fathers. Children are being abused physically, emotionally, and sexually. As a result, they make the brave decision to escape home and fend for themselves on the streets. There are children who have been abandoned on the streets by their parents, some who have lost one or both parents, and others who are

simply born to the streets. For many of these children the streets are the only home they have ever known.

Life on the streets has become a means for survival. “India has the largest population of street children in the world. At least eighteen million children live or work on the streets of urban India, laboring as porters at bus or railway terminals; as mechanics in informal auto-repair shops; as vendors of food, tea, or handmade articles; as street tailors; or as rag pickers, picking through heaps of garbage and selling usable materials to lo-

cal buyers”.<sup>1</sup> They spend hours on the streets working and begging for money. While some have run away and “chosen” this life man are abducted and pushed into begging. Parents often force their children to work because they cannot feed the family on their own.

A UNICEF study found that almost 40,000 children die every day in developing countries, 25% of which are in India.<sup>2</sup> Street children in India suffer from poor health conditions, various chronic diseases, and malnourishment. TB, leprosy, typhoid, malaria, jaundice and liver/kidney disorders are common. Additionally, diseases like HIV & AIDS are quickly spreading because of the sexual abuse and exploitation of these children. At a young age these children are introduced to alcohol and drug, which

quickly develops into an addictive habit.

An education is one thing that could change these children’s lives, but many do not take advantage of this opportunity. Some may want to attend, but cannot because they are forced to work. Older run-aways may have attended primary, but like many they dropped out at a young age. Most street children do not know their alphabet or numbers let alone how to read. It is hard to believe that with so much opportunity in their midst children are still growing up uneducated, on the streets, and wondering what they will eat that day.

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> Abu Ghraib by Michael Cannon Pg. 213

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF (2004) Prevalence, Abuse and Exploitation of Street Children (PDF report).



# The contribution of CBCNEI towards **CHILDREN MINISTRY**

*As reported by Mission Department, CBCNEI*

Children are a blessing from the Lord. They are the future leaders of the society. As Jesus told his followers to “go into all the world and make disciples....teaching them

to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28: 19-20), the Council under the Mission department has been encouraging Children Ministry by conducting trainings, giv-



ing grant in aid and sponsors candidates for more trainings to enhance the Children ministry. Every year we conduct Sunday school teachers training program where teachers from all the six conventions come and learn together from the resource persons. This year too we had conducted the Sunday school teachers training program from Oct 21 - 25 with 41 participants through the Children Bible Ministry (CBM) International Ministry from New Zealand. We also give VBS grant in aid every year to those churches that are really in need to enable them conduct Vacation Bible School program. This year the Council through the Mission department was able to extend grant to 27 churches from the six conventions. Apart from that the council also sponsors candidates through

the local Conventions to CBM International Ministry for further trainings for an effective Children Ministry. Ms. Sarah Tayeng from Arunachal Baptist Church Council (ABCC) was send to CBM International Ministry, New Zealand for four months training in the year 2012 through CBCNEI Children Ministry. This year Ms. Indrani from Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) will be going to CBM International Ministry for four months of training.

As children's are the pillars of the future, the council is able to minister Gods love to the children ministry and bring closer to Him. As we minister together in His Mission, may our joint efforts bring more souls to see Christ in them. Let us continue to be a channel of blessings for our churches through the Children Ministry.





# NAGALAND ALLIANCE FOR CHILD RIGHTS (NACR): A CONCERTED EFFORT FOR CHILD RIGHTS IN NAGALAND

*Ms N. K. Keny, Love Care Home, President, NACR*

Nagaland has been experiencing bad situations. It is a place of pain and dilemma especially the treatment that is meted out to children in the form of sexual abuse, molestation, harassment, kidnapping, negligence, direct and indirect trafficking

of children for domestic work, exploitation with the false promises of education, regular reports of missing children and increasing rate of rape and murder of innocent lives are all signs of decay that the society in Nagaland is going through.



Despite the rampant and blatant abuse of child and women rights in Nagaland, there is no concrete figure or record to point out the magnitude of the violations. All these provide ideal

environment for constant and continual violation and abuse of child rights. According to Child line, Dimapur, there are 366 cases of child rights violation reported and subsequent intervention made within Dimapur alone since its operation in the year 2011. There are yet many more which go unreported. It is apt that the seed of Nagaland Alliance for Child Rights germinated in Dimapur.

Along with all the reported and unvoiced incidents that have happened in the past, the incident of 13 years old minor girl who was found raped and brutally murdered on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, in Dimapur provoked some concerned NGOs /Agencies/Individual working in the field of child rights to come together. On 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, the first meeting was convened at Prodigal's Home, Dimapur. It was attended by 11 eleven NGOs along with representatives from District Legal Aid Ser-

vices and media. Consistent meetings and discussions culminated in the birth of Nagaland Alliance for Child Rights (NACR).

**Motto:** *Safer Nagaland for Children and Women'*

**Objectives:** To safeguard Children and Women against any form of rights' violation.

With a vision to make *Nagaland a state where every child/women is valued and cherished as a supreme asset, where both State and Society ensure all children and women their right to the best of care, respect*

and participation, NACR has organizing number of consultative meetings and awareness programs tying up with the media to prevent further occurrences and protection of victims. NACR is networking with Indian Alliance for Child Right (IACR) to take up local issue to the national and international levels.

Nagaland Alliance for Child Rights has reached out to all districts of Nagaland convening the first ever state level consultative meeting on Children and Women rights on the theme, **“Towards a Stronger Nagaland Alliance for Children & Women,”** on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2013. The consultation saw attendance of 127 grassroots NGO workers from all the districts of Nagaland deliberating on different issues of Children and

Women Rights. The consultation was held with an aim to develop informed and critical alliances (at the state, district and local level) among partner organizations and individuals for addressing rights of children and women. It also aims to safeguard children and women against any forms of rights violation and to facilitate participatory information sharing and consultative preparation for building meaningful linkage with the state on children and women related issues.

Honorable Shri. Keyanilie Peseyie, Minister Social Welfare, Women and Child Development, Government of Nagaland was the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries attended the meeting were Smt. Razia, Chairman, Indian



Alliance for Child Rights (IACR) New Delhi, Shri. Mayang Lima, Member Secretary, State legal Service Authority & Registrar of Guwahti High Court (Kohima Bench), Padma Shree Dr. Temsula, Chairperson & Mrs. Kakhuli Jakhal, Member, State Women Commission, Nagaland, Smt. Hushili Sema, Deputy Commissioner, Dimapur and A.Z. Angami, Superintendent of Police, Dimapur. Participants from NGOs across the state were, ACID Dimapur; Peace Channel Dimapur; Prodigals' Home Dimapur; Love Care Home Dimapur; Sisterhood Network Dimapur; Wandangki Orphanage Home Dimapur; Mothers' Hope Dimapur; Care and Support Society Mokokchung; Konyak Students Union Mon; District Legal Service Authority Dimapur; Touch of Hope Ministries, Dimapur; Ziliangrong Students Union, Peren; Ziliangrong Women Organisation, Peren; Good Shepherd Seminary,

Dimapur; North East Network, Phek; IBAPWO, Kiphire; Eastern Nagaland Women's Organisation, Dimapur; Joint Secretary Naga Mothers Association; El-shadai Orphanage Ministry, Sethekie Basa; C-Cerp Dimapur; Friends of Poor Society Dimapur and Media Partners Nagaland Post, Eastern Mirror, Morung Express, Tir YimYim and Sumi Zumulhu.

Though still in its nascent stage, NACR is achieving the very purpose for which it is formed. There are **24 organizations and 2 individuals** registered as member of the Alliance. NACR will continue to work towards highlighting the issue of Nagaland at the national and internal arena with 'networking' with media, advocates, pediatricians, and experts in different fields relating to children and women being the mantra in making Nagaland a safer place for Children and Women.



# Testimonials



*Ms Istrella Sangma  
Assistant General Manager,  
CBCNEI Conference Centre*

I count this as a great privilege and opportunity to share about my life and experiences with all the readers of this magazine.

Born in a Christian family I accepted Christ as my personal Savior in the year 2002. I completed high school and college from my

hometown, Guwahati.

After my college I decided to pursue a course in MBA from the Institute of Sikkim Manipal University. I wanted to achieve the most in my life. So after the completion of my course I decided to go to Bangalore for another short term course. With much fear and apprehensions I left home but what awaited me there was never thought nor planned. Within a period of few weeks I got a job in one of the big company, Infosys in Bangalore. It was purely by the grace of God that I was selected for this job and thereafter I continued working in that company for a period of 5 years. Within these 5 years God helped me find favor in the

eyes of my supervisors and blessed me with bigger responsibilities. However, it was also a desire of my family and friends that I should come home and find a work there, preferably in a Christian organization where I could also serve God. It was not a simple task and I was doubtful and hesitant but God proved his faithfulness once again and brought me home and provided me a work in an NGO as a trainer. However, I wasn't very happy and satisfied with the work and my frustration grew with time when things were not happening according to how I wanted. I prayed, my family and friends prayed but there was no answer for a long time. I wanted to quit and go back to Bangalore but my parents encouraged me to wait on God and pray. I obeyed and waited but no result and my frustration grew. Soon the

time came when God revealed his plan for me. My brother-in law told me about a vacancy in CBCNEI. I was not sure, in fact I wasn't hopeful I would get selected but still I submitted my profile and I was told to wait. It was a long wait again and I almost lost hope. Finally, the day came I was called for interview and by the grace of God again I got selected. God has always proved his faithfulness and kept his promises only at times I failed to acknowledge them but I do praise and thank Him for always being my guide. As David says in Psalm 40, "Many Lord, my God are the wonders you have done...were I to count they would be too many to declare..." God has done so much for me which I am sure I cannot recount nor stop counting. All glory and honor to God for leading me this far.



# North East Centre for Training And Research (NECTAR)

Regd. No. E.16(RS)30/2001/310, dt.14-12-2002

## ANNOUNCEMENT

October 24, 2013

NECTAR is conducting the following courses as details given below.

**1. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages):** It is a two-month **Who can apply?** Any graduate, very strong in English, called to be a witness, called to teachers etc.

**Arrival of participants :** January 30, 2014

**Eligibility Test :** January 31, 2014

**Class begins :** February 3, 2014

**Course Fees :** Admission + Monthly (food & lodging, tuition etc.) = Rs 14,000/-

**Teachers & Mentors:** National & International.

**Seats :** Only 15 seats are available.

**Last date of Submission of Applications:** December 20, 2013

**NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY. DO NOT DELAY**

\*\*\*\*\*

**2. CCT (Cross-cultural Training):** It is a four-month intensive Cross-cultural Training Course.

**Who can apply?** 10+2 or B.Th. and above, having good working knowledge, born again, called to serve the Lord especially among the unreached people groups, aspirant cross-cultural missionary candidates, field missionaries, church leaders & mission leaders etc.

**Arrival of trainees:** May 1, 2014

**Interview & Orientation:** May 2 & 3, 2014

**Class begins:** May 5, 2014

**Course Fees :** Rs 22,000/- {Admission + Monthly (food & lodging, tuition etc.)}

**Resource Persons :** National & International.

**Seats:** Only 24 seats are available.

**Last date of Submission of Applications :** FEBRUARY 28, 2014

**Do not wait - apply now before it is too late!**

For any further information, please call or send email to:

**Rev S. Nengzakhup**

**Executive Director**

*Kong Doris's Building, Near POWERGRID, Lower Nongrah, Lapalang, Shillong-793006, Meghalaya, INDIA*

*Mob.# 94361-18829 | eMail: nectartraining@gmail.com*



## LEAD LIKE JESUS - One Day Encounter

*Pawan Bhuyan, Property Secretary, CBCNEI*

One day workshop on Leadership was held at Good Shepherds Auditorium, Bangalore on October 2, 2013. The program was facilitated by Ken Blanchard, Co-author of *Lead Like Jesus* and Phyllis Hendry, CEO & President Lead Like Jesus. I am grateful to the Council for enabling me, along with other convention and association leaders to participate in this unique workshop on leadership,

This workshop was designed to guide in exploring personal response to Jesus' call to "follow Me" and embrace the principles of servant leadership embodied in the **not so with you** phrase Jesus gave His disciples in

Matthew 20:25-28. The mission of the workshop was to set all the leaders and for the participant leader specifically, on the path for a transformational encounter with Jesus as a role model. A new definition of leadership is learnt - "*Anytime when you seek to influence the thinking, behavior or development of others, you are taking on the role of a leader.*" A brief highlight of the program:

**Transformational Leadership Cycle:**

**Personal Leadership** - Outcome = Transformation *Matthew 4: 19-20*

**One-on-One Leadership** - Outcome = Trust *Matthew 14: 22-32*

**Team/Family Leadership** - Outcome = Community *John 13: 13-17*

**Organizational/Community Leadership** - Outcome = Effectiveness/Unity *John 17: 20-23*

**The Four Domains of Leadership:**

The HEART - Intention & Motivation of a Leader

The HEAD - Beliefs about Leadership and Influence

The HANDS - Methods & Behaviors of a Leader

The HABITS - Daily Disciplines to Keep Focused on Leading Like Jesus

**The HEART:**

*Be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24*

*I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. 1 Chronicles 29:17*

*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-*

*spring of life. Proverbs 4:23*

*For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10*

**The HEAD:**

*Test me, O LORD and try me, examine my heart and my mind. Psalms 26:2*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

*For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Philippians 4:8*

**The HANDS:**

*I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. John 5:36*

*The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 1 Corinthians 3:8*

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24*

*Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 1 Peter 1:17*

### **The HABITS:**

**Practicing Solitude** - *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place,*

*where he prayed. Mark 1:35*

**Experiencing Prayer** - *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1*

**Applying Scripture** - *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**Abiding in God's Unconditional Love** - *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*

**Maintaining Supportive Relationships** - *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. Proverbs 27:6*

Brief Note on the Program

Designer: Few have impacted the management of people and companies more than Ken Blanchard, a prominent author, with over three dozen books including, *The One Minute Manager*, speaker and business consultant. Ken is universally characterized as one of the most insightful, powerful and compassionate men in business today. Speaking from the heart with warmth and humor, he is polished storyteller who makes the seemingly complex easy to understand. With a personal faith in Jesus Christ, Ken recognizes and lifts up Jesus as the greatest leadership role model of all time. He co-founded “Lead Like Jesus” in 1999.



## O b i t u a r y



*Members of CBCNEI family and Lews Memorial Hostellers in particular mourn the sudden demise of Mr. Khudir Rabha (Cook L. M. Hostel Ministry) on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 after a prolong sickness. Mr. Khudir joined LM Hostel ministry in 1990. He is survived by his wife and two sons. We extend our prayers and condolences to the bereaved family.*



## Remembering Late Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Thumra

We are sad to inform you that Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Thumra went to be with the Lord at 5:25 pm on 16 Nov, 2013. He is rested in his native village Lunghar on 20 (Tuesday), 2013. He is survived by his wife, five children and a number of grandchildren. He is a Naga from Ukhrul District in Manipur. He served Eastern Theological College as Faculty, Registrar and as the first national Principal for 31 years (1956-1987). He was also the President of the CBCNEI for six times, and a member of the CBCNEI Executive for two decades. Let us uphold his family members and friends in our prayers.

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*One of the greatest blessings my wife, Mary, and I have had in our lives has been to have Jonathan Thumra and his family as our friends. They became a part of our family. Good memories of a friendship that began fifty three years ago when we were colleagues at an ETC fill out minds and hearts at this sad time. We were young and enthusiastic with a commitment to transform an institution that had always been dependent on the American Baptist Mission into a vital centre of theological thought and training of the CBCNEI. Our personal and professional relationship illustrates this. I was the last missionary principal and Jonathan was the first North East Indian principal. As a mission institution ETC was dying. Each year BIM cut its funding. Under Dr. Thumra's (who was also the first Indian to earn the D.Th. from Serampore) leadership new local and international sources of funding were developed and the college began to grow. If Dr. Thumra had not been there at that hour I doubt that ETC would exist today.*

*~ F. S. Downs*

*I had the privilege to speak a few words at his enroute farewell meeting at Diphupar Tangkhul Baptist church at 5pm on Sunday. We thank God for his life and leadership given to the CBCNEI in particular and theological field of India in general. He was a scholar, a theologian and an able administrator.*

*~ Rev K. I. Aier*

## Faculty of Theology

Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences  
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Bachelor of Divinity (BD) Degree programme attempts to inculcate a sense of commitment to the ministry of the church following the footsteps of Jesus Christ. The Candidates shall be able to interpret the word of God, understand theological discourses, major religions, mature in Christian spirituality, Pastoral Care & Counseling. Eligibility: Intermediate (10+2 Passed) from a recognized Institution. Bachelor degree holder is admitted in third semester/B.Th. recognized by SHIATS is admitted in fifth semester. Duration: 8 semesters. Fees: ₹5000.00/- per semester+Hostel Mess Fee. Scholarship to deserving Candidates are available.

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Fees: ₹ 5000.00/- per semester Hostel Mess Fee. Scholarship to deserving Candidate is available.

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