

Contents

Editorial	02
What is Prophetic Ministry?	04
Huldah the Prophetess	07
Prophetic witness of the Church	11
Whom the shall we Fear?	20
The need for re-conditioning of the Prophetic Ministry	24
The Bible	28
Voice Box	35
White Memorial Fresher's jour	36
My Testimony	38
News Flash	43
The Healing Ministry of the Council	51

Baptist News

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor: Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi

Asst Editor: Ms Lichanbeni Tungoe

Design & Layout : Siamliana Khiangte

Circulation:

Jinoy G. Sangma

Jatin Gogoi

Biren Saikia

Subscription:

One Year ₹ 150 (US\$20)

Two Years ₹ 250 (US\$35)

Three Years ₹ 400 (US\$50)

Five Years ₹ 600 (US\$80)

Contact information:

CBCNEI, Mission Compound
Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam-781001
Phone: +91-361-2515 829

Fax: +91-361-2544 447

eMail: editor@cbcnei.in

website: www.cbcnei.in

Facebook: facebook.com/cbcnei



When the Hindu nationalist BJP power took in the governance of the country under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi last year, there had been much prediction of communal riots and dire warnings in many newspapers. Many debates arose over the “safety” of the minority religious group like the Christians, Muslim, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, Jains, Buddhist in India. Julio Riberio, former director-general of Punjab Police, in one of his articles in a daily periodical argued in the same vein as Daruwala: ***“no riots, true- but Muslims and Christians are unsafe in India, circa 2015”***.

Attacks on Churches in many parts of India are the frequent headlines in the newspapers. Since last year there have been scores of anti-Christians attacks in many states specially in Delhi churches including the rape of the elderly nun. In the Vandal attack in Agra, the vandals broke open the gate of St Mary’s Church at Pratabpura and few more attacks in which the vandalism of the four statues of Mother Mary was even more vulgar as the sacred statues were wrapped a dog chain. All the investigations proved virtually that all were non-communal, random criminal act. In one of the interviews, Minis-

ter of Finance, Arun Jaitely said that there is “*evidence that most of the attacks on churches have no religious reasons.*”

Witnessing all of these with our own eyes: violence and violations of human rights; discriminations based on caste, religion and race; religious intolerance, Crime against woman and child abuse , the church is called to raise prophetic voice.

The church should not be deemed to silent in these situations because God has entrusted us to carry out the true message without fear. Unfortunately, it is disheartening to say that the church in North East India chooses to remain silent most of the time. Do we raise our voice when our political leaders are found corrupt? Do we seek justice when a girl is raped and killed in Delhi and other mega cities in India? Do we raise our prophetic voice when so much of ethnic violence taking place in North East India?

Being “Prophetic” it is not a position or office one holds, it is but an action one does.

This Issue of Baptist News includes articles on : What is prophetic ministry?, Huldah the prophetess, Prophetic Witness of the Church, Whom then shall we fear?, The need to reconditioning of the Church, The Bible and many more. I encourage you to read it through and be blessed.



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi
General Secretary, CBCNEI



Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI

What is Prophetic Ministry?

Prophecy is the Word of God communicated to people. The word for prophet in Hebrew is '*nabi*', perhaps philosophically derived from the the Akkadian word '*nabu*', 'to call out', 'to call', or 'to speak forth', and therefore it means 'to proclaim', 'to preach', or 'to communicate', in modern sense of the word. As a noun it means '*spokesman*' or '*spokeperson*' - that means '*a communicator*'. This term is correctly translated in the Septuagint by the Greek word *prophetess*, derived from two Greek words *pro* (for, on behalf of) and *pheme* (to speak), meaning 'to speak on behalf of' (God or someone else) and 'thus' '*spokesman*' (of God). Two other related words for the word prophet are *hozeh* and *ro'eh*, translated in English as 'seer'.

A good example of the usage of '*nabi*' as '*spokesman*' is seen in Exodus 7:1 where Yahweh says to Moses: "*See, I make you as God to Pharaoh: and Aaron your brother shall be your spokesman*" (*your nabicf also 4:14ff*). Which mean



that the prophet is a ‘spokesman’, the mouthpiece of God, or the communicator between God and the people. Therefore, the Old Testament prophecy is not only concerned with prediction or forth telling, though that is also evident, but it also concerns the communication of the Word of God.¹

The presence of prophets and the nature of prophecy are found in the New Testament. Both John the Baptist and Jesus are called prophets (Lk. 1:76; Matt. 14:5; 21:26; 21:11, 46 etc). St. Paul also lists prophecy as one of the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 14) and he names prophets along with apostles and teachers as belonging to a ministry appointed by divine calling (1 Cor. 12:28-29).

The prophets in the New Testament have much in common with those of the Old Testament, but there are differences too. In the early church, prophetic ministry and prophets constitute one of several forms of charismatic ministries; they had the task of “building up” the church, the body of Christ (cf. Eph. 4:11).

One essential difference, however, is that in the Old Testament only a few were called to prophetic ministry. Whereas in the New Testament the whole people of God, laity and clergy are called to the charisma of prophetic ministry – the whole people of God are the spokesmen of God in the world. All are called to be involved in the communication of the Word of God. This is Christian

commitment in the world as prophets of God.

When we see corruptions in the church and society; injustices done against the poor and the weak; violence and violations of human rights; crime against women and the evil root of child abuse, the church is called to raise prophetic voice. Unfortunately, it is disheartening to say that the church in North East India chooses to remain silent most of the time.

Do we raise our voice when our political leaders are corrupted? Do we seek justice when a girl is raped and killed in Delhi and other mega cities in India? Are we concerned for the poor and homeless in our land? Do we raise our prophetic voice when so much of ethnic violence's are taking place in North East India? Do we take a stand as an individual called for a prophetic ministry of the church? Fellow Christians, we are called to be prophetic and we must be committed to the prophetic ministry God has called us to do.

¹RenthyKeitzar, "Communication of the Word of God in the Prophetic Tradition of the Bible" in *Communicating the Gospel Today*





Mrs Atola Longkumer, South Asia Institute of Advance Christian Studies (SAIACS) Bangalore

HULDAH

the prophetess

2 Kings 22: 8-20 is about discovering an old but very important book and the verification of its authenticity. And in the task of verification, a woman, a marginal figure plays a crucial role. Huldah, the prophetess receives the centre stage and comes to fore in this narrative.

The narrative takes place during the reign of Josiah over Judah. King Josiah sends one of his secretary to collect the money from the temple. When the secretary reached the temple and met the priest, Hilkiah, it was not only money business but there was more important news to be given to the king. Hilkiah said to Shapan the secretary, *“I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord”* (Vs8) . Shapan returns to King Josiah and informs that the duties pertaining to the money has been performed as instructed and told the king that the high Priest have given him a book and he read it aloud to the king (Vs10).

We note from the response of the king who **“tore his**

clothes” on hearing the newly found book that the book of law is powerful, disturbing, unsettling. Though it does not tell us the exact words but from the impact it has upon the king, we can summarise that it was something very significant, influential even foundational to the life and work of the king.

Surely, such a provocative, disturbing book needs to be verified. So the king commands his priest, secretary and the motley group of his servants to find someone who can verify, authenticate the contents of the book, saying “Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us. “ (Vs 13)

We note that Huldah was probably the last woman prophet before Judah falls to Babylonians. The term used to describe her is *nebhiah* for prophet, who goes to play a significant role in declaring the book of the law as the book that would be crucial in the lives of the community, not only her immediate but generations following. Interestingly, however Huldah the prophet mediated to us only through her male connections, “the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe” (Vs. 14).



Prophetess she is, however, known to the community through the role as a wife respectful of her husband, who is well connected. Another fact to be noted is the place

where Huldah can be found, it is not in the central areas, but in the Second Quarter of Jerusalem, the margins of the temple as women prophets were not to be in the temple but by the Second Quarter. It is now clear that a woman can be a prophet but known through the proper male connections and is found to live in the margin of the Temple.

Whatever her social location was or as some scholars suggested her who might be “*a strategic voice*” for an ulterior motive of the reformers, but according to 2 Kings 22, Huldah, takes her prophetic calling seriously, loses no time and rises to the occasion and using her very prophet formulae “*Thus says the Lord*” she declares her oracle to her visitors sent by the king himself.

We find that it was prophetess Huldah who verifies, interprets and authorises the book of laws for the king as indeed God’s own. This task gained Huldah as the prophet who authorised the first document that will become the core of the scriptures of Judaism and Christianity.

According to scholars, Huldah’s oracle compare very closely in content with Dt. 32: 15-22. Huldah declares with courage that the affairs of the kingdom is not right, repentance is required or face the consequences of doom and destruction. The kingdom of Judah had gone awry in its religious, cultic, and social dimension and the great wrath of Yahweh was imminent as found in Vs 17.

The honest verification and courageous declaration of the impending doom, had its impact on the king. Upon hearing Huldah, King Josiah realised that the well-being of himself and the people depend on the word from the newly found law book. The initiated response of the King to Oracle declared by Huldah is narrated in chapter 23.

In the narrative Huldah is an insignificant woman, known

only through her husband and she lives in the corner of the temple. Unrecognized as she was, Huldah was still known to the priest and his motley of King's men but still rose to the occasion so courageously and her words of authenticating the law book from God's was of value.

Prophets in the Judeo- Christian traditions were those individuals who were extremely "sensitive to evils" of injustices, unrighteousness and complacency (footnote). The sensitivity to evils were translated into action by challenging the power, denouncing justice and proclaiming fearlessly God's judgement upon the corrupt and powerful. They were also articulated as alternative vision of Justice, Kindness and righteousness for the people as desired by God. To be prophetic is to be disturbed by the misery and injustices that make many victims and fearlessly denounce everything that is against God's will.

Prophetic witness calls for commitment and movement within the Christian community towards the society of equity and inclusivity which is grounded on the good news of God's promise for all creation as manifested in the life and work of Jesus Christ. Today, more than ever, we are called as children of God to be courageous, take risk, locate the unfamiliar, and listen to the insignificant and to the call for a better world. It might not be the best, or familiar, or comfortable. Following Jesus entails going beyond comforts and the familiar towards God's reign of a reconciled and flourishing community. *Soli Deo Gloria.*



Prophetic witness of the C H U R C H

Mr Y. Nukul Phom, Executive Secretary, Phom Baptist Christian Association

A short time back, in my conversation with few friends who are government officers, and who loves the Lord, I heard them lamenting, “The prophetic ministry of the church is diminishing.” Many opinions were expressed why this is happening. Another friend expressed his frustration and disappointment for the way Pulpit Ministry is utilized. He said, “Monday through Saturday, our minds are too pressured with hundreds of issues: phones calls and meetings. Sunday is the only day we wish to relax, spent quality time with the family, take devotion, watch some good TV programs, listen to some good speakers ,visit friends and prepare mind for the next conscious knocking 6 days. But we burry our desires and come to church as we long to listen to the word of God that will motivate and revive our spiritual position. But the greatest disappointment is to hear some sort of stories, and irrelevant speech and sometimes I feel like going up to them and say, ‘if you do not have time to prepare sermons and do not know how to preach, please take a seat and listen to us.’”

In the extensive discussion over the issue and I responded, “I agree and accept the fact that this is happening, however, this kind cannot be generalized.” I came back home so disturbed in the mind and could not rest reflecting on the amount of mutilation we have caused to this Prophetic Ministry/task. Reflecting on these high expectations from members of our Church, we are given to understand that we are accountable for all the outcomes in our society. It is time for the prophetic ministry to make a global outlook and see where our generation is heading. The Church needs to understand the lacuna that has emerged.

a. The Unbridgeable Concerns:

The question being asked today is why do people don't come to Church? (Ministers say, they don't come to the Church, and the members say, we do not want to go to the church). How do we bridge this split?

It is said, “When you throw mud at others, the mud doesn't really hit the person, but it rather dirties your hand.”

Accepting the fact that there is a mushrooming of many new groups, prayers centres, Institutions, Organization, Theological/Bible Institutions with different doctrinal teachings each implicating people that their groups is the one and only true group. This is really confusing the common people and in such a point of time our commitment to the Prophetic Ministry needs a reflection. Are we equipping the members with true biblical and sound doctrinal teachings? Are the members able to distinguish the true and false teachings?

One of the reasons why most of our members have not matured in the faith is because of the lack of biblical nurturing which has been overlooked or deserted. Our so called Church/Spiritual programs are no different from other programs any social organizations would organize. If we com-

pare the programs we will see that they are orderly all the same except the 20 to 30 minutes of time assigned for preaching the Word of God which are in the church program.

Once in a village there was a milkman. One day the villagers called him and complained that he sells milk mixed with water and asked him “Why do he pour water into the Milk?” He was told that “ If you admit the truth, we will forgive otherwise we will chase you out of the village.” To this the Milkman responded, I do not pour water into the milk, but in a bucket full of water I pour little Milk.” This is exactly what is happening today in our churches where programs are cradled and overloaded by many different activities and so the Word of God is preached very little with limited time and thus its primary importance in the Pulpit is set aside.

There are occasions where the given THEME drives the Prophetic messages away from the biblical truth and then the message is focussed upon the interest and understanding of the preacher and therefore again the Prophetic voice is overlooked.

b. Being reluctant to preach the Prophetic Truth:

Many sermons are focussed around themes such as God is loving, gracious, forgiving, long suffering, patient, powerful, healer. But the truth about God as an angry God, jealous God, God of Justice, God who punishes sins do not find a place in many Sermons.

The Bible records about prophet Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Nathan and many others who forthrightly rebuked the Kings, Rulers and other religious leaders of their days. They condemned sin, injustices and other social evils that were dominating those days. Their approaches were always, “Thus Says the Lord.” Today, this powerful tool of being

Prophetic is lost as many withdraws from preaching and revealing the truth and this could be one of the reasons why the people no longer have any regrets to do evil or engaged in sinful ways of life. We are not courageous to tell of the truth and thus the true prophetic ministry is diminishing in our generation.

Every promulgating medium presents about the evil that has been weaved into our entire systems. But which Body will voice out against such that has configured the systems of our society?

Paul in His second letter to Timothy 3:1-5 wrote: “...But Mark this: there will be terrible times in the last days, People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires...’

There are voicing out from all the corners and it is time the Church should be able to read/reinterpret signs of our time.

One cannot deny that we are living in a highly advancing era where people are turning more ungodly with worldly desires, self-centredness, betrayal, the fading away of shame and increase of immoral acts. We hear of conflicts and confusions of many misleading false preachers creeping into the pulpit ministry. We also witness the affect in the nature, threatening changes in climate and eco-bio diversity. Thus, the Prophetic Ministry of the Church needs to listen to the voices of our generation and present them with fitting answers. Jesus said in Luke 12:54-56, “When

you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

c. Church and Christian Organizations are Unsustainable:

The Church has always been heaven bound not realizing that many may not even go there. Even those who will go will still remain here on earth till such time the call is given. Socio-Economic implications of the Church to its members and the needy is completely absent in many church Mission and Vision. Many Christian organizations have been economically unsustainable and the foundations have been on the receiving end rather than giving and helping the needy. While many church and Christian organizations has been engaged in doing different projects, income generating activities but only to be dragged deeper into it. Our implementation of projects have not delivered us from economic restrict and we still anticipate support from others rather than helping and giving away to others. Our Salaries still come from others, our office functioning is still depended on others and this economic dependence is another reason why this Prophetic Voices cannot be strong. Thus, when there are social issues which need to be provoked, rebuked, challenged and corrected, we are silent. Where have we gone wrong?

The Church should be engaged in building and producing good and committed Christian businessmen and women and successful entrepreneurs. On the other hand it should be economically sustainable and self supportive.

d. Disengaged from Social Podium :

Jesus Said in Matthew 7: 21: **“Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven.”** Through this Jesus implicates His followers especially the Prophetic Ministry to “Do the Will of the Father in Heaven” which determines our desire and longing for heaven. It will be too exhaustive to mention all that Jesus implicated, but one thing the Father in heaven demands is, “Doing good to those in need” (Matthew 25: 34-46). Too often, our ease and comfort veil us from seeing the economic injustices in our world.

Our response to those who are unable to help themselves gives us some indication of the validity of the bond we profess to have with Christ and also the given task. Jesus virtually said, to see Him and be part of the Kingdom of God, we must recognize Him in the hungry, thirsty, strangers, sick and imprisoned around us. If we Love God, we must qualify our Love for Him through these oppressed humans, poor, homeless etc.

Our God is always displeased with the oppression of the poor and the needy. God expects us to center life on helping others rather than fulfilling selfish desires. A society or any organization built on the graves of the oppressed cannot expect to enjoy its standard of living for long. Justice must move away from the pulpit, worship house to the economically and judicial centers of the society. Without Justice in the street, prayer in the church and pulpit is meaningless. It is imperative that the prophetic ministry need to be rooted and fastened by the Word of God (The Bible) and should be a tool to teaching, rebuking, correcting and training people in Righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Prophetic ministry needs to be awakened by the conscious knocking and alarming global outlook (as mentioned

in 2 Timothy 3:1-5). It also should be awakened by the social disorder implicating socio economic equality, issues on common livelihood, health, environments, education. With these challenges construed in its ministry, the Church will be able to implicate the heavenly dimensions.



Sunday School Teachers' Training

(Limited Seats Available)

Date : 24-26th November'15

Venue : CBCNEI Mission Compound

Materials to be provided by CEEFI

For detail, please contact:

1. Mr Mhabemo Kithan, Mission Assistant

+91 87240 68553 | mhabemo@cbcnei.in

2. Mr Siamliana Khiangte, Program Coordinator

+91 98599 81628 | siamliana@cbcnei.in

NOTE:

- * Registration Fee : ₹. 200 (non-refundable)
- * Travel expenses to be sponsored by sending church
- * Food and lodging is sponsored by CEEFI

Cross – Cultural Missionary Training Program

As reported by Mr Mhabemo Kithan, Mission Assistant, CBCNEI

A total of 17 participants from various Conventions, Associations and Churches under the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India took part in the TESOL (Teaching English to speakers of other Languages) program from 10th-21st August 2015 at CBCNEI Guwahati organized by Mission Department CBCNEI. Grace Dulay and Jannine Coombe from Asia Centre for TESOL, Philippines based in Cambodia, Thailand were the two teachers for the program.

With the vast experience the two teachers have incurred



in this field, they made learning easy and simple for the participants. During the intensive two week training, the participants were introduced to techniques of teaching English to other native speaking group of people across the world. Group discussions, activities, assignments and individual class presentation were the focused elements of the two week program. The purpose of this training is to motivate, refine and shape the missionaries with the basic knowledge of communicative and evangelism skills to further an effective result in the teaching mission. The training program have successfully equipped and refreshed the intending missionaries with creative ideas and insights to apply in their respective mission fields. The large input within a short span of time looks to be an elephant task to put into action and bear a fruitful ministry.

On the last day of the training, a brief graduation ceremony was conducted where Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary CBCNEI exhorted the participants. Certificates were given to all the participants who successfully completed the two weeks course by Asia Centre for TESOL. The Mission department will continue to conduct trainings every year for our Missionaries and Mission leaders at Church and Convention levels to enhance the Ministry of Gods Kingdom. Please Continue to pray and upport the Ministry of Mission Department, CBCNEI under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai.





Pastor Lujeka Assumi, Hoshepu Baptist Church, SBAK, Aizuto



The formation of the Church was in God's to do list though it was kept as a mystery in the Old Testament and in its writings; its pronouncement was at Caesarea by Our Lord Jesus Christ after Peter's confession about who actually the Lord Jesus was. In this historic announcement, Jesus gave us a clue about the inclusion of Gentiles in His kingdom and made it clear that there would certainly be a new pattern of worshipping God making it accessible to both Jews and Gentiles unlike the way it was worshipped in the Old Testament era where only a particular group of people had the privilege.

Church began on the day of Pentecost and history tells us the innumerable attempt to thwart its expansion by killing its witnesses in a heinous way but it never became a victim of failure instead it has made its establishment successful

in almost all parts of the globe even to places that was once considered impossible to reach.

Living in an unstoppable age of modernism, where there's a clear shift of centrality from faith to reason and from God-centeredness to Man-centeredness and as Nietzsche predicted, God seems to be dead in the lives of some people. For them power, fame, forces, reason and technology makes a life. Rebelling God, His words and His ministers was once considered as a taboo but the injustice and the intolerant act meted out to God's people and His witnesses in today's world is not a new trend anymore. Man's power has overtaken God's authority. For instance, the recent incitement of the Apex Court in United States about the legalization of same sex marriage indicates how man's power has driven God's own country. Or the attacks on churches in India openly by the Hindu Extremist group, the slaughtering of Christians by the Islamic group using deadliest weapons tells a story of how the power and its force is used to demote the rising of Christianity and its witnesses.

Psalm 20: 7, this David's psalm written during His kingship over Israel illustrates his confession to God that Israel should not rely on the chariots and horses in opposition to their enemies (especially Syrians) who boast in it by acquiring large numbers but Israel's glory and confidence to triumph should be solely in the name of the Lord and 2 Samuel 8: 4 records the victory David had over His enemy Syrians who outnumbered military equipment as compared to David and his armies. David's trust came from the mediation and pondering of the reputation of God in His past life, he had tested



Naga Missionary Conference 2015

As reported by Mhabemo Kithan, Mission Assistant CBCNEI

“The commission lives” was the theme during the Naga Missionary Conference held once in five years organized by Nagaland Missions Movement under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Semp. The conference was held at Dimapur from 16th-18th September 2015 hosted by Thilixu Baptist Church, 3rd Mile Dimapur. Naga Missionaries working both in India and abroad participated in the missionary conference. The highlights of the conference were short stories from Naga Missionaries, prayer and intercession, bible studies, global missions: a challenge for Naga Churches,

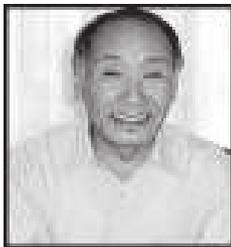


session on the rights and privileges of Christians in India. Rev. Dr. Zelhou Keyho, General Secretary NBCC, Rev. Santiago Lagardo ,International Director Ethnos Asia based in Bangkok, Thailand, Mrs. Tehmina Arora were the speakers. A thought provoking and inspiring bible study was led by Rev. Dr. P.C. Gine Professor of New Testament at Serampore College West Bengal. Greetings of five minutes each were brought by Rev. Dr. Hevukhu Achumi, former NMM Director, Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai Mission Secretary CBCNEI, Rev. Alem Meren former NMM Director, Rev. Dr. N. Paphino President NCRC, and Rev. Dr. Anjo Keikung Chancellor NECU. The Conference was well organized by the grace of God. It was a time for the Naga Missionaries working across the globe to come together and share the joy of being the chosen ones over the harvest of His Kingdom. The participants expressed their satisfaction and contentment and gained more of blessings to bear a fruit through this conference.



All authority has been given to me...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 28:18-19



Rev Zhabu Theruja, former president of Eastern Theological College, Jorhat

The Need for Reconditioning of the Prophetic Ministry

The Oxford Dictionary defines prophetic as 1. Accurately predicting the future 2. Relating to or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy.

We are familiar with the second definition. When we see the life and ministry of the prophets, it was not just a prediction of the future. They rigorously engaged in correcting the errors in the lives of individuals, communities, kings and nations. There were many cases of personal confrontation. Their messages were heard in the city streets and town squares. They took sides with the poor and the oppressed.

Others may write the ‘what’ and ‘how to’ on the engagement of the Church in its prophetic ministry. This brief write-up is not an academic treatise but to simply share some observation as to what holds the church from exerting its prophetic roles. Certainly the Church is sent forth into the world to do the work of God. There is no ground of excuse for the Church’s failing its obligatory

responsibilities.

There are some individual Christians passionately crying out, but the whole congregation needs to be spiritually awakened to become prophetic. There are numbers of reasons but few listed below are the reasons why the church fails to live its witness to the fullest as a brazen instrument of God.

1. Insufficient understanding of the Church : It is not absolutely wrong to call the congregation you belong to, “my church.” But when we fail to see the church as the Body of Christ, or, as the Church of Jesus Christ, we reduce it to a mere social club. If that happens, our agenda and interest become different from that of God. For many people now, the church is just a part of their culture. And, one does notice that today, there is an unspoken spirit of competition and self-establishment among the churches. We fail to examine and check whether we stand in the centre of God’s will, and the churches strive to outdo one another, particularly the large sized congregations. Don’t we often hear “my church”, “their church”, “and our church”?

2. Reluctance to rock the boat: The church today is very cautious not to disturb the still waters. “We have plenty of problem, so why to create another?” is the notion of many. Living among people of different faith, the whole crowd is never going to swallow whatever the church says. Surely there shall be noises of dissension from some corners. Some people shall counteract the prophetic voice and action of the church. Did not all the prophets face the same? Even our Lord Jesus was not spared. His rocking the boat led him to Calvary cross. If the church is the Church of Jesus Christ, then it must take bold steps not just to antagonize people, but in order to build the Kingdom of God. False

preachers preach what people love to hear. But the church must keep pursuing truth, justice and love.

3. Fear of hurting the feeling and losing of people good to us: Within the fold of Christians, the mouth of some supposed to be prophets are gagged because of the many favors received from others. There are some people who try different means to silence the church so that they can continue running their dirty business undisturbed. A big gift to the Pastor, or, a rogue donating Rs 50000/- to the church might tempt the Pastor to change the content of his message. Besides, there are many denominations and church groups that open doors to anyone who may like to change his/her membership. The church would not like to lose an influential member to another church. So, the prophetic message loses its power. The church is mandated with the task to 'correct, rebuke and reproach.'

4. The church is ill-equipped on information, facts and scriptural knowledge. The world is voicing out loud what it believes and what values it pursues. These loud voices are too strange for the church to understand and respond. Forget about responding them, but many shepherds shall mumble in admonishing and safeguarding their flock; unable to say anything in clear terms. Many have lost the art of consulting the Bible. In this matter, there is a need also to caution about today's doing theology, although it is not happening in all theological institutions. In some, theological exercises seem to be a subtle academic game. Someone propounds a new concept coining a new term (thesis), then another argues the case (antithesis). Then the third person will try to blend the two together and draw a middle course (synthesis). All these without scriptural references, but the arguments may be able to score 'A'. Pastors need to be refreshed regularly in order to update themselves with the going of time. But instead

of realizing the need, some consider it belittling to attend a refresher program me. There is a clarion call to the church to go back to the Bible. Without scriptural authority, the Church has no ground to stand for her prophetic duty.

5. Absence of compassion and touch that heals : In the ministry of our Lord Jesus, he mingled with different section and class of people. When he saw the crowd, he had compassion on them. Some years ago, I read an interesting article which contained a section of ‘Copter versus Cart’ ministry. A helicopter flies in the air and lands only at a particular spot. It then flies up again from where it landed whereas a bullock cart moves through places where people are. For most churches, the pulpit is the main platform of ministry. In fact, it could be the only place of ministry for some churches. Our pulpit is too far away from the crowd so that people who need to hear cannot be reached. It is like a copter service. The present Bolero age is in danger of losing social contact. Personal care is missing largely in the church today. Prophetic ministry is to be exercised only where people are, and by avoiding the audience we cannot be truthful to God. Can we imagine breaking down the walls of the church to see the world and our pulpit dragged to the street?

There are many other reasons why the voice of the Church today has become so small and faintly heard. A big setback is the fragmentation of the Body of Christ and the discord of the members of the body.

But I leave the readers to add up the list. The Spirit that called the seven churches in Revelation are calling our churches too: **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**





The Bible

(an excerpt from the article submitted to Baptist News Rev Dr Sanyu, Shalom Bible Seminary)

The Bible has changed our people and transformed the quality of our lives immeasurably. Our entry into modern civilization happened only about 143 years ago when the early Baptist missionaries brought us the gospel through the Bible, and with it, education and the countless benefits we enjoy today. How thankful we are for the Word of God! The Bible was one of the earliest writings/books on earth. Prior to the written manuscripts of the Bible, there were others like those found in Egypt and Mesopotamia dated as early as 3500 BC.

1. The Formation/Birth of the Bible:

The Bible is a collection of books that were written at different periods in history. We do not have a date of origin to say that the Bible started to be written in a particular time, but over centuries, and in various places, the word of God got written through different people. Among the earliest people who wrote God's word was Moses (Ex. 24:4; Luk. 24:44). He is known as the writer of the first five books of the Bible. Among others, Joshua (Josh. 24:26), Samuel (1 Sam. 10:25), Jeremiah (Jer. 36:2) also wrote God's words, having being directed by God to do so. The men of God who followed them later acknowledged them (Dan. 9:2; Neh. 8:1-8). It is believed that from about 1400 BC till about the time of Ezra, around 400 BC, the Old Testament canon was codified (Josephus, the Jewish historian affirms that).

2. The Inspiration of the Bible:

Christians believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. The word *inspiration* comes from the Latin “*inspiro*” meaning “*to breathe on*” or “*to breathe into*”. The idea of Adam being formed of dust that was at first lifeless, but who became a living being after God “breathed” life into him is the connotation. God breathed into certain men the things he wanted those men to write about, which has become our Bible. As such, the Bible has life-giving properties. That is why Moses is said to have received living words from God (Acts 7:38). The Bible also says that those who wrote the Bible were “carried along by the Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21) which implies that the Spirit was the co-author with the Bible writers. And this is the reason why we can boldly say the Bible has authority: it is because the Bible is inspired by God himself.

Sadly, opinions around the world since the enlightenment have changed considerably, in that many now refuse to be tied down by spiritual laws.

3. The Trustworthiness of the Bible:

We believe that the Bible has divine authority because it has come from God. Among the early Church Fathers, Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons in Gaul (now Modern France) in the 2nd century was reputedly the first to talk about the verbal, plenary (complete) inspiration of the Bible writers by God. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, followed him in the 4th century to talk about the Holy Spirit dictating the very words to the Bible writers. From such understanding, we derive the sense of the complete trustworthiness of the Bible, better known as the *infallibility* of the Bible. Jesus himself attested to the trustworthiness of the Scriptures (Mat. 5:18).

4. The Canon of the Bible: We now need to ask what criteria were used to determine the inclusion of particular books in the canon. The term *canon* comes from the Hebrew word *qaneh* which means a “reed” or “stalk” that is used as a measuring instrument (1 Kgs. 14:15; Job 40:21). The Greeks are believed to have incorporated the word into Greek “kanon” essentially meaning a “rule” or “standard.”

The point at issue here is that the Roman Catholic Church adds the apocrypha which contains 9 additional books to the 39 books in the Old Testament. The *progressive recognition theory* reasons that the biblical canon came to be what it is through the progressive affirmation of those readers and listeners who were contemporaneous with the writers. In this way, there were lines of prophets who seemed to have passed down certain records of the Bible history affirmed by one prophet to the other (cf. 1 Chron. 29:29 with 2 Chron. 9:29). Along the same lines, Abijah’s story was composed by the prophet Iddo (2 Chron. 13:22); Jehoshaphat’s by the prophet Jehu (2 Chron. 20:34); Hezekiah’s by the prophet Isaiah (2 Chron. 32:32) etc. Thus, we have a fairly good idea that through the streams of prophets who affirmed one another, the biblical text came to be recognized as authentic, and were subsequently canonized.

5. The Date and evidence for the reliability of the NT Documents: Jesus was believed to have been crucified in AD 30, and it is believed that the New Testament was completed by AD 100, most of the writings being in existence 20-40 years previous to this date. There is much reason to think that when the gospels were written, many who heard and saw Jesus were still alive. By the time of the apostolic Fathers who wrote chiefly between AD 90-160, they were referring to many of the New Testament books and letters. By implication, we can see that there

was already an accepted canon familiar to such early church Fathers as Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp etc. Of interest might be the Gnostic school of Valentinus who probably existed around the middle of the second century who were also already familiar with the New Testament writings. Even the ancient versions found in Old Latin and Old Syriac that surfaced in the latter half of the 2nd century also bear evidence to the availability of the NT writings even at that early stage.

6. Manuscripts: The latest find for New Testament manuscripts was in 2008 when 47 new manuscripts, some quite unknown to Western scholars were found in Albania. Obviously, there are variations in manuscripts which occur through accidental slips by scribes such as omitted words, misspellings, attempts at harmonization, or even intentional changes governed by ideological differences (*Palaeography* is the study of ancient writings, and *Textual Criticism* is the study that looks at various texts to reconstruct the original text).

In those days, because the manuscripts were prone to deterioration, copies had to be made from the originals. This copying was done by trained people who were experts in writing and bookmaking. Scribes would live in monasteries and groups of scribes would sit together to make copies while one of their members read from the text. Because the manuscripts have been copied many times over, there is always the possibility for errors to creep in. Here, we must keep in mind our 21st century mindset and everyday life that now makes use of computers that almost magically perform such mundane tasks as compiling a paper, or proofread a paper effortlessly. The originals of both the Old and New Testaments are not in our possession today: this is quite understandable keeping in mind that they were written so many years ago when there were no computers,

leave alone typewriters or printing presses. Everything had to be written by hand on parchments, and not on paper. Copies were made from the originals and there were chances for errors in copies that were done tediously by hand. Even today, with modern printing methods at our disposal, errors creep into our translations and standardized versions.

7. The Transmission of the Bible: A Brief History of the English Translation

It is said that Christianity came into Britain only in the fourth century. The Bible was made available to the English speaking world, in bits and pieces only in the middle of the 7th century. But Latin being the dominant language of the learned people of that time, the Bible was in Latin, and unavailable for the common man. Then John Wycliffe came along (1330-1384) who translated the complete Bible from Latin into English in 1382. It was William Tyndale who, against much opposition, brought out the first translation of the English New Testament, not from Latin, but from Greek to English in 1526.

In 1611, the King James Bible came into being and this version took into serious consideration the Greek, Hebrew and literary scholarship that had made great strides since the time of Tyndale. It also capitalized not only on the good, but also the shortcomings of earlier works furthermore, it was not the sole work of one individual but was a joint effort. These reasons made it popular. However, when the King James was translated, many of the more reliable manuscripts that are now available were unavailable at that time.

Sensing the need to revise the KJV, a decision was made in England in 1870 to revise it by nominating a committee comprised of both British and American scholars. In 1885,

the English Revised Version came out. But because of divided opinions over usage of British and American idioms and spellings, the Americans revised it and brought out their own version known as the American Standard Version in 1901. This revision used older manuscripts that became available after the KJV was translated. However, it retained several archaisms of the KJV and was labeled “strong in Greek, weak in English.”

Subsequently, with the development of new resources of knowledge, as well as older and more reliable manuscripts, a new revision was constituted in 1929. However, with Second World War proving a deterrent, the scholars were able to bring out what is known as the Revised Standard Version only in 1952 which was commended for its readability. Among other newer versions, the NIV which came out in 1978, has gained a lot of popularity in terms of accuracy, clarity and readability. As to style, the NIV is considered to be “abrupt and uneven in quality.”

Newer, better translations of the Bible continue to be released. Unlike other books that run out of print, get out-dated, or even forgotten, the Bible being the Word of God, continues to attract a wide readership around the world. Jesus himself said that even if heaven and earth will pass away, his words will not pass away (Mk. 13:31). No wonder, it is the Word of God that gives light to those who need it to light up their dark paths (Ps. 119: 105), and gives the deepest meaning to life (Jn. 1:1,4; 10:10). The Bible is truly timeless!

Laws, by their very nature, put us off because they need to be obeyed. Rightly, who likes laws? However, Paul brings in a novel idea; he suggests that laws can be kept in an ingenious way and without much problem. Paul provides a simple solution by saying that as we love our neighbour,

we can bring about the fulfilment of the law. In keeping up with Paul's formula, laws would, in essence, even become a joy for us to keep, if only we can back up all our actions with love. Thus, the Law of Moses which has been in existence since the times of the people of Israel, continues to have significance even in the present time. It will continue to have relevance in the future, too. This is just one aspect of the timelessness of the Word of God. Truly, we have much reason to thank God for his wonderful Word. There is no greater joy on earth than to keep the Word of God.

References:

Allert, Craig. D. *A High View of Scripture? The Authority of the Bible and the Formation of the New Testament Canon*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2007.

Bush, L. Russ. & Tom J. Nettles. *Baptists and the Bible: The Baptist Doctrines of Biblical Inspiration and Religious Authority in Historical Perspective*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are they Reliable?* First Indian Edn., Rep. 2006. Secunderabad: OM Books, 2006.

Carson D. A. & John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1992.

Comfort, Philip W. ed. *The Origin of the Bible*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992.

Lightfoot, Neil R. *How we got the Bible*, First Indian edn. Secunderabad: OM Books, 2005.

Lindsell, Harold. *The Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976.

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.

John 1:1



Voice box



Mr Atovi. N. Assumi, Director Mission and Evangelism, SABAK

I am much blessed by Baptist News and I praise God every time I read and get inspired. It is very helpful for me and the Church workers as well. I receive so much inspiration and guidance from all the wonderful messages in every issue. I eagerly wait for each issue with a curious heart as to what new things I get to see. I am very satisfied to see changes in Baptist News. My heartiest congratulations to the Editorial team for the commendable work in linking to the readers. I appreciate the sustainable efforts of the team in making it interestingly worth a Christian journal. May the God Lord continue to use Baptist News as a channel of blessing to every member.

White Memorials FRESHER'S JOUR

*As reported by Miss Thunlaisri Islary, boarder White Memorial Hostel,
Satribari*

Saturday, 22nd August 2015 - On this evening, the White Memorial Girls Hostel organised its 77th Fresher's Social. Fresher's Day is a welcome to new comers and an event generally conducted by seniors to show their affection and hospitality towards the juniors.

The aim of conducting this day is to make the juniors feel welcome in a friendly atmosphere, to encourage their impulses and to boost their confidence. The hostel motto "**Quality Life**" was the theme. It was a colourful occasion welcoming 24 girls belonging to different communities from



different states. The fresher's as well as the old boarders were dressed in their best cultural attire. Making it one of the hippest dos, girls enjoyed as they welcome the fresher's in style on that event. Many reputed guest from the Satribari Hospital Compound and the CBCNEI officials attended the program. Dr. Rev Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary (Head of the Student Ministry) was the speaker.

The highlight of the event was a traditional show during which fresher's walked down the ramp dressed with cultural attire followed by an encouraging welcome speech by the WM Hostel Secretary. The program also included many charismatic items like dances, skits followed by a surprise fashion show presented by the seniors with the help of an old boarder designer Ms. Christina Valalungphui. Among the entire spiffy fresher's, the star of the event was Miss Yongkonglila who was crowned Miss Fresher 2015.

Yes, it was a grand event but what made it grander were the efforts and hard work of the seniors and cooperation of juniors. And the backbone of the entire occasion was the Chaplain of the Hostel, making the event an eminence one.

With these, the program came to an end with a multi-cuisine spread and great camaraderie for feast.



*Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears,
but a woman who honours the Lord should
be praised.*

Proverbs 31:30



My Testimony

Rev P. C. Muanthanga, Director of North East India Harvest Network, Shillong, Meghalaya

On the 5th of July, 2014, my wife and I went to NEIGHRIMS Hospital Shillong, to receive the biopsy report of my colonoscopy test. It was a routine check up and I had no complaint during that time. And to our surprise, least expected though the result showed I have a tumour in my lower colon. After a brief discussion with the head doctor, we were advised us to go to CMC Vellore for a second opinion and further treatment if needed. As we proceed home we quietly prayed to the Lord for His grace and guidance even through that time because I was not terrified at but was at a loss about God's plan for us especially in relation to this killer disease called Cancer.

On reaching home we had a time of praise and worship committing our situation to the Lord. Well, 'the battle is the Lord's and the enemy could never stop God's plan for us or for North East India. Like Jehoshaphat of old, we just

told the Lord that we do not know how to face this new giant, but “*we just fix our eyes on YOU*” (2 Chronicle 20:12). Amazingly, as we prayed, “the peace of Christ that passes all understanding” fell afresh in our hearts. It was during this time of intercession that the Lord revealed His word of comfort and victory to us.”The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I WILL NOT DIE, BUT LIVE AND DECLARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD” (Psalm 1178:17). We both rejoiced for the Lord’s promises which came in answer to our united prayer. What a joy to experience His peace and Joy instead of feeling sad or despondent!

Meanwhile, many well wishers friends, kiths and kins dropped in messages consulting us in prayers and encouraging us never to lose faith. We felt so blessed and relieved to know that we were not alone in our moment of suffering. Like a group of Angels who gave company to Jacob at the place called Mahanaim when he was about to encounter Esau and his armed followers (Gen 32). So many friends and ministry partners in Shillong came to see us off before we left for Vellore.

I had never been admitted to the hospital in the past 72 years of my life by Grace. But now I was going to Vellore to be treated for Cancer. We did not know what the future holds, but we were sure of the one who holds our future. We were praying for a miracle but several tests still confirmed the tumour. I had to go through rigorous treatment of radiation and chemotherapy tablets for 6 weeks and these weeks became a precious time of personal communion with the Lord and I felt it was considerably shorten. I discovered the big machine started rolling after the cross sign in red appeared through the remote control. I felt like lying at the foot of the cross. I sometime burst into singing, praising the all sufficiency of the blood of Christ on the cross. Another special grace came through my room-

mate who happened to come from Ethiopia with whom we shared our hospital room. This man and his daughter would spend the evening for Bible Study every day without fail. After a brief prayer, we said our goodbyes and they left the room. Then he returned back and hurriedly placed a clip of 500 notes into my hand and said, “The Lord told me to give you this and so please accept it” and he left. The surprising thing was, the money he gave was just enough for my one week hospital bill. It was amazing how the Lord ordained an Ethiopian from Africa, to take care of my needs.

When the radiation treatment was over, we were call to see the Head of Department of Radiotherapy . *With a smile she told me that she want to take my picture and keep as a prove that even after attaining 70 plus age unlike others I had no reaction to all the radiation and chemotherapy treatment.* I had no hair loss, nor loose motion or other harsher reactions from the treatment which are normally expected in treatments like this. I was miraculously shielded by the Lord’s mighty hand, who showed Himself strong on behalf of those who trusted in Him. His name is above every name.

I was released from the hospital at the end of August. Before my Cancer diagnosis, we had planned Mizoram Prayer Assembly at Dawrpui Presbyterian Church, Aizawl, Mizoram to be held in early October in partnership with FMPB. So, after much prayer and consultation with our organizing partners, we decided to move ahead in faith. Praise God, my wife was able to take the major share of the teaching along with Rev. Helien Singsit, R.J. Solomon of FMPB. We felt that the Prayer Assembly was a success in terms of attendance, participation and testimonies received. As the Psalmist said, “This was the doing of the Lord and it was marvellous in our sight” (Psalm 118:23)

Time came to report back to Vellore for my second check-up. Many of our friends suggested we declare healing and not return back to the hospital. We hoped for a miracle again but the tests showed that the tumour was still there though it had greatly reduced without spreading. The doctors decided that a minor laparoscopic surgery would be enough to remove it. So I was operated on 23rd October. As they wheeled me into the operation theatre, I simply prayed, "Lord, You will be done". When the surgeons began the operation, they soon realized that a major open surgery needs to be performed due to the location of the tumour. The doctor told my wife that the operation was successful as the tumour had all been removed. However, an infection was detected while I was in the recovery room and the battle royal began. I was quickly rushed to the ICU for monitoring. My blood pressure fluctuated and my heart rate became almost unmanageable. My wife was called in and asked to find a chaplain to pray and told her not to allow me to fall into a sleep mode as I was slipping away. Text messages and phone calls were quickly made to family and close friends, to plead for mercy on my behalf. The crisis, however, was far from over as I started vomiting which continued for awhile and then doctors felt there was a blockage in my intestine and so they decided to do scanning and operate me again. When I was moved to the scanning room around noon, I was too feeble to speak or open my eyes. When I was brought back to my ward, Dr Joshua Pillai and his family were waiting for me in my room already. He laid his hands on me and made a strong plea to the Lord to release the blockage in my body and heal me. Soon after they left, the blockage was opened, my bowel started moving. Seeing the miracle, my wife quickly called the doctors and said, "No need to have operation! God has done a miracle!" They saw what happened and so the sur-

gery was canceled. The Lord proved again that He is the Healer (Ex 15), even without medical intervention. All went well and our days of chemo treatment finally ended and we left for Shillong on 5th March 2015. On our way home, the principal of Asia Antioch Seminary near Guwahati airport, hearing the news of our return, organized a ‘Thanksgiving Service’ in his AAS campus and we were able to testify what the Lord had done for us to the students. On 1st June, 2015 we returned to Vellore again for our first medical check-up. And all the test results indicated that there was ‘NO MORE CANCER’ in my blood system. Cancer is a killing disease no doubt, but through His grace and help, I can boldly say, “*I will not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord*” (Psalm 118:17). We learned this past year that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours. Through all these trails, He has proved that He is able to do much better than all that we asked or think and that His Grace is sufficient for us and His name is above every name (including cancer).



*When then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us who can be against us?*

Romans 8:31

NEWS FLASH

**Annual Youth Conference:
Adi Baptist Council (ABC)**

Pasighat, May 28 - 1st June:

The 31st Annual Youth Conference of Adi Baptist Council (ABC) was conducted at Baptist Church Balek in East Siang District with the theme “*Let your Light shine before people*” (Matt:5:16) Around 500 young believers from across the Adi dominated areas actively participated in the conference. The speakers were Mary Gao, Women Secretary, Mr Tatem Modi, Evangelist and Hon’ble MLA Laisam Simai.

The inaugural service was chaired by Mr Olik Siram, Youth President, ABC. Rev Dana Pertin, Mission Director ABC offered a dedicatory prayer followed by welcome note delivered by Mr Arun Pabin, Assistant Youth Director, ABC.

Mr Litem Eshi, Youth Secretary introduced the delegates and the speaker to the congregations. The Conference came to an end on 1st June with a valedictory service where by the council flag was handed to the Baptist Church Silluk, the next conference host.



North East Transformation Congress Planning Committee Meeting (9-10 June):

The NEITC planning committee meeting was held at CB-CNEI conference hall with around 25 members attending the meeting. Rev. Dr .Solomon Rongpi chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. The morning devotion was led by Rev Halli Likha, President of CBCNEI and Rev. Dr Richard Howell, General Secretary of Evangelical Fellowship of India and EFICC introduced the NEITC project to the members as a planned congress for all states of North East including Sikkim with the main idea to organise a research based Transformation

Congress by involving all churches and Christian NGO's in the North East. The committee meeting resolved to unanimously elect Rev. Dr .Solomon Rongpi as the Chairman and Rev .Dr. Richard Howell as the Co-chairman of NEITC.

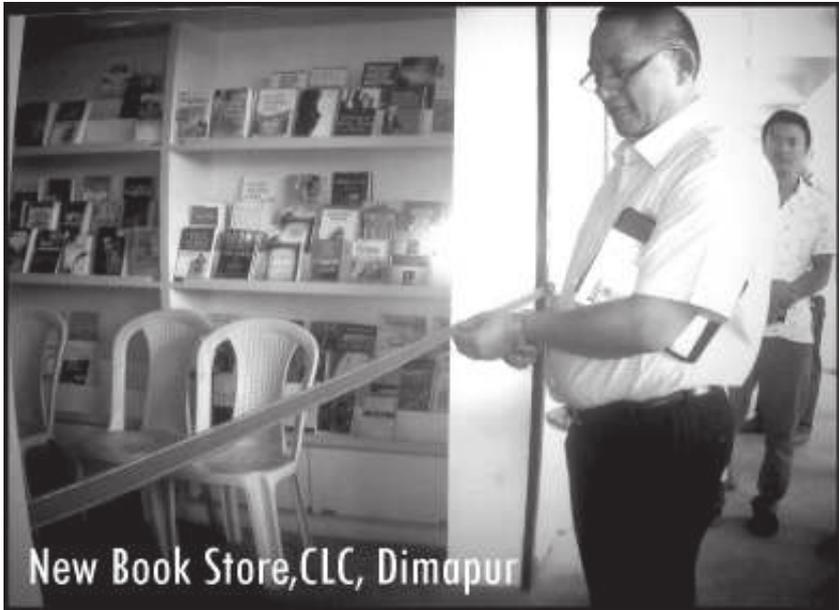


New Book Store,CLC, Dimapur (July 9)

Christian Literature Centre (CLC), Dimapur branch has extended New Book Shop at 1st floor of Nephrolie Complex, Opposite to UCO bank, Chumukedima, Nagaland. Rev Dr Kethozelhou Keyho, General Secretary of Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) has dedicat-



North East Transformation Congress Planning Committee Meeting



ed the new shop. The dedication program was led by Mr Moa Ao, Assistant Director, CLC Dimapur branch and vote of thanks was given by Rev T. P. Mor-decai, Director, CLC. Many ordained pastors and leaders from surrounding Chumukedima area attended the function. Sales begin right after the dedication was concluded.



21st Baptist World Alliance (22-26 July)

Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi the General Secretary of CBCNEI was among the 2500 delegates across the globe who represented in the **21st Baptist World Alliance Congress** held at International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa with the theme **”Jesus Christ, the Door.”** BWA which is one of the biggest organizations to express the **“the essential oneness of Baptists”** has now grown to over to 231 member organisations with

40 million Baptist believers and 1,77,000 local churches over the last 110 years of history. The General Secretary opined that attending this congress had been very beneficial spiritually and he further concluded that, the theme **“Jesus Christ, the Door to Liberty”** talks about liberty from slavery. It is liberty in Christ and liberty for doing the work of Christ. It is also liberty by living a life of fullness in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The next 22nd Baptist World Congress will be held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in 2020.

Religious Freedom Matters (July 24- 25)

The Alliance Defending Freedom of India (ADFI) and the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India jointly organized a two days conference at CBCNEI Conference hall. Adv.Loreign Ovung, Rev Akhilesh Edgar, Mr Atungo Shitri, Dr Ram Puniyani, Adv. Alin Kamei, Mrs Tehmina, Mr Dheraj Philip, Fr Varghese Velickakam and Fr Ravi Sagar were the resource persons who presented on vari-

ous topic relation to religious freedom. The two days conference concluded with an exhortation and benediction led by Rev Dr





Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI.



Lewis Memorial Hostel events (Aug 14)

Lewis Memorial Hostel is one among the three hostels under student's ministry run by the Council of Baptist Churches in North east India. Every year we have increasing number of boys hosteller and to this year we have 57 students in total from 25 different communities of North East region of which

23 are freshers. The freshers day 2015 was celebrated on 14th August with Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi, General secretary exhorting the students and Mr Francis was entitled Mr Fresher's 2015. There have been many co curriculums and career oriented programs like Youth Leadership seminar, Koinonia program, Building dreams-shaping lives all through out this month. The hostel have many activities coming up and thus request all of you to pray for these programs: Hostel sports week, Retreat Program and Mission trip.

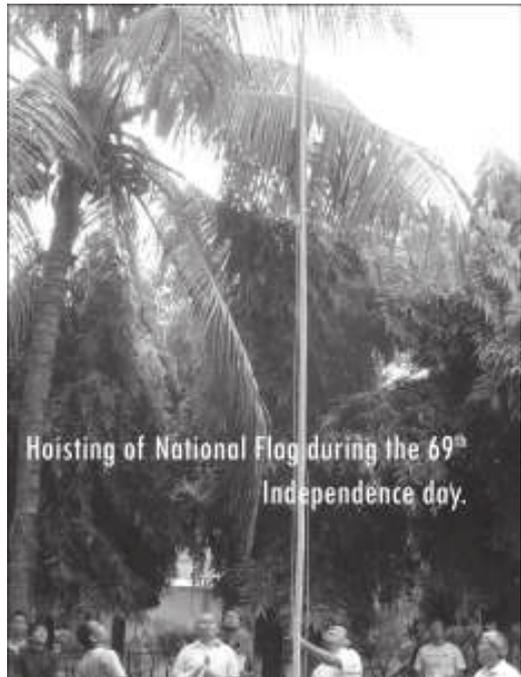




CBCNEI celebrated the 69th Independence Day

to an end with a prayer by Rev T. P. Mordecai, Director, Christian Literature Centre.

The 69th Indian Independence was celebrated at CBCNEI Mission compound with great enthusiasm by the staff and family of CBCNEI. Amidst the small gathering Rev Dr Solomon Rongpi led the program and Mrs Mary Lepcha read the scripture passage. A special number was presented by Mr Manchuak Wangcho followed by a brief speech by Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, CBCNEI before hoisting the national flag. The short program came



**Northern South Asia
Scripture Community of
Practice (31st Aug- 3rd Sep)**

Northern South Asia Scripture Community of Practice consultation program jointly hosted by the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI), Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM), Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) international underwent successfully at CBCNEI mission compound with more than 40 participants attending it from 18 different denomination churches and 10 different organiza-

tions from different parts of North East states and neighboring countries.

Dr Solomon Rongpi, General Secretary, CBCNEI inaugurated the consultation on 31st August and John Oo (SE Asia) addressed the welcome note that was accompanied by greetings from one of the co-host Mr John Mathai, IEM. There were three representative from Nepal and two from SE component. The end session of the consultation included a presentation on “Mobile phones apps” by Mr John Oo,





a “Partnership” presentation by Rt. Rev. Michael Herenx, Bishop, Church of North India (CNI) and the participants making action plans to bear a fruitful ministry through it. The program came to an end with the closing remark by Dr Solomon Rongpi, the local host and Bishop Rt. Rev. Michael Herenx, with a word of prayer and benediction.

CBCNEI Students Ministry Board Meeting (22nd Sept)

The half yearly Student’s Ministry Board meeting was conducted at Shillong Tyrannus Hall. The chairman of

the board Mr Aowabang presided over the meeting. The members present were Rev Dr Jolly Rimai, Mission Secretary, Mrs Neisewheno Sirie, Chaplain White Memorial Hostel, Mr M. Talimoa, Chaplain Lewis Memorial Hostel, Mr Pawan Bhuyan, Property Secretary, Mr Vikato Shikhu, Finance Secretary, Rev K.C Gaila, Chaplain Shillong Tyrannus Hall, Mr L.M Vanchnavong and Rev Ahao Shithung . The board meetings are conducted twice a year during which the reports of the chaplains are brief to the board members and the previous action plans were reviewed.

The Healing Ministry of the Council



*Dr Lucita Momin, Medical Secretary,
CBCNEI*

I thank God for giving me the privilege to serve Him through the “Healing Ministry” of the Council.

The Medical Board administers the hospital through its local Administrative Committee (ADMC) and so each of us has greater responsibilities in the management and administration. We are collectively bound to initiate our equally shared responsibilities as a member of the committee as well as an individual to bring about changes. I sincerely thank all the loyal staffs who are working with unflinching faith, overcoming all the hardships and pains with no signs of discouragements shown towards the institutions or families even in the midst of so many trials and sufferings.

We all need to strengthen our faith and encourage each other in prayers. Let us join hands in proclaiming the gospel through our works.

The brief report is to let know the important events, achievements and also the overall progress of the Healing Ministry of the Council so far.

Since long after the Impur Christian Hospital has been handed to ABAM, I have less news of it but I believe they are working out the best they could to carry forward the responsibilities shouldered upon for the better management and developments of the hospital. It is my prayer that the hospital continue to progress and be the centre of healing and extend greater the kingdom of through its fruitful ministry.

This year we had 86 applicants who applied for MBBS/BSC/ Physiotherapy for Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore and Ludhiana. 56 students were short listed for the online written exam in which only 15 students were selected provisionally. 13 students qualified for the final round of interview both at CMC Vellore and Ludhiana in which two students got selected for admission at CMC, Vellore. Unfortunately, we could not get the privilege to CMC , Ludhiana. The two students under CBCNEI sponsorship who got admission at CMC, Vellore for MBBS course 2015 are:

- a. Miss Kalibo Jakhalu
- b. Mr Kevingulie Savino

The present status of the students who are under CBCNEI sponsorship are as mentioned below:

CMC Vellore			
Sl. No.	Name	Course	Year of completion
1	Mr K. Marilio	MBBS	2014 - 15
2	Mr Niyor Dutta	MBBS	2014 - 15
3	Ms Chavini K. Shaozae	MBBS	2016 - 17
4	Ms Joice Muchahary	MBBS	2017 - 18
5	Ms Kazini Rebacca	MBBS	2018 - 19
6	Mr Toketo X Zeptho	MBBS	2018 - 19
7	Ms Sarah Khrasi	Post Basic, BSC	2016

CMC Ludhiana

Sl. No.	Name	Course	Year of completion
1.	Ms Aithen S Wotsa	MBBS	2015-16

Dr Priyanka Medhi is completing her 2nd year bond at Jorhat Christian Medical Center on 15th April 2016 and Dr Abigail Resu will be completing her 1st year bond this coming November at Satribari Christian Hospital

Challenges in the healing ministry:

Every ministry is to likely face tough challenges due to many reason said and unsaid. It is a great responsibility to bring about fruitful changes and it needs time in the process of development and progression. The Mission run hospital is not an exception here, we are always short of man power specially doctors and nurses. The infra-structures of the hospitals badly need developments and also the equipments lacks in up gradations. It is my earnest request to the churches and associations to keep upholding our ministry in prayers and also encourage and nurture the youths and direct them towards the service of humanity and to render their service in helping people and also to be a leader of the institution for a better tomorrow. Keep upholding this ministry in your prayers.

God Bless you all.





We the Readers

The Mouthpiece

“We The Readers: The Mouthpiece”, a new column introduced in *Baptist News* for the keen reader-contributors who not only read us but also come forward with their insightful articles and express constructive opinions. We have received a n overwhelming response in this issue and we look forward more to it.

Keep mailing us at:

editor@cbcnei.in / lichenbenitungoe@gmail.com

1. The cost of discipleship

*Mr Miresh Basumatary, Missionary,
Krima II & VIII, Garo Baptist Convention*

No one goes to the market or shop to buy things without money because without paying the price or cost nothing could be taken from the shop. We need to pay cost to get and in the same way, we also need to pay costs to be Jesus’ disciple. Many desire to follow Christ and start but slowly fail because we are not willing to pay the full costs of discipleship. The following are some of the ways to prepare ourselves in



being Christ true disciple:

1. Putting Jesus First in life: In this scientific age where varieties of comfortable elements have prevailed, it may be very difficult to put Jesus first in life. There are many things for us in life which may come first; it can be families, pleasures, education, business, popularity, acceptance, fleshly lusts, houses, clothing, comfort, looks, hobbies, dreams, etc. As believers of Christ, it is our obligation to put Jesus first in our life at any cost. Jesus said in John 12:25, “Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” So, it reminds and calls us to a life of self denial, to take up our cross and follow in His steps for the sake of Christ.

2. Overcoming Pain, Suffering and Temptation: Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:10-12, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” James also said that while anyone endures temptation will receive the crown of life (James 1:12). All these encourage us to overcome pains, sufferings and temptation and while a believer overcomes all these through prayers and supplication than it proofs that he or she is paying the cost of being disciple of Christ.

3. Dying to Self: Jesus Himself is the model of the true disciple who left all the comfort and glory on His heavenly throne and came into this sinful world to serve and suffer for us. He said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Dying to self require self denial,

Paul mentions in his letter to the Galatians and Colossians that different kinds of sinful natures can keep us away from the presence of God and one must die from all these areas: 1. Sexual immorality 2. Impurity and debauchery 3. Idolatry and witchcraft 4. Hatred 5. Discord 6. Fits of rage 7. Self ambition 8. Jealousy 9. Dissensions 10. Factions 11. Envy 12. Drunkenness 13. Orgies 14. Malice 15. Slander and 16. Filthy language from our lips (Gal. 5: 19-21, Col. 3:8-10). Dying to self also require complete surrender to Jesus and lifelong commitment to Jesus. The desire of a disciple's life is not own life but the uttermost desire is to live and die for Christ. Paul writes with his own practical experience in 1 Cor. 15:31, "I die every day", it means 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and until the end of our life.

4. Living for Christ: Jesus calls His disciples to be like Him, infusing them with His character. Living like Christ is possible only if one is truly obedient to follow the voice of their master (John 10:15-17, 14:23). Obedience is the top priority of Christ-like disciples. The true disciples carry the mark of Jesus, Paul as a slave of Jesus bore the marks of his slave service (Gal. 6:12-17). Paul argued with the Jewish legalists regarding circumcision and said you glory in your circumcision mark but I will glory in my mark of sufferings for Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 11:22-28). God expects obedience in our lives every day . Jesus was obedient to every words His Father spoke to Him (John 12:49). His life of obedience was demonstrated even to the last part of His earthly ministry - dying on the cross (Mark 14:36). We are to learn and follow in the footprints of our master, Jesus, so that the world will know that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35).

As a seed of any kind cannot multiply unless it dies so is the life of disciples. The process of discipleship is costly, unless one is ready to pay the price or c. There is need of

putting Jesus first in life at any cost, Overcoming Pain, Suffering and Temptation, and even dying to self. Living for Christ by complete obedience to Jesus indicates the mark of Jesus' true disciple. So, let us all strengthen our faith in Christ and also equip ourselves to take up the cross and be ready to bear the costs and follow Christ till the end of earthly life.



2. Are you in distress?



Pastor Anungla, Chang Baptist Church, Kohima

The word depressed literally means “pressed down”. Today in our society there are many of us who are depressed though the outer look may seem happy and cheerful. Deep down many people live depressing and discouraged lives that even lead them to suicide and weakens them to all kinds of physical, mental and spiritual diseases.

Let us look at the story of Saul from the Bible who because of his disobedience became tragically depressed. Though the beginning of his life was good and full of promises but because he followed his heart and made his own rules, he missed the mark.

Kish the mighty man of power from the tribe of Benjamin had a handsome son, name Saul. As the story goes, once his father Kish lost a donkey and him and a servant to search for it, they passed through mountain of Ephraim, Shalisha and Shaolim but couldn't find the lost donkey and eventually, it led him to Samuel, the Prophet. God told Samuel that Saul was the chosen one to be the King of Israel one day and he became the first King of Israel.

As the year passed by, Saul began to indulge more in unlawful sacrifice and his disobedience to God grew deeper. Great fear came upon them when the Philistine gathered to fight against them with thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen and soldiers. Saul called for the prophet Samuel and when he failed to turn on time, the King out of fear and impatience altered the burnt offering by himself. In Samuel 13:13 "And Samuel said to Saul, you have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which He commanded you...."

And hence because of his disobedience to God's commandment Saul was rejected as King and eventually he began to live a depressing life. He had pledged to obey God's word but he made his own rules and did not follow the Lord. The root cause of his depressing life was in the fact that he had disobeyed God's clear direction for him. Eventually the voice of God departed from him and his Kingship was given to his neighbor. (I Samuel 13:14).

Years later after the death of Samuel, the prophet. Saul enquired of the Lord but the voice of God couldn't be heard. And in distress all he thought was to consult a medium, yet another accomplice to disobedience. All forms of witchcraft had been condemned by god. (Exodus 22:18, Levi 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12, 14). Saul had exercised civil authority and driven mediums from the land (I Samuel 28:3) yet this

medium was still at Israel at En Dor. We can note the reason for Saul's decision of consulting the only medium he choose as a hope for his distressed life in I Samuel 28:15b where he said " I am deeply distressed..... God has departed from me and does not answer anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams....."

Consequently, the very next day he and his son Jonathan was killed at the valley of Gilboa. What a tragic end that was for the first King of Israel?

All this happened because of his rebellious heart and his disobedience. One sin lead to another and the ultimate wages of sin is death.

Are you living a distressed life like Saul? Has the voice of God no longer be heard?

There will be no joy and happiness in life unless you have a mission in your life and obey God's command, for He knows the best for you. Lets Remember this, "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice and the knowledge of God more than burnt offering: To obey is better than sacrifice"



I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1



Elicitation

Miss Eranbeni Erui, Trainer, Dimension school of Phonetics and Spoken English.

Have you lately recalled the thousand melodious songs?
Your mother sang when she gently unfurled your sweet
infancy.

But you chose to take the love that is unconditional
As an encouragement to be greedy and selfish
And let the vindictive squall of reality blow it all away.

Have you lately recalled your father's weary yet
contented eyes?
When he watched you take the first step and rejoiced at
your every giggle and gurgle.
But you chose to give him a stound in return of the joy
that knew no bound.
Turning deaf ears at every loving rebuke.

Have you lately recalled your brother's triumphant glee?
When he proudly proclaimed you as the best swimmer,
To his friends at the sport event.
But you chose to swim in wine
And refused to come out of the drunken stupor.

Have you lately recalled your sister's lithe body
undulating in a flexuous grace?
When you danced with her on her 16th birthday
But you chose to dance with the white-collar mates
Drinking the south west local beer

Have you lately recalled your impeccably gorgeous wife
in her bridal attire?
When you promised to give her all the happiness and
build a beautiful world of your own
But you chose to inject Nirvana through a needle
Is the hollow world of your hallucination the world you
promised her?

Have you lately recalled your son's mischievous
tantrums?
When you cajoled him to drink the last fill of his milk.
But you chose not to shrug off the late night drunkenness
Have you drunk your last fill?

Have you lately realized that when you are gone
And they hear the echoing sound of the knell
They will be coerced to give an overt eulogy of yours
Because the violence and blood will still remain
And their tears will only add to their misery

Have you lately realized that you chose this life
deliberately?
But have you also lately realized that God chose you to
be his own image
And he hasn't given up on you.
Stand up, look around and go forth
Let's not end a life without fame
The choice is still yours..

BAPTIST NEWS SUBSCRIPTION / RENEWAL FORM

Name (CAPITAL LETTER): _____ Date: _____
Address (CAPITAL LETTER): _____
Village/Street : _____ Post Office: _____
City: _____ District: _____
State: _____ Country: _____ Pin/Zip: _____
e-Mail: _____ Phn./Cell No. _____

Church/Association/Convention _____

Institution / Others(specify): _____

Period of subscription : One year ₹ 150/- (\$20) Two years ₹ 250/- (\$35) Mode of payment:
Three years ₹ 400/- (\$50) Five years ₹ 600/- (\$80) Cash
MO/DD

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

Mail to:

The Editor
Baptist News, CBCNEI Mission Compound
H. B. Road, Panbazar, Garoabati - 781001, Assam, India
Phone No.: 0361-2515829

Signature

For office use only:

Receipt Number: _____ Date: _____ Cashier: _____

Medical Studies Sponsorship Forms

CBCNEI Medical Studies Sponsorship application forms for:

- * **MBBS**
- * **BSc (Nursing)**
- * **Post Basic BSc Nursing (PBBSn)**
- * **BPT (Physiotherapy) and**
- * **BSc- MLT (Laboratory Technician)**

courses in CMC, Vellore and Ludhiana are available at CBCNEI office on payment of ₹500/- for the form.

Interested candidate who is a bonafide member of churches under the **Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI)** may obtain the application form during office hours.

Last date of submission of the application form to CBCNEI office is **January 31, 2016.**

Sd/

Dr Lucita Momin

Medical Secretary, CBCNEI

Mission Compound, Panbazar, Guwahati- 781001

Contact: 0361-2515829

eMail: lucita@cbcnei.in / info@cbcnei.in

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

You can mail to:

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

The Baptist News

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

Disclaimer:

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

Mode of payment:

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

Contribution:

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

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

Change of Address:

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

Send your article or letter to:
The Editor, Baptist News
CBCNEI Mission Compound
H. B. Road Panbazar, Guwahati
Assam-781001, India
email: editor@cbcnei.in