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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
Council.

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Design & Layout : Siamliana Kiangte
Circulation:

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Subscription:

One Year ₹ 150 (US\$20)

Two Years ₹ 250 (US\$35)

Three Years ₹ 400 (US\$50)

Five Years ₹ 600 (US\$80)

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Editorial



Saving the World in a Strange Way

A baby; a baby that would grow up and be executed for crimes he didn't commit. Jesus, born of a poor virgin for the purpose of dying for a world that would reject him; that was God's plan for saving the world. That's a strange way to save the world. As we begin the Christmas season, let's explore God's plan for saving the world. It's a strange way to save the world, but it's the only way that would work. It is amazing to learn why God chose to send Jesus as a baby rather than a mighty king or superhero to save the world. God's doing are different from what humankind think and expect.

God's ways are not our ways. He chose to save the world in a way that would bring glory to him and not to us. God's view of strength is vastly different than ours and that it will require genuine faith to believe in God's plan to save the world. He sent Jesus who was humble, gentle, displays acts of love and offer forgiveness to save the world.

We must thank God for all the grace, mercy and love we have experienced during the year and as we look forward to the New Year, let us forget what is behind and look forward to a prosperous and meaningful life in the coming year. As the new General Secretary, this is my first Christmas with CBCNEI and together with all my family members: my wife Mrs. Setsatsishu Sangtam, my daughter Miss Sintu Rongpipi and my son Master Sonsuri Rongpi, wish all the CBCNEI families a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Assistant Editor Dr. Miss Kaholi Zhimomi will be leaving us soon and a new editor will be coming in. I personally want to thank and appreciate Dr. Kaholi for her sincere and hard work in publishing the Baptist News regularly. We are looking for a new committed christian who can serve CBCNEI as the Editor of the Baptist News. The advertisement is published in this issue. Any interested person may apply for the post according to the criteria set.

THIS issue of the Baptist News includes half yearly reports of the Department Secretaries and sermons on Christmas theme. It also includes number of activity reports of CBCNEI. You can see from the reports that CBCNEI is growing and trying to be more relevant with new vision and strategic planning.



Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi
General Secretary
CBCNEI



Report of the General Secretary, CBCNEI



(May 27 to October 17, 2014)

Rev Dr. Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI

Introduction:

At the very outset, I thank the Lord for giving me the grace, strength and wisdom to serve the Council for the last few months since 27 May 2014, the day I took charge from the former General Secretary, Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama. I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the Officers and Executive Members of the Council for giving me an opportunity to serve the Council. I take it as the will of God and opportune time that I have been called to take up this great responsibility at this time. The last few months have been a period of learning and transition. I am still learning how all the departments are functioning and my role as the mentor or adviser; and since all the departmental secretaries will be giving their ministry description, I will not give any report of the departmental ministries as each department secretaries are giving their own reports. I strongly felt that there is a great need to revisit our vision, mission and structure of the Council and that is

how the Strategic Planning Consultation was organized. I am thankful for your warm participation and contribution during the Consultation. Here below please find what I have been doing during the reporting period.

Building Relationships:

In order to keep a close and good relationship with the local churches and Fellowships in Guwahati, I participated in their services and programs. I preached at Guwahati Baptist Church on Pentecost Sunday on June 8; spoke at Naga Christian Fellowship's Fresher's Meet and Karbi Christian Fellowship Fresher's Meet; attended house warming and thanksgiving of the new residence of Dr. A. K. Lama at Sixth Mile; preached at Satribari Christian Hospital Chapel; preached at the retreat of the students and faculty of the Asia Antioch Seminary at Rani, Guwahati. I invited all my colleagues and staff members, including the former General Secretaries, Rev. Dr. Ngul Khan Pau and his wife Lucy; Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama and his wife Dr. Asangla on August 30, to my house warming and thanksgiving service and requested Dr. A. K. Lama to share the Word of Hope.

World Council of Churches (WCC) Delegation and Membership:

The CBCNEI Executive took the decision to apply for membership at the WCC and the AGM formally approved it. Dr. Lama, the former General Secretary, accordingly sent the application two years before. The WCC sent a delegation as the follow up of our application for membership to WCC from June 12-15, 2014. During the visit they wanted to see some of the institutions, hospitals and churches. Due to time constraint, we were able to lead them only to ETC, JCMS, Golaghat Mission School, CLC, Guwahati Baptist Church and the Satribari Christian Hospital. We were also requested to organize Inter-denominational Leaders' Meet-

ing at CBCNEI Conference Hall on June 13 where many church leaders from different denominations attended.

I am very happy to announce that the WCC Central Committee, at its meeting held at Geneva from July 2-9, decided to accept CBCNEI as a member of the WCC subject to the approval of the next Central Committee Meeting which will be held in 2016. During these years we may be invited to participate in the programs of WCC to show our interest and contributions. There are many benefits of having membership in WCC. We can participate in the Global communities on any issue that the world is facing today. We can avail scholarships for higher studies especially for Ph. D. scholarship. We can also bring inter-national programs to our area so that we can be exposed and the world community will also be exposed to North East India. There are many countries that are not aware of the existence of NEI and the issues we are facing today. We will also have the right to explore job opportunities in and through the WCC.

Program Participation:

Martin Luther Christian University:

On behalf of the Council, I attended the Peace Committee meeting of the Martin Luther Christian University at Shillong on June 17. This was the first meeting I attended and we discussed about the curriculum of peace studies in the University.

World Mission Conference:

By the gracious invitation of the International Ministries, I was able to represent the Council and participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop followed by the celebration of 200 Anniversary of the American Baptist Churches or International Ministries at Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA. Dr.

Jolly and I participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop of the International Ministries for the next five years from July 19-21, 2014. We could also organize a meeting with the faculty and staff of Judson University together with Dr. John Sanquist during one of the days where we shared the great need of support from the churches and Universities in USA. We could also organize table talks during lunch time telling about the ministries of CBCNEI and encouraged the delegates to support our ministries. We also joined in the celebration for the 200 Anniversary of the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches from July 21-25. In one of the evenings, during the Asian Night, Dr. Anjo Keikung represented India and presented the Peace work done in Nagaland through the cooperation of the IM. The celebration as whole, I believe, was very grand and successful.

Right after the Conference; I could visit North Dakota through the kindness of Ruth and Brian Skar who drove me to Minot, North Dakota on July 26. I attended the morning Worship Service at the Emmanuel Baptist Church at Minot on July 27 and shared the ministries of CBCNEI and the great need of support for the NECU Project. I was also able to visit some of my friends in Los Angeles, CA, during the visit. I could give one Bible Study to the older people at a Christian Home for the Aged in Simi Valley, LA. I was also able to share about NECU Project at the Faith of Christ Church which belongs to the Conservative Baptist Church on August 7.

Graduation Service of NECTAR:

I attended and participated at the Graduation Ceremony of the Cross-Cultural Training of NECTAR, Shillong on August 29 upon the invitation by the Executive Director, Rev. Nengzakhup. It was held at Evangelical Baptist Convention

Church of Shillong. There were about 40 graduates and most of them are from Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

A Meeting of Diverse Spiritual Traditions in India:

The Council was invited by His Holiness Dalai Lama, the Spiritual Leader of the Tibetan in Exile to participate in the meeting convened and sponsored by him from September 18-22. As the General Secretary, I participated in the Group Discussion representing the Baptists and NEI. I shared the issues of Violence against the North East people in Delhi and other Mega cities in India and the discrimination on NE people in many ways especially the racial discrimination. This Meeting of the Diverse Spiritual Traditions was for *Promoting Human Values & Inter-religious Harmony* at Delhi. Christian participation was good where His Eminence Oswald cardinal Gracias of the Catholic Church, Dr. Paul Dinakaran from Jesus Calls Ministry, Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas from CBCI also were included among the main speakers.

The participants recognize India's ancient civilizational heritage celebrating the diversity of spiritual and religious traditions that enrich each other through dialogue, while still retaining their own individual characteristics and practices; also recognize that the altruism, self-discipline and compassion are common to all faiths and that they are the bedrock of the shared future of our diverse local communities and inter-dependent world; acknowledge that our own happiness and progress is dependent on that of others. The participants appreciate that religious harmony is imperative for the social and economic development of our diverse peoples and commend the diversity and the shared values that unite us as a continually secular country that is inclusive and enriches us all. As the outcome of the Meeting a declaration was drafted and adopted by the

participants.

Other Meetings:

On September 4, I attended the Satribari Christian Hospital Board Meeting and from September 7-12, I could attend Executive Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Baptist Churches in India at Hyderabad. On September 17, I also attended the Shillong Tyranus Hall Board Meeting.

Official Visit to Constituents:

I was able to visit NBCC Headquarters for the first time on August 19, and had meeting with the General Secretary and staff of NBCC. I was honored with gift and had meaningful discussion on the hosting of the India Mission Summit by the NBCC.

Next day that is on August 20, I proceeded to Kyong Baptist Ekhumkhu Sanrayotsu (KBES), Vangkhosung, Wokha, for a brief meeting with the Rev.Chibemo Kithan and with the Principal of Whitter Theological College. I also discussed about the Assam-Nagaland Border conflict.

Then I visited Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM), and Impur Christian Hospital on August 20-21. I had a meeting with the Executive Secretary and staff of ABAM where I and my wife were honored with gifts and had breakfast fellowship with the Impur Christian Hospital (ICH) Chairperson and Staff at the hospital. We discussed about how the ICH management will be handed over by CBCNEI to the ABAM at the earliest possible.

On my way back to Guwahati, I visited Shalom Bible Seminary and stayed for the night on August 21. I was also able to have a breakfast fellowship with the Pro-Chancellor of NECU, Mr. Huzo Mero. We discussed about how we can raise fund for the project.

India Mission Summit:

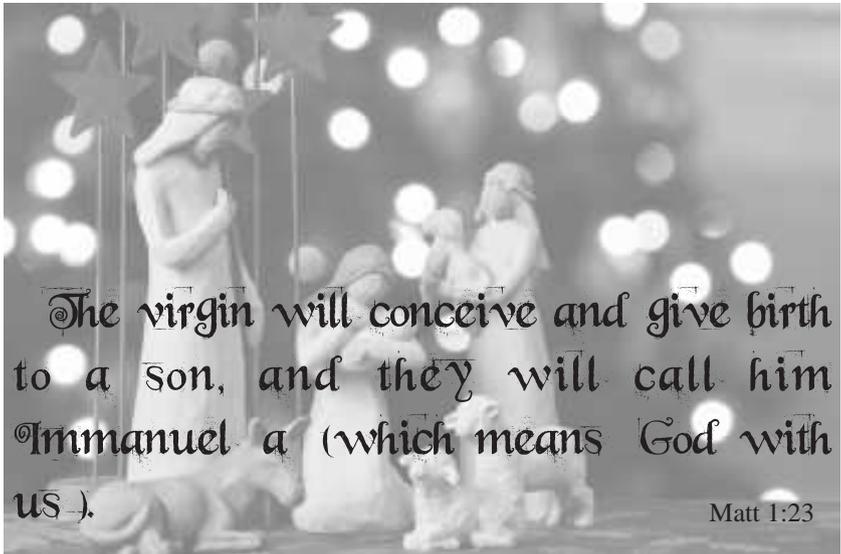
The India Mission Summit, the celebration of 175 years of Baptist ministries in India and as a Regional Celebration of the 200 Anniversary of the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches from October 2-5, organized by the American Baptist Churches together with 13 partners, hosted by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council at Kohima on behalf of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). As a whole I believe it was a grand success and many have been blessed by this celebration. The theme, “*Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future*” based on Revelation 21: 1-3, was befitting for the historic event. Many problems and issues that our churches and people are facing today have been discussed and a declaration was adopted by the Summit for all the partner organizations and churches to follow it up for implementation.

Prior to the Summit partner leaders gathered together at Hotel Vivor for briefing for the smooth running of the Summit. We also visited the NBCC Convention Centre after the meeting with the Committee Local Arrangement (COLA) . I really admire the hard work done by the COLA members and express my heartiest thanks and gratitude to the NBCC leadership particularly the Rev. Dr. Anjo Keikung, General Secretary, NBCC and the Rev. Keviekiele Linyu, the Coordinator of the Summit for their enthusiasm and tirelessly working hard for the success of the Summit. I must also mention that it was the initiative and hard work of the Rev. Dr. S. L. Benjamin Chan, Area Director for East Asia and India that this Summit could be organized at Kohima fruitfully.

Right after the Summit, I to visit the Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention where Rev. Darrell and Mr. Randy from the South

Dakotas, USA visited Diphu, Karbi Anglong from October 7-9. Together with Ms. Connie Gates, Special Assistant for BIM to Jamkhed, visited our hospital at JCMC, Jorhat. While I had my ETC Board meeting, Connie visited the Community Health Centre in Jorhat District on October 10. Connie also visited Satribari Christian Hospital, Bapupara Christian Hospital and Tura Christian Hospital promoting Community Health Care.

In conclusion I want to thank Dr. Kavito Zhimomi, the President of CBCNEI, for all his valuable advice and guidance during the last few months of my ministry. I must also thank all my colleagues for their kind cooperation and suggestions in all my doings. I am also thankful to all my staff for their cooperation and support without them my work as the General Secretary will never be successful. Last but not the least; I thank God, once again, for granting me the grace, strength and wisdom to carry out all my responsibilities.



A Strategic Five Year Planning

Initiative by Dr. Solomon Rongpi,
General Secretary, CBCNEI

My Vision- Mission Statement and Strategic Planning

“Transformation of North East India through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Mission Statement

1. Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) aim to participate and contribute in the Global Church to work towards fulfilling of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through Mission and Evangelism and for unity, justice and peace by networking with the national and international communities/organizations.
2. Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) to be a resource for all the associate conventions in capacity building of leaders to enable them to participate in the holistic mission of God.
3. Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) to focus on holistic education through the North East Christian University (NECU) and inculcate Christian values in the secular world and render health services through its mission hospitals.

15 Point Five Year Strategic Development Programs 2014-2019

A. Mission and Evangelism

1. Organize and facilitate Mission and Evangelism consultations, workshops, training, conferences and seminars for developing deeper commitment
2. Facilitate and assist churches in sending out missionaries to the neighboring countries and help develop a wider vision for missions.

B. Spiritual and Ministry Development

3. Organize and facilitate spiritual development seminars/conferences/VBS through sponsorships, engagements and partnerships with other mission agencies.
4. Establish a worship resource center to provide training to develop and train worship leaders
5. To strengthen the students' ministry in Guwahati and Shillong for providing Christian discipline by providing sound Christian moral teachings in the hostels.

C. Relationship Building

6. Periodically organize CBCNEI-Conventions/Associations relationship enhancement programs for greater mutual understanding and cooperation.
7. Networking and developing partnerships with other Christian organizations in NEI, national and international level that ultimately benefits CBCNEI churches.

D. Revival and Restructuring

8. Reviving and re-introducing the youth and women's ministry departments and launching triennial youth and women's conferences.

9. Enhancing the department for Peace, Social justice, Social empowerment and humanitarian services to address various pertinent issues and needs of our society. This may lead to the formation of the Relief and Development wing of the Council which is a long felt need.

E. Leadership Development

10. To build effective leadership in the churches. The Eastern Theological College to be strengthened and developed to be a model and the-state-of-the-art theological college in the NE in India.

F. Facilities Development

11. To upgrade and develop self-reliant projects in the CBCNEI headquarter such as guest house, commercial buildings, canteen, convention centre etc. Upgrading the existing facilities to higher standards both in terms of infrastructural facilities and services is our immediate aim.

G. Educational Development

12. To develop the recently launched North East Christian University to meet with growing demands of quality education in the NE India.

13. Work towards up-gradation and develop Tura Baptist Mission hospital to a state-of-the-art mission hospital with a long term aim of establishing a Christian Medical College.

H. Communication and Information Development

14. Developing a digital information system of CBCNEI related information for effective data management and working environment.

15. To enhance CBCNEI information dissemination system by increasing frequency, quality and circulation of both website and printed magazines of CBENEI.

Program Priorities for 2015-16

The first priorities that I would want us to focus for the year 2015-16 are as follows:

1. Relationship Building - Periodically organize CBCNEI-Conventions/Associations relationship enhancement programs for greater mutual understanding and cooperation. Networking and developing partnerships with other Christian organizations in NEI, national and international level that ultimately benefits CBCNEI churches.
2. Educational Development - To develop the recently launched North East Christian University to meet with growing demands of quality education in the NE India.
3. Facilities Development - To upgrade and develop self-reliant projects in the CBCNEI headquarter such as guest house, commercial buildings, canteen, convention centre etc. Upgrading the existing facilities to higher standards both in terms of infrastructural facilities and services should be our immediate aim.
4. Leadership Development - To build effective leadership in the churches. The Eastern Theological College to be strengthened and developed to be a model and the-state-of-the-art theological college in the NE in India.



He will save His people from their sins

*Alex Haokip, CBCNEI sponsored theologian
M.Th (communication), MTS, Madurai*



December is the time where we as christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Keeping in mind the occasion I wanted to share with the Baptist family some of my views on Christmas. I arranged certain thoughts that arose in my mind. Hence I prayed to the Lord and He inspired to write this down and share in the Baptist News. I believe you will be blessed through this simple article.

In the 21st verse of the first chapter of Mathew's gospel, we read ***“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*** We see that these words were spoken by the angel of God. The second half of the verse says ***“for He will save His people from their sins.”*** From this we understand that the purpose of the birth of Jesus in this world is to deliver the people who have been bound by sins and iniquities and who could not save themselves and who have been struggling in this world. So Christmas means a festival of redemption (Salvation). We should never forget that people should be cleansed of their sins. When we are getting ready to celebrate Christmas this year, how many of us can say that we have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is a sad truth that many of those who organize Christmas programs in their towns and churches

are not cleansed. Such celebrations turn to be sheer formal ones and not a celebration of redemption.

How many of the younger generation of the christian society can boldly declare that Jesus is the Savior. Many cannot make that declaration. These people are nominal christians as they have not accepted Jesus Christ. There are even pastors and leaders of churches in this condition. They may have forgotten the purpose of the birth of Jesus Christ. They should accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Otherwise they would be removed from their position. This is going to happen in our country very soon. Many people are confused about 'being cleaned' and 'being saved.' It is because you have not heard sermons about sin and judgement in the churches. The present generation has heard plenty of sermons on salvation, anointing and holiness in churches or in meetings.

I wish to explain very briefly to these people about salvation. Imagine that there is an unhealed wound in our body troubling us for a long period. When we go to a doctor for treatment, he/she would not merely bandage the wound and send us home. Instead he/she would get the puss out of it, clean it properly, apply medicine and dress the wound. In the same way the soul of a person who has not been saved would also give a stinking smell. It may not be known to the outside world. But they themselves can certainly feel it. The first thing that they should do is to fully submit to remove all dirt & smell from their life. The Bible says ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*** (1 John 1:9). In this verse, the apostle has written very clearly what a man or woman should do in order to be cleansed. If you succeed in getting cleansed you will be filled by the joy of everlasting peace in your life time given by God. This state of happiness is called salvation, being saved from

destruction. Any human who has not yet received salvation cannot call himself/herself a true Christian. The Bible says, ***“Behold I was brought forth iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me”*** (Ps. 51:5). To any pastor or religious head, the basis of Christianity is salvation. Only those people who have been saved are fit to receive baptism. It is said in **Acts 2:47** ***“the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*** When there is revival in the nation, churches will be established. People will receive baptism. It is because we read ***“He (Jesus) will save His people from their sins.”*** The purpose of the birth of Jesus Christ is thus fulfilled only by those who have been saved. Then those who are eligible to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ are also those who have understood the glory of His birth and accepted as for their salvation. Thus the birth of Christ is a festival of redemption or salvation from the sinful lives of human beings over the universe.

It is indeed painful to hear that in several spiritual churches, this festival of salvation is being ignored these days in the contemporary world. In the previous years, it does not seem that spiritual churches celebrated this great occasion. But many spiritual churches have started to celebrate this day in their churches. Our desire is that all the churches should consider it a special day and celebrate it because all the members of these churches have been saved by Jesus Christ.

What does God expect from these people who have been saved in this Christmas season? How should such people behave? When the four leprous men entered the gate of the camp of the Syrians, they ate and drank and carried silver, gold and clothing left by the Syrians. But they felt that they had not been doing the right thing and they said ***“We are not doing what is right.” This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning***

light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, “come, let us go and tell the king’s household” (II Kings 7:9). When they informed this to the king, the Israelites went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seal of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two seals of barley for shekel according the word of the Lord. Here the four leprous men satisfied themselves and remembered those who had been hungry for several days and they also felt that waiting until morning would be sinful. If that is so, what are the served Christians doing? This Christmas season shouldn’t we also run towards those who are in need? Think about it my dear fellow brothers and sisters. If you are not saved come to Jesus and He will save you I assure you of this and if you are saved do as Christ did for...”Go and serve.”



And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:6

Half Yearly Report of the Mission Department

Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI

I take this opportunity to thank the Lord and the Council for giving me the privilege to serve Him through the Ministry of the Council. I am completing my five-year term service next April. I did not regret deciding to serve the Lord through the ministry of the Council. I have enjoyed working here though there were challenges in implementing some of the vision I had. If there was anything good accomplished, it is because of God's grace and the cooperation of the team, and if there is any failure it is because of my weakness.

I present to you a very brief report of the Mission Department beginning from May till October, 2014.

The Plan of Actions (POA) laid down by the Mission Board every year during Board meeting is carried out with all sincerity. With the help of the Secretariat, staff and fellow Board members, there has been hardly any action that is not implemented. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of them.

Research work:

It is almost a year now and the research work is still in

progress. The main objective of this research work is to have clearer picture of where our missionaries are working, and identify new mission fields where our churches are not working. This will also include the list of our partners and areas of their specialties so that our churches will be benefitted through our partnership. We plan to finish this research within this year.

Neighborhood Leadership Training:

Much importance was given to the Neighborhood ministry this year as we plan to handover the ministry to Assam Baptist Convention Mission Department. Leadership and Discipleship training was conducted three times in Barpeta to help new believers grow in maturity and become witnesses. Thirty nine needy families from Barpeta, Dhuburi and Kokharjar were helped by giving them she-goats to enhance their family income. During this period 23 adults received believers' baptism.

Pre-field and infield Missionary training Program:

A five days training on relearning and unlearning for both in field and pre field missionaries was organized to equip them better for greater impact in mission fields. ***Who are you? And What are you doing?*** were the two questions put forth on the opening day of the training program. All together 37 missionaries from various Associations working in different parts of India and some from neighboring countries participated in the training program. Mr. Awor Tuithung and Steve Johnson were the resource persons. Apart from the resources person, the participants also had the privilege of listening to Mrs. Achila Imchen, one of the participants, who shared on facilitative approach on questioning skills in storytelling. The training dealt on the techniques of Oral Inductive Bible Study (OIBS), Bible storytelling, Shepherding the sheep, and Imperatives of

Discipline. Group discussions and practical demonstrations were the daily activities of the training. In line with the teachings of the resource persons, each individual were given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Testimonies from the participants spoke volumes as they shared it was worth investing time, money and energy for this training. Certificates were given to all the participants on the last day of the program.

Global Missionary Training Program:

In partnership with other mission agencies, the CBCNEI Mission Department conducted Global Missionary Training Program from November 9 to December 16. Altogether 12 missionary candidates and 2 mission leaders participated in the training program. The training was conducted in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Subjects covered in the training include:

1. CROSS-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT TRAINING
2. LECTURESHIP ON MISSIONS
3. FIELD EXPOSURES & RESEARCH ON MISSIONS

This is one important training CBCNEI conducts every year for its member churches to prepare their missionaries who are willing to go for cross cultural mission.

Special Visitation Program:

Being aware of Kyong (Lotha) Baptist Churches Association as one of the largest Associations under NBCC, and not having fulltime Mission department at the Association level and yet churches are greatly involved in Mission and Evangelism, in consultation with Rev. Andrew Semp, the Director of NMM, along with my staff, I visited the Association and met the Executive Secretary, Rev M. C. Kithan and his staff. During the meeting they were

encouraged to organize Mission Consultation to strengthen the Mission work of the churches through the Association. The importance of streamlining of mission at the Association level was highlighted. They were also encouraged to appoint a Mission Secretary and help churches in their mission work as the churches are sending missionaries to different parts of India. This development was highlighted to the NMM Director for further encouragement and help.

Mission Consultation:

In partnership with Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention, a Mission consultation for Nijang Karbi Baptist Association, was organized from October 17-19.

Student Ministry:

Under the leadership of the Chaplains, the student ministry of the Council is doing well. Through this ministry, the students have the opportunity to attend Bible camps, vesper services, theological lectures, Bible studies, and games and sports. This year a good number of applicants applied, however, due to limited seats, we were not able to accommodate them all. The enrolment of students in each hostel is given below:

Sl. No	Name of Hostel	Chaplain	Fresh Student	Total Student
1	White Memorial	Mrs Bendangla Jamir	24	54
2	Lewis Memorial	Mr Talimoa Jamir	29	57
3	Tyrannus Hall	Rev K. C. Gaila	15	30

New Chaplain for WMH:

The committee interviewed five candidates and found all of them to be very qualified and experienced. However, from among them, a name has been proposed who, the committee believed to be the best candidate for the ministry to the female students.

Children Ministry:

The Council Children ministry was able to support financially 26 churches in their Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. Thousands of children are benefitted through this program and many children accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior during the VBS. As part of children ministry we are also planning to organize special program for street children here in Guwahati during Christmas.



He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



John 1:10-13



CHRISTMAS GIFT!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”(John 3:16)

Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI

If you are disappointed with your life for not having enough, God has already given you the greatest gift that meets every need in your life: His Son Jesus Christ. God did not send His Son, but He gave His Son. That is a big difference. Jesus did not come as some diplomatic visitor, but came as a lamb to be sacrificed for our sin. The day God decided to “Give His Son” to the world for the remission of sin is the beginning of God’s plan for Christmas.

“For God”

That simply tells us that God is the giver of the gift. He is the greatest Father; the Father who had to give the Son because He so loved the world. That is God’s great love for us.

“So loved”

God gave the gift because He loved. This is the greatest love. Love is the motivation for this gift. The motivation for the gift is not our need, although we have a lot of needs. It was God’s love for us and His care that He Gave.

The word “so loved” means He loved to an infinite degree; you cannot imagine and cannot measure. Why should God love the people of this world so much?

“the world”

He gave this gift not just to you and me alone, not just to the church, but God gave this gift to the entire world. It is a worldwide message that *God so loved the world.*

“He gave”

The love of God for us is so great that He decided to give His son - that is the greatest gift. He did not send His son for some mission and return home before something happen. But He was given to die for our sin. And God gave His Son to the entire world.

“His Only Son”

This is the greatest sacrifice in the history; that God had to send His only begotten son. Not many of us will be willing to sacrifice our son for the sake of others. But God did for you and me because we are special to Him being created in His image.

“that whoever”

This is the greatest invitation. One half of the equation of salvation is the fact that God gave. The other half is that you and I must receive that gift. The offer is for the entire world, and for anybody “Whoever” is willing to receive it.

“believes in Him”

This is the greatest commitment on our part to “Believe” in Him. That is what it is all about. We do not receive Christ when we come to church. We do not receive Christ when we start reading the Bible. We receive when we trust Jesus Christ: trusting Him for the forgiveness of our sins, trusting His blood can wash my sin.

Before I become a follower, I must believe in Jesus Christ in order to receive salvation into my life. After I become a believer, I must believe in Jesus Christ in order to enjoy that salvation in my life. You cannot get rid of this gift but sometimes you can stop enjoying the gift.

“will not perish”

The greatness of this gift is we are saved from eternal death. The fact is that we were headed for hell, not because God wanted us to, but because of our disobedience to, and our lack of relationship with Him. The promise is, “You will not perish if you believe in Him.”

“Everlasting life”

It is the Hope we have in Him when we believe; not perish but live with Him eternally.

Christmas is not necessarily a festival, but the time God sent the Greatest gift for humanity to have everlasting life. Do you already receive the Gift? Are you enjoying the gift God gave you?



Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14



A Brief Report of the Healing Ministry of CBCNEI



(From May 2014 to August 2014)

Dr Lucita Momin, Medical Secretary, CBCNEI

It is with great pleasure that I present a brief report of healing ministry of CBCNEI. I thank God for this opportunity to serve Him through CBCNEI as Medical Secretary. God has brought each one of us to-gather to be united and to serve Him as CBCNEI family; it's not our own but its God's will that we should be together for His glory. I am indebted to the members of CBCNEI Medical Board and also to the Staff of CBCNEI office.

I know I am a fragile human being in my limitation. I have no knowledge or strength or wisdom to carry on these responsibilities but I believe that God has brought me to this moment and He will carry me through. Your support and cooperation will help me to carry on and I will try my best to take these huge responsibilities which is entrusted to me.

I joined CBCNEI office on May 12, 2014. Since then I am trying my best to learn how a Medical Secretary work -

which is very new to me. I have gone through the files and learning day by day with the help of my colleague - Mr. Pawan Bhuyan - Property Secretary, Mr. Vikato Shikhu - Finance Secretary, Mr. Atungo Shitri - Justice and Peace Secretary, Rev Dr Jolly Rimai - Mission Secretary also not forgetting Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi - General Secretary. I am very grateful to them for their help. Also I am grateful to Mr Rabin Basumatary, Mrs Meera Areng, Mr Siamliana Khiangte (whom we call Moon) they are a great help to me.

CBCNEI healing ministry has completed 106 years from the very beginning and the honor goes to Tura Christian Hospital as the oldest Institution. We have come a long way with our ups and downs. The road was not smooth. It is jerky and painful. Some faithful and dedicated workers (from Doctors and Nursing dept.) have given their lifelong service and beyond it. We salute them and we are thankful to God for their life.

Earlier the mission hospitals were a complete learning institution - when we go through the medical dictionary - the Health is defined as complete physical, spiritual, mental and social well being by World Health Organization (WHO). From the Bible, it is clear that God is concerned about the whole human being and all his/her needs. The approach of the Institution must reflect this holistic action to represent God's intentions.

For the last 10-15 years, I have seen mission hospital changing drastically. Unfortunately most of us have lost our mission and vision. We forgot why we are working at mission hospital. It's time now for all of us to wake up and do the work for which God has called us. The world is watching every move we make. We may not have many specialist/ super specialist/ instruments to compete with the corpo-

rate world. But I believe with Christ love we can overcome all the problems.

After I joined CBCNEI, I have visited only three (3) Institutions - Jorhat Christian Medical Centre (JCMC), Impur Christian Hospital (ICH) and Babupara Christian Hospital (BCH).

1. Jorhat Christian Medical Centre (JCMC)- is now 90 (ninety) years old. It has a big compound. Initially there were 3 (three) division - a) General Hospital, b) T.B. Sanatorium, c) Leprosy Colony. But slowly, all the three merged together in the present hospital area. There are many changes now. We are marching day after day without any destination. How far can we go?

Compared to previous years JCMC is doing fine in financial area. There are lots of consultant and contract doctors but only two or three regular medical officer. When we depend more in contract doctors there is also every chance of sudden collapsing of the institution. We need to think for tomorrow. Dr. Esther needs more support for the big responsibilities and I pray that surely God will bless her abundantly and help her to carry on the responsibilities.

Here I would like to say a big thank you to Dr. C. Lawrence for his dedication and tireless work. His planning and vision for tomorrow has enable JCMC to stand erect and keep the head held high up. Financially today JCMC is in good position. Long time need of Nursing School's rooms is fulfilled this time. Indian Nursing Council (INC) has recognized the school after two years of suffering. Now with a new principal, the school is running well. JCMC authorities need more planning to retain the skilled staff and also must have planning to raise skilled person from the unskilled staff if there are anyone who are willing to go for training instead of hiring from outside.

When I compare from

	April 2013	March 2014
OPD	1/4%	2%
Inpatient	2%	1/4%
Income	1/4%	2%
Profit	1/4%	2%

Income increased in 2014.

Few Suggestions:

- JCMC can think for NICU in a broader way.
- Think for Dialysis centre as ICU is there.
- Need to withdraw the Auto stand from Canteen area. Shift to the main gate side (outside main boundary).
- Need for a Guest House.
- Nurses need to be more disciplined as I have noticed in ICU nurses sitting in the patient's bed. ICU needs to be cleaned properly.
- According to number of beds in ICU more ventilators is needed.
- Need for improvement of nursing care to look for a whole person care instead of only looking as patient. A homely atmosphere is needed more.

2. Impur Christian Hospital (ICH): I visited ICH on July 17. ICH is situated at the top of the hill with beautiful greenery and flowers and fruit trees. But unfortunately there is no patient. Dr. Bendang Ao the only lone doctor, along with the Chairman, Rev. Jongpong and few people from Impur are trying their best to survive the hospital in whatever way they can. With their help only National Rural Health

Mission (NRHM) has come forward to help financially by giving salary for one doctor and two Auxiliary Nurses Mid-wifery (ANM) and aslo one General Nursing Midwifery(GNM) staff. An Ambulance for the use of the hospital was also donated by SBI-Mokokchung. Dr. Bendang Ao is also doing community service successfully by organizing many health camp, free dental camp, and free cataract surgery camp, where medicine and spectacles were distribution for free and surgery was done for free. He is planning for a hearing aid camp and a blood donation camp. With the great responsibilities in his shoulder I can only say a big thank you and pray that God will always take care of him and will bless him with wisdom and strength so that he can grow day by day in the years to come.

Diagnostic Centre which is situated in Mokokchung is doing well. Though I have not seen it I hope and pray that surely God will continue to bless all the staff and lead them according to His will.

	April 2013	March 2014
OPD	¼%	2%
Inpatient	¼%	2%
Receipts	¼%	2%
Expenses	Do	Do
Profit/Loss	0	0

In 2014 there is an increase in income.

3. Babupara Christian Hospital (BCH): An Institute, which is running quite well in spite of not having a regular doctor. It is situated between Assam and Meghalaya border. At present there is one Doctor, Dr. John Richi N. Sangma an ophthalmologist, who comes to BCH on Thursday for OPD

and continues till Friday whenever there is an eye surgery. Along with the eye patients, Dr. Sangma also examines general patients including both adult and children not forgetting delivery case also. He has done a tremendous job by improving the whole hospital setup. There is a new Delivery Room and Eye OT Room with tiles, a shade for people to sit and wait; also a generator and a small canteen from where attendant can have food and tea. We are very grateful to him for his tireless and dedicated work. We pray that Lord will continue to bless him and guide him to grow from strength to strength.

	April 2013	March 2014
OPD	1¼%	2%
Inpatient	1¼%	2%
Receipts	1¼%	2%
Expenses	2%	1¼%
Profit	1¼%	2%

Increased in income in 2014.

4. Kangpokpi Christian Hospital (KCH): KCH is also situated at the top of a hill like ICH. Is has a beautiful view, cool weather and a small spring which runs behind the Medical Superintendent’s bungalow. For few years this hospital was deserted. But with God’s blessing now there is a Surgeon, Dr. T. Hatzaw from Churachandpur, on contract basis. Since his joining KCH has improved in terms of OPD patients as well as indoor patient also. Financially they have improved. CBCNEI is grateful to him for giving his time to improve the hospital. We pray that God will bless him abundantly so that he will become more fruitful day by day. Study from the Medical Board report shows:

	April 2013	March 2014
OPD	1/4%	2%
Inpatient	2%	1/4%
Receipts	1/4%	2%
Expenses	Do	Do
Profit/Loss	Nil	Nil

There is increase in income than the previous years.

5. Tura Christian Hospital (TCH): TCH is situated in the heart of the town. It is filled with greenery and beautiful location. But unfortunately it is also struggling in terms of human-power. But although less in number especially in terms of doctors and nurses, they are still working hard to keep the hospital running. The sincerity of the Medical Superintendent and her staff help them to survive through many difficulties. We are happy to know that the State Bank of India (SBI), Tura branch has donated few medical equipments which are needed in the hospital. May God bless her and the staffs so that they will grow in their faith together and carry on the responsibilities that they have in their shoulders. Can TCH think for an ICU? is the next challenge put forward to her team.

	April 2013	March 2014
OPD	2%	1/4%
Inpatient	1/4%	2%
Receipts	1/4%	2%
Expenses	Do	Do
Profit/Loss	Nil	Nil

Comparison shows there is a slight difference in the numbers of inpatients and income in 2014.

Medical Sponsorship: The present status of the students who are studying under CBCNEI sponsorship are as follows:

CMC Vellore:

Name	Course	Year of completion
1. Miss Abigail Resu	MBBS	2013-14
2. Mr. K. Marilio	MBBS	2014-15
3. Mr. Niyor Dutta	MBBS	2015-16
4. Miss Chavini K. Shaozae	MBBS	2016-17
5. Miss Joice Muchahary	MBBS	2017-18
6. Miss Kajini Rebecca	MBBS	2018-19
7. Mr. Tokato X. Yeptho	MBBS	2018-19

CMC Ludhiana:

Name	Course	Year of completion
8. Miss Althea S. Wotsa	MBBS	2015-16

Dr. Priyanka Medhi, one of our students has joined JCMC and now she is working at JCMC. With the initiative of Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou, CMC Ludhiana has conducted their entrance test for the first time at L. M. Hostel auditorium, CBCNEI, Guwahati. We had observer Dr. Dheeraj K. V. from CMC, Ludhiana and Mr. Pawan Bhuyan as co-ordinator from CBCNEI, Guwahati. We had around 49 candidates, who are

called for written test. Only 2 candidates were selected and called for final interview at CMC, Ludhiana but unfortunately both were not qualified for the admission. Out of 4 sits at CMC, Ludhiana, we could not get any student this year at Ludhiana.

Representation of CBCNEI: Till today, Mr. Pawan Bhuyan and Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou are representing CBCNEI in CMC, Vellore and Ludhiana. On behalf of CBCNEI I express our appreciation to Mr. Pawan Bhuyan and Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou for their time and energy. There is also a need for representatives in CMAI.

Financial Reports and the Minutes of the ADMC from Hospitals: still continue to be irregular. Can the institution be more alert and more responsive towards the Medical Board's decision? All the five institutions should not forget that they belong to CBCNEI and they have a responsible towards CBCNEI by way of reporting to CBCNEI about the condition of the hospital, what various efforts are being under taken by the ADMC to improve the hospitals and also the financial reports.

In the end I would like to say a big thank you to all the CAO/CEO, Medical Superintendent, Nursing superintendent and also to Principal of Nursing School for their sincere and dedicated work. Also a special big thank you to all the Nurses without whom a Mission Hospital cannot survive. Personally I appeal to all the Churches/Associations/Conventions to give a fresh look at the Mission Hospitals healing ministry, because the person who needs your prayer and supports, your encouragement and your loving words and touch and affection are in the hospitals where they are struggling with life and pain. Are you ready with your helping hand?



A Strange Way to Save the World

(I Corinthians 1:27-31)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI

God's ways are not our ways. He chose to save the world in a way that would bring glory to Him and not to us. This message will help us understand that God's view of strength is vastly different than ours and that it will require genuine faith to believe in God's plan to save the world. When the world needs to be saved, who do you call on? You call on a superhero. Superheroes are in the business of saving the world. When we think of superheroes we think those characters that are larger than life. They leap tall buildings in a single bound. They can be invisible. They can fly. Criminals are terrorized by their presence. They seem to be indestructible. When we think of superheroes, words like humble, gentle, and loving don't come to mind. We want someone who is powerful and dynamic to save the world.

Well, make no mistake the world is certainly in need of saving. The world that was created by God was beautiful. It was a perfect paradise. But God, in His infinite wisdom and incredible love for us gave us the gift of free will. Man could chose to obey God and live in paradise, or he could chose to rebel against God, rejecting Him and cursing the world, God had lovingly created for him. And man, through

Adam and Eve, chose to rebel. The result is that the world we live in is cursed. Sin dominates our world and with it come disease, hatred, war, pain, suffering and selfishness. The world is broken and is need of a savior. We would think that God would choose to save the world through a powerful, charismatic leader who could wield power wisely and crush God's enemies.

But God doesn't work the way we do. God's ways are not the same as our ways and we don't always understand His methods. Rather than sending a powerful hero into the world, He sent a defenseless baby. But God always has done things a little bit backwards from how we would do them. God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world; things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important, so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave Himself to purchase our freedom. As the Scriptures say, "***The person who wishes to boast should boast only of what the Lord has done***" (I Cor. 1:27-31 (NLT)).

A baby that would grow up and be executed for crimes he didn't commit. Jesus, born of a poor virgin for the purpose of dying for a world that would reject him; that was God's plan for saving the world. That's a strange way to save the world. As we begin the Christmas season, let's explore God's plan for saving the world. It's a strange way to save the world, but it's the only way that would work. Let's consider why God chose to send Jesus as a baby rather than a superhero to save the world.

1. Superheroes are larger than life ... Jesus is HUMBLE.

You'd think that if the world needed saving, God would have sent someone who was larger than life. Someone you couldn't ignore when they walked into the room or when they made their way through the middle of town like Batman. If the world needs saving, you want someone who is larger than life to handle the job.

But God chose not to send a hero who was larger than life. God doesn't operate the way we would. God knew a larger than life hero couldn't get the job done. So, instead, He sent a baby. That's right. God sent a baby, not a superhero to save the world. And not only did he send a baby, but He sent a baby to a family so poor, so unassuming, a family in such humble circumstances that they couldn't even find a room in a local motel for the baby to be born. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:4-7 (NIV). God's way of saving the world didn't involve a superhero who was larger than life. God's plan, strange as it may seem, involved a baby born in a barn and laid to rest in the feed trough of the farm animals. This seems like a strange way to save the world.

Jesus, God's Son and God's plan for saving the world, was not some larger than life character. He didn't enter the world as a larger than life hero. Jesus was humble in nature. Jesus entered the world through humble circumstances and he lived his life in humility. Jesus declares to us in Matt.

11:29, ***“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*** Jesus was humble. He did nothing to draw the world’s attention to him, but he did everything to draw the world’s attention to his Father. And he calls us to do the same. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Phil. 2:3-8). Jesus was God. He was God who chose to take on human flesh and become one of us and submit Himself to the will of His Father and die the humiliating death of crucifixion so that we might be made right with God. The world needed saving but rather than send a hero who was larger than life, God send His son, Jesus, as a baby; humbly born to die a humble death that would save the world. That’s a strange way to save the world. Superheroes are larger than life...Jesus is humble. God’s method for saving the world was strange in another way...

2. Superheroes are overpowering...Jesus is GENTLE.

You’d think that when God decided to save the world He’d send a hero who was overpowering like Superman. Sin is a powerful thing. It has destroyed so many lives. We, in and of ourselves, are powerless against sin. We don’t have the power it takes to defeat sin, so you’d think that God would send a hero that was overpowering. But God chose not to send a hero that was overpowering. God chose to send us Jesus, who is humble and gentle. Look at Matthew 11 with me again, ***“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”***(Matt. 11:29 (NIV)). When Jesus

enters Jerusalem the week before he is crucified - the Triumphal Entry he is identified as Israel's Messiah through this verse from Matt. 21:5 ***“See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*** Jesus was the perfect example of gentleness. His response to a broken and sinful world was to gently restore that which was broken. He took a strange way to save the world.

Often we misunderstand gentleness. We have a tendency to associate gentleness with weakness. We often believe that if someone is gentle, then they are weak. Christ was gentle, but he was not weak. The power of God was very real in his life and ministry. The miracles he performed were powerful. His ability to endure the cross when he could have rejected it, speaks of his power. His resurrection and triumph over death clearly reveal his power. Jesus was powerful, not weak, but he knew how to wield that power with a gentle touch. Super heroes overpower their enemies, but Jesus saves the world through true gentleness. The world needed saving, but rather than send a hero who was overpowering, God sent his son, the gentle shepherd to lead us and guide us into salvation. That's a strange way to save the world. Superheroes are overpowering...Jesus is gentle. God's method for saving the world was strange in yet another way.

3. Superheroes display mighty acts...Jesus displays LOVE.

You'd think that when the world needed saving, God would send a superhero who could display mighty acts like a Superman. But God chose to send His son who, though he could display mighty acts, instead displayed love. Every miracle Jesus did was a mighty act, but each time it was done in order to display his love. Time and time again Jesus was moved by love and compassion to heal the sick. When

he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:36). Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him (Matt. 20:34). Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man (Mark 1:41). His miracles were acts of love for the world he came to save. Probably the most well known verse in the Bible is John 3:16, which tells us of God's love. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). The ultimate display of his love for us is his death upon the cross. That death is what saved the world, defeating sin and bridging the gap between God and man. Superheroes display mighty acts but God did better. He displayed the mightiest act of all, an act of absolute love, the act of allowing his Son to die in our place to pay for our sins. The world needed saving, but rather than send a hero who displayed mighty acts, God sent his Son, who displayed for us genuine love. That's a strange way to save the world. Superheroes display mighty acts...Jesus displays love. God's method for saving the world was strange in one more way...

4. Superheroes offer punishment...Jesus offers FORGIVENESS.

Most superheroes offer punishment to evil doers. Superheroes offer punishment. You'd think that when God wanted to save the world he'd send a hero who would punish those who were doing wrong. He'd want someone who could offer the severest punishment and judgment possible so that they could pay for ruining his beautiful world. But instead God offered forgiveness. We read in John 3:17, ***"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."***

Somewhere along the line we have developed the idea that God sent Jesus to punish the sinners of the world. But God sent Jesus to save the world, not to condemn it. Jesus didn't come to offer punishment, he came to offer forgiveness. God does punish no question. There are those who will reject the forgiveness offered by God and will refuse to accept the invitation to a relationship with God and if they are still in their rebellion when they die they will spend eternity separated from God, punished in hell. But Jesus didn't come to bring punishment; he came to offer forgiveness to each and every one of us. His death upon the cross took the place of our punishment. His death paid for our sins so that we could come to God and experience the love and mercy and forgiveness he offers to us. The world needed saving, but rather than send a hero who would offer punishment, God sent his Son, who offers us forgiveness. That's a strange way to save the world. Superheroes offer punishment...Jesus offers love.

Conclusion

There's little question that, due to sin, the world needed saving. And God in His infinite love and mercy chose to save the world rather than destroy it. But He sure chose a strange way to save the world. If it were up to most of us to save the world, we'd send a superhero who was larger than life, who was overpowering, who displayed mighty acts and who would offer true punishment to those deserving it. That's what superheroes would do to save the world. But God had a better plan. He sent his only son to humbly and gently love us and forgive us.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, what I want you to take away from this message are two things: first, I want you to realize that God works in ways that are different than we would work. He has the big picture in mind and if God could use

a simple baby to save the world, strange as it may be, then when He works in our lives in ways that don't make sense, we can still trust Him. After all, He did save the world. God works in a mysterious way in our lives! Second, if we truly are striving to be like Christ and grow in our relationship with God, then we can learn a lot about how to deal with others, especially those who hurt and disappoint us, by looking at how God chose to save the world. We need to learn to be humble in dealing with others; we need to learn true gentleness in all of our relationships; we must learn to display love, even to those who don't deserve it and we must offer forgiveness. God chose a strange way to save the world, but it's the perfect pattern for building our relationships, which is what saving the world was really all about that, is God choosing to restore the broken relationship between us and God. Yes, God chose a strange way to save the world and we must be glad about it.



NEWS CLIPPINGS

Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Tripura Christian Fellowship, Guwahati (November 1-2)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, participated in the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Tripura Christian Fellowship, Guwahati at Patar Kuchi, Basistha, Guwahati. He was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Setsatsishu Sangtam. He preached on the theme: *Christ, the Hope of Ages* based on Eph. 2:12 in the Inaugural Service. On Nov 2, Rev P. Bonny Resu, General Secretary, Asian Pacific Bap-

tist Federation (APBF) preached at the main Celebration Service.

Serampore College Council (November 4-6)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, attended the Serampore College Council for the first time. It was a good and rich experience and getting to know of the administrative issues of the College.



Serampore College Council

North East India Congress n Church in Mission (NEICOCIM) organized by the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) (November 6-7)

The Council participated in the NEICOCIM organized by the EFI at CBCNEI Campus on the theme, *“Come over to Macedonia and help us”* based on Acts 16: 9. Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, brought greetings on behalf of the CBCNEI to all the participants of NEICOCIM.

Visit to Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) Kohima (November 12-13)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, visited the Nagaland Baptist Church Council to meet Dr. Anjo Keikung along with the Commission to meet him with regards to NECU Project along with Mr R. K. Raychawdhuri and Rev Dr Kavito Zhimomi.



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi bringing greetings during NEICOCIM



Delegates during the Pastors' workshop organized by KABC

Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention (KABC) Pastors' Workshop, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam (November 14-16)

The Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention organized a Pastors' Workshop for all its pastors. The General Secretary, (CBCNEI) Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi was invited to take up five sessions on Church Administration, Missions and other related topics.

Indigenous Theology Seminar at Eastern Theological College (ETC), Jorhat (November

18-21)

Eastern Theological College, SCEPTRE, Senate and the Clarke Centre for Peace Research and Action jointly organized an Indigenous Theology Seminar on the theme, *Doing Theology with Indigenous Peoples' Spirituality: Asian Contribution to Theology and Wider Ecumenism*, Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi delivered the Keynote address on Nov. 18.



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi with his keynote address



Graduation Program of the India Gospel Mission

Graduation Program of the India Gospel Mission (IGM) (November 22)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, spoke at the 11th Batch Graduation Program of the India Gospel Mission held at CBCNEI Campus. He spoke of the theme, *Guidelines for a Successful Graduates*. There were 10 graduates of the Discipleship and Leadership Training conducted for 3 months by IGM.

Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Workshop at Eastern Theological College (ETC), Jorhat (November 25-26)

Eastern Theological College organized a workshop on Conflict Transformation and Peace Building an initiation by the Peace Studies center. Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary gave the keynote address and he also spoke at their chapel service and visited Jorhat Christian Medical Centre (JCMC) on Nov. 26.



Half Yearly Report of Justice & Peace Department

(May 2014- October 2014)

Atungo Shitri, Secretary, Justice and Peace

1. Geneva Call Program at Chiangmai, Thailand, May

The Secretary attended a program organized by the Geneva call to encounter with human rights situation arising out of non state actors' violation (militant groups). The follow up of the program is ongoing. The Secretary is attempting to meet up with militant groups and educate them in the areas of international human right laws and international humanitarian laws.

2. Interfaith Dialogue and Reconciliation Program, Imphal, May

This consultation is a follow up of the April 2012 interfaith dialogue, which was held in Manipur University. The theme focused was on Reconciliation with broadened definition to include issues of religion, disability, gender, race and ethnicity, and class. In focusing on the theme, "***Interfaith Dialog and Reconciliation,***" the aim was to address the question of whether and how interfaith dialogue could help shape people's commitment toward reconciliation. The purpose of this year's conference was to contribute to the understanding and promoting of friendship and dialogue

among the diverse members of our society with different beliefs.

3. Christian Literature Center (CLC) Land Purchase, June

The Secretary went to Dimapur to help CLC finalize the land purchase for resource centre at Toluvi, Dimapur. This land is finally purchased after assessment and completing all legal requirements.

4. Christian Literature Center (CLC) Constitution and Service Rules, June-July

The Secretary was entrusted with the final revision of the CLC Constitution and service rule which is now completed.

5. Relief Assistance for victims of Karbi-Rengma Conflict, August

The Secretary, with the help of Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention (KABC), Nihang Karbi Baptist Churches Association (NKBCA), and Western Rengma Baptist Association (WRBA) with funding from International Mission (IM), North East India Christian Council (NEICC), Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF) and Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) conducted relief assistance to the victims of Karbi-Rengma conflict. Altogether 1035 affected families were given rice and salt as per their desire.

6. Consultation Meeting for the Assam- Nagaland Border Conflict, August

The Secretary invited Assam Baptist Convention (ABC), North East India Committee On Relief & Development (NEICORD), World Vision, Church's Auxiliary For Social Action (CASA) and Asian Rural Life Development Foundation (ARDLF) for a consultation to assess the situation and work on peace and reconciliation and rehabilitation program. Mr. Benard Marak, the Executive Secretary of the Kampur

Asomia Baptist Sobha (KABS) was entrusted to collect information and be part of the peace negotiation team to visit the affected areas and meet with the victims. A good will mission team visited the areas on September 25-26 to assess the situation and organize peace meetings on both side.

7. Solidarity Peace Prayer Visit to Assam-Nagaland Border, September

In order to show solidarity the peace committee decided a solidarity peace prayer fellowship visit to Nagaland- Assam border in between September 9-12 and to pray for them. The peace committee of the Council consists of Mr. Benard Marak, Rev Kari Longchar, Rev Amos Humtsoe, Mr Sukumar Momin and Mr Atungo Shitri visted Uriamghat in Asssam and Ralan, Nagaland and met the victims of the border strife. Prayer fellowships were conducted and shared the love and forgiveness of God to them.



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope, the warmth of Christmas grant you love.

How I win My Cherished Dream

Amal Dev, a Hindu convert from Guwahati Baptist Church

While I was deprived utmost as I went door to door,
I got a sense of bounding to the sea shore,
Of course I was being, under the grief expression,
Upon my honor I was succumbed into immense frustration.

Inwardly aimed on committing dip into the water,
Suddenly a divine voice starts humming in both ears,
Kept on buzzing “oh Darling” never lose heart,
And what leads me here to warn you, be alert,
Hey, you are victimized by lots of agony,
Unfairly cowardice gotta retreat your felony?
Shake it out and make it clear,
Let you know what and who you are?

Hence, go ahead and call-on a stronger one, who is holly
and buddy,
A compassionate else much steady.
I am fortunate enough since I grasp “Him” out,
So long, I had been in sought.

My pleasure awaits no bound taking “Him” for an
angel,
Any day, I placed the idol in my cardiac cell,
Since the day when I am graced and awaken,
I bade good-bye forever all the fright.
Gradually, I caught-up with the voice,
The invisible one starts penetrating, appearing as the
apex of my choice.

He is none but the LORD JESUS the lone-Savior,
Who prevails everywhere and every core.
I wanna yield to His feet at any cost,
Eternally, in order to make my host.



Is there a thing called **TRUTH?**

Rev. Boipu Serto, Former Youth Director (Manipur Baptist Convention Centre Church, Imphal)

Last year I read a book by Florence Bulle, “***The Many Faces of Deception***,” on discovering the real truth regarding the many controversies and teachings in the church. Florence resides in the US and worked as a clinical counsellor in a mental health clinic and wrote the book from her many years’ experienced as retreat and conference speaker. I’m not here to write a book review or dissect her book but a lot of things came into my mind on the word TRUTH. Surprisingly, this is what Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” This is the question I’m sure many are confused observing the scenario of our land and the church. Many times I asked myself - Is there truth in the news I’m reading and listening? Or is there any truth in the kind of lives we lived as believers? Let’s remember the Jews leaders twisted the truth to get Jesus arrested and crucified under the hands of the Roman soldiers. I really don’t want to call this an article as there will be some portion, which may seem like a sermon. However, I want to put down two thoughts for us to contemplate regarding the word TRUTH.

1. Truth has been compromise/diluted

Just a glance of this first sub-topic, do I hear someone say, “Yes, it’s true. We have compromised Christ truth for our own personal interest.” Maybe there are some who are

nodding their heads to agree with me. Throughout the church history, God's people have time and time again compromised on the truth of the gospel, and it shouldn't surprise us at this time that our Christian lives have not been a great example for the world to see. Real mission is when we first become missionary in our daily lives, and then we send missionaries through our resources. True and fruitful mission begins with me, not in the mission field. The book of Judges 17:6 remind us, ***"In those days, there was no King in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."*** Does this sound familiar in our generation? It's kind of shocking to hear believers cheating their partner for their physical desires. Since the end of last year till now, I'm hearing people in ministry forgetting God-given partner and committing sin, and shameful to even mention in this article. This is no different among believers as well, compromising on many issues that have become a stumbling block for unbelievers.

Many years ago while teaching in the Kangpokpi Mission High School, I asked if a colleague of mine wanted to become a Christian. His respond shamed me, "Friend, what is it that is different from me and the Christians that I should embrace Christianity? I don't drink. I don't do what all the Christians are doing though preachers after preachers keep saying how a Christian should lived. I don't see any Bible characters. In fact, I give my tithe and thanksgiving and I never missed any worship services." Of course, we can question his self-righteous attitudes; however, we can see many truths in what he said. When believers compromise on the truth of the Scripture in their lives, others can't see the real Jesus, and that is the area we dilute and compromise. I'm sure we all remember Isaac words, ***"The voice is the voice of Jacob, but hands are the hands of Esau"*** (Genesis 27:22). That's how Jacob

cheated his father Isaac. On Good Friday, the Lord Jesus died for us on the cross to forgive and cleanse us of all my unrighteousness and sins. Remember how the people in Jerusalem shouted, ***“We have no King but Caesar”*** (John 19:15). Many times our personal interest takes precedence over our faith, and the truth of the Bible has been either diluted or compromise. Our self has become the king many times, thus compromising what Paul says, ***“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me”*** (Galatians 2:20).

Through our action and living we have compromise the truth of Christian living and followers of Christ, just like apostle Peter who denied our Lord three times to saved his skin. We are in a way no different from Peter when we fail to live as true Christians - denying the Lord through our every day action. We have flowed with the tide of the world many times rather than be rejected or fearful of being call- Jesus freak or Pharisee for our religiosity. We try to get along with others and want to be accepted by all even when we know certain principles that we do are against the Scripture, and though our conscience prick us in the nascent stage, later on we become numb to our compromising situation. And knowingly or unknowingly, we have become like rare ocean species that camouflage according to its surrounding and environment.

2. Truth has been hidden

In most of the English or Hindi movies, what stands out in the end is the truth that always has the last laugh. No matter how much the villain or those opposing the truth; the end is always the triumph of good over evil, or truth prevailing over lie. Mahatma Gandhi philosophy was ‘truth

triumphs'. Is this really true in reality? Is there any incident that you think deserves justice but due to situation best known to you, true justice never passes the conference room? Have you come across any incident/s in our land? How about in the church? Are there stories about influential few who control the way the church should be run and many times the truth is kept in the dark? The disciples knew the truth of who Jesus is, but all ran away for their safety. They knew Jesus was the truth and had the truth, but they were afraid to stand for the truth when it matter the most.

I think we all know the story of David, who committed adultery and murdered and tried to hide it, but he couldn't hide his mistakes, and in the end God severely disciplined him. Not only his child died but the sword of deception never departed from his family. Can you now imagine the consequences when we suppress the truth? Do you know any truth that has been published in the media but somehow justice has never seen the daylight? How about suppressing the truth in our church? It is not surprising how much the church life has been influenced by the worldly ways of thinking and mentality. There have been cases when church has not taken a firm stand in few moral and ethical issues. Prophet Isaiah said, ***“Listen, O heavens, and hear O earth; for the Lord speaks, “Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me. An ox knows its owner, and donkey its master’s manger, but Israel does not know, My people do not understand” (1:2-3).*** Is this true about our Christians? By our low ethical and moral living, we have suppressed and hidden the truth of Jesus' love and care. It will not be very wrong if I say our understanding of the true living God has become defective. Moreover, our church membership is only in the church registered book, nothing more than that. Let's see how

prophet Isaiah described his time -

- (1) You have become murderers
- (2) Your silver has become dross
- (3) Your drinks are diluted water
- (4) Your rulers are rebels
- (5) You are companion of thieves
- (6) Everyone loves a bribe
- (7) You chases after rewards
- (8) You do not defend the orphans
- (9) Your widows are neglected.

Is this any different from our present situation? Through our uncaring and carefree living, we have directly and indirectly hidden the truth of Jesus in our lives, that others don't see the truth about the living and resurrected Saviour Jesus Christ.

Concluding thought

The well-known apologist, Ravi Zachariah wrote a book ***Has Christianity failed you?*** The titled itself sparked questions in my heart. Has Christianity really failed the world? Or is it the Christians that miserably failed the world? Take time to think through these questions. May this short article ignite our hearts to see the truth, know the truth, live the truth, and witness the truth.....!



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Mr Vikato Shikhu, Finance Secretary, CBCNEI

On behalf of the Council, I want to take this opportunity to express my thankfulness to all the donors for their valuable contribution towards the CBCNEI ministry. Without your help the Council is incomplete. We are looking forward to your support in the coming days too. I am also thankful to my staff in the Accounts Department, Administrative colleagues, especially our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi, for their valuable suggestion and advice for implementation and execution of the day -to-day work. I also thank all the Executive Committee members for their cooperation and helpful suggestions that made me feel encouraged. May God richly bless you all.

Situation Vacant

Applications are invited for the post of the Assistant Editor, Baptist News, Council of Baptist Churches in Indian (CBCNEI), Guwahati, Assam. Interested candidate should submit their application and resume along with **two passport photos and bio-data, church recommendation, email ID and mobile number on or before February 5, 2015**. Original certificates and other documents should be produced at the time of interview.

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The Baptist News

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

Disclaimer:

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

Mode of payment:

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

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