

CLARK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Annual Magazine 2019-2020



Reimagining Christian Identity



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CTC Community 2019-2020

CLARK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Annual Magazine 2019 – 2020



Reimagining Christian Identity

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CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
EDITORIAL NOTE	4
ANNUAL REPORTS	
• Principal's Desk	Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener 5
• Academic Dean	Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir 6-12
• Dean of Post Graduate Studies	Rev. Dr. K. Dhanbir Rai 13-14
• Dean of Practical Ministries	Dr. R. Nungshilepzuk 15
• CCCRC Director	Prof. L. Imsutoshi Jamir 16-17
• CCPRA Programme Coordinator	Ms. Imtiwala Imchen 18-19
• Library	Mr. Prabu P 20
• Worship Committee	Ms. Nungshijungla Jamir 21-22
• CTCSU	Ms. Yangermenla Imsong 23-24
ARTICLES	
• M.Th. Christian Ministry Dept. Exposure Trip: A Reflection	Ms. Moasenla, M.Th.I 25-26
• M.Th. Communication Department Exposure Trip: A Reflection	Ms. Imlilemla Pongener, M.Th.I 27-29
• "Route along Ladies Hostel Life"	Ms. Nukshirenla Jamir, BD IV 30
• "Route along Gents Hostel Life"	Mr. Kadidinbou Newmai, BD IV 31
• Reflections on CTC	Mr. I. Meyionen Jamir 32-33
• Time To Say "NONSENSE" To Mad Kings and Queens of Our Time	Prof. L. Imsutoshi Jamir 34-36
• Reimagining Christian Identity: Some Random Reflections	Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao 37-38
• Reimagining Christian Identity in the Context of Water Crisis	Dr. Temsuyanger 39-40
• From a Teacher's Log Book	Ms. Oshyajem Longkumer 41-42
• Back To Our Roots	Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao 43-48
• Testimony	Mr. Mangliyangba Jamir, BD I 49
• Reimagining Christian Identity	Mr. B. Pongthai Phom 50-51
• "First Mitzvot"	Mr. Ochimeren Imsong, M.Th. I 52-53
• What Discipline Means to Me	Mr. Merangkaba, BD II 54
• The Man Standing at the Edge of Sanity	Mr. Nungsangmanen, BD I 55-56
• An Extra Mile	Ms. T. Moishen, M.Th.I 57
• What I Learned from Lot's Character	Mr. Tenseng M. Sangma, BD IV 58-59
• Why Black Man!	Mr. Pyntohmon Poshna, M.Th.II 60
• Together, we did it for the Glory of God	Ms. Limasangla, M.Th. II 61-62
• Letter to My First Love (CTC) – Grateful for Everything	Ms. Merangdangla Imchen, BD IV 63
• "Ballad of Hope"	Mr. Naklu Imchen, BD III 64
• Okonkwo	Ms. Tiajungla S. Longkumer, BD I 65
• Battle Cry	Mr. Longsanungsang P, BD II 65
• Amidst!	Ms. Alemkala P Jamir, BD I 66
• "The Woozy World"	Ms. Zubeni Ngullie, BD III 66
• Sane's Vanity: Nature's Poverty	Mr. Imsentiba Jamir, M.Th.I 67
• "I Know"	Mr. Sukumba Aier, M.Th.II 67
PHOTO MONTAGE	68-82

Editorial

The beginning and end of the year makes one grateful to the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Another academic year 2019-2020 has come to an end. It makes us not only thankful to God the Almighty, but also to have a recollection of our lives. The chosen Annual academic years theme "Reimagining Christian Identity" reminds us to introspect our lives in all aspects. Throughout the year, this theme has been contemplated and reflected on several issues and concerns. The word Identity is the fact of being who or what a person or thing is, this naturally leads to question of how a Christian should live Christ like identity. Reimagining Christian Identity enforces us to envisage a commitment in our lives. Christian Identity blended with the covenant idea and covenant people, bounded to the Lord with cords of love and affection.

As we are at the end of this academic year, it is time to evaluate and examine our lives during the past year, what have been our responsibility, achievement and fulfilment. As we go through the pages of the magazine, we will find exciting writings such as thought-provoking articles, activities and experiences of life in CTC, inspiring testimony, reflections on contextual issues, essay, poems, sharing, and reports of the yearly assessment along with the pictorial section.

The Literary Committee truly express our appreciation and gratitude to the esteemed college authority for giving us privilege to bring out this magazine. We also acknowledged those people who have made contribution in various ways. Our special thanks goes to Mr. Moatemsu Jamir, P.A. to Principal for assisting in photography and also making efforts to bring out this College Magazine for the year 2019-2020 on time.

God add His blessings upon all the Readers.

Dr. Boholi Z. Sema, Faculty Advisor



From the Principal's Desk

Greetings to all our readers!

God's grace upon Clark Theological College (CTC) is immeasurable. The sufficiency of God's unmerited favor and mercy upon CTC has been testified continually as CTC continues to engage in accomplishing God's given mission here on earth. CTC has long been regarded as a 'Molding Centre' for an individual. A place where spiritual, academic and other related activities are practiced under the motto, "*Called Out for the Great Harvest*". Accordingly, while in the pursuit of molding a person in their commitment and to further their calling for God's mission, CTC aims to surround and mold them with sound theological education and training. It is a blessing to witness the continual growth of people answering God's call to undergo theological training. This is also one of CTC's testaments in mission, that every year we receive more men and women joining the college with willing hearts to undergo theological training.



REV. DR. MAR PONGENER

It is always very exciting to see strong commitments in the lives of new entrants to our theological college and their zeal to serve God is always evident. However, understanding the challenges in channeling the commitment and zeal of students into them becoming faithful and dedicated servants of God, our faculty and staff continue to work hand in hand to bring out the best of every student. Every theological institution should constantly pursue ways and means on how to mold their students during their training in college. It is important to explore different methods to integrate both theoretical and practical disciplines of their study. We share an understanding that theoretical discussions and inputs within a classroom plays just one part in molding a person for ministry. Practical implications have to enrich and compliment theoretical learning, and we strive to maintain a fine balance between the two aspects. We seek to assist in providing a solid foundation for students to further build themselves on. Throughout the various courses we offer, CTC exists to encourage and mold students according to the doctrines of Christ by maintaining a parallel between theoretic and practical learning. We believe in the importance of helping students formulate a biblical view in every way possible to guide them and possibly remove any limitations they might face in ministry.

With prior regard in developing students academically and helping them advance in their ministerial skills and leadership qualities, CTC functions her overall training programs with a goal to fulfill the following aims and objectives; 1) *To provide a sound Biblio-centric theological education at University level with a high academic standard.* 2) *To produce men and women to serve the cause of Christ in both rural and urban areas.* 3) *To develop a sound pastoral ministry relevant to the political, social and cultural changes that are sweeping the Indian society in general and the tribal society in particular.* 4) *To help the people re-evaluate their sense of value and their traditional structures in the light of the gospel and the claims of Christ.* 5) *To help maintain a sense of unity and co-operation among evangelical and ecumenical groups for a wider and more effective witness.* 6) *To encourage a research-oriented program of outreach to cross-cultural and pluralistic Indian society with special reference to inter-tribal context in Northeast.* In our journey to fulfill our aims and objectives, through prayers, monetary support and to various services rendered to the growth of CTC, we continually ask for your mutual and constant support. As CTC continues to commit in equipping young men and women for God's ministry, I humbly request for your help and support towards the College. Without givers like you, CTC would not be able to accomplish what it has in aiding to the work and ministry of God here on earth. Thank you for supporting CTC!

Within the last 47 years of existence, CTC has trained and sent out 1,890 men and women who are now in different places serving the Lord in ministry. CTC will be composed of more than 2,000 alumni by the time she celebrates her 50th Anniversary in 2022. All these have been made possible because of the continuous support that we receive from different churches, local churches under ABAM, various organizations, alumni, families and individuals. It is also a joy to mention that CTC is blessed to have a wonderful and dedicated group of working individuals, the members of the Board of Governors led by Mr. I. Meyionen Jamir. Their tireless services and efforts toward CTC's ministry is always highly regarded and appreciated. The mix of teaching faculty and non-teaching staff, all who are ever willing to take up different responsibilities and challenges, makes CTC a special learning institution where young men and women are shaped and molded for God's ministry.

As the readers go through the pages of this annual magazine, you will see the wonders done by God in the life and ministry of CTC. May you all join us in saying, *The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:3.*



REV. DR. A. TEMJEN JAMIR

Academic Dean's Annual Report (2019-2020)

Each passing academic year can be seen as an opportunity and exciting moment because it keeps us focus and active towards the destination. During the academic year (2019-2020), the academic, spiritual and ministerial programmes and activities were being offered in order to equip and develop the students towards holistic ministry in the church and society. In this connection, both the teachers and students have put their best efforts and endeavored to achieve the heights of academic excellence. Further the non-teaching staff members played a vital role and were always supportive towards all the college activities. It indicates that the academic performances and achievements are always dependent on team work and mutual coordination with one another. Following is the brief report of the Academic Dean.

1. 44th CTC Graduation Ceremony (2018-2019)

Altogether 82 graduates of Bachelor Divinity (64), Master of Theology (12) and Certificate of Church Music Ministry (6) received their diplomas and certificates at the 44th Graduation Ceremony on 14th April 2019. During this ceremony various awards, prizes and certificates were given to the deserving students based on the academic and other co-curricular performances as follows:

A. College Awards for Master of Theology:

- i. The College Award for Academic Proficiency for Master of Theology (**in Overall branches**). This Award was given to: **Ms. T. Ngipchem Konyak**
- ii. The College Award for Academic Proficiency for Master of Theology in **Christian Ministry**. This Award was given to:
 - * **Christian Education: Ms. Paukindiliu**
 - * **Christian Counselling: Ms. Livika S. Yeptho & Ms. Pangerjungshila**
- iii. The College Award for Academic Proficiency for Master of Theology in **Communication**. This Award was given to: **Ms. T. Ngipchem Konyak**

B. College Awards for Bachelor of Divinity:

- i. **Imlong Chang Award for Academic Proficiency:** The Imlong Chang Award for the Academic Proficiency is awarded to a graduate for the highest academic achievement in BD level, during his/her entire studies in the college. This year the Imlong Chang Award for Academic Proficiency was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- ii. **Dr. I. BenWati Award for Christian Ministry:** The Dr. I. Ben Wati Award for Christian Ministry is given to a member of the graduating class who demonstrate outstanding ability in relating to academic learning, practical life and faith and shows special gift for Christian Ministry. This year the Award for Christian Ministry was given to: **Mr. Roukuovizo Seyei, Ms. Sashikumla, Ms. Imesenrenla**
- iii. **The College Award for General Contribution:** This Award is given to a member of the graduating Class who in the judgment of the Faculty has made an outstanding overall general contribution towards College Community life during his/her study at Clark. This year the Award for General Contribution was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- iv. **Lobenshilu Award for Best Conduct:** The Best Conduct is awarded to a graduate who in the observation of the Faculty have reflected noteworthy Christian character in his/her behavior and attitude during the entire period of study. This year the Award for the Best Conduct was given to: **Ms. L. Phungnyu Phom, Mr. Thankful Lyngdoh Mawlieh**
- v. **Rev. Dr. Takatemjen Award for Church Music:** This Award for Church Music is awarded to a member of the graduating class who made invaluable contribution towards commu-

nity worship and is based on promise of excellence in future to the Church music. This year the Award for Church Music was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden, Mr. TS. Nohrin Anal**

- vi. **Rev. I. Anang Award for Preaching:** This Award is given in honour of Late. Rev. I. Anang, the first Principal of Clark Theological College. It is given to a member of graduating class who shows extraordinary gift for preaching the Word with passion, sincerity and relevance. The Faculty Body has decided to give this award to the winners for the first and second positions in the preaching contest. This year, the award for Preaching was given to:
 - Ms. C. Asenla** – 1st
 - Ms. Yimsurenla B. Walling** – 2nd
 - Mr. Hikhilo Apon** – 3rd (Honourary Mentioned)
- vii. **Rev. Yaongsangba Award for Field Education:** This Award is given to a member of graduating class who made an outstanding contribution towards Field Education during the entire studies in the college. This Award was given to: **Mr. Roukuovizo Seyei, Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- viii. **Rev. T. Likok Award for Barefoot Ministry:** This award is given to a member of graduating class who made a commitment to serve in a rural context of church ministry. This Award was given to: **Mr. N. Hongben Konyak**
- ix. **Dr. Renthly Keitzar Award for Old Testament Studies:** This Award is given to a member of graduating class who obtained the highest marks in the overall Old Testament papers. This Award was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden, Mr. Thankful Lyngdoh Mawlieh**
- x. **The College Award for Hebrew Language & Exegesis:** This Award is given to a member of the graduating class who obtained the highest marks in the Old Testament papers in Hebrew Language and Exegesis. This Award was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- xi. **The College Award for Greek Language & Exegesis:** This Award is given to a member of the graduating class who obtained the highest marks in the New Testament papers in Greek Language and Exegesis. This Award was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- xii. **The College Award for Scripture Knowledge.** This Award was given to: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden**
- xiii. **Music Certificates:** Clark Theological College offers a “Certificate in Fundamentals of Music Theory” to students who are interested in the subject. This year 5 students received the music Certificates: **Mr. Sentiakum Yaden, Mr. TS. Nohrin Anal, Mr. Aohajung, Mr. Vanbemo Lotha, Ms. Lanang Dai Naw**
- xiv. **Certificate on Leadership (GLA) from Clark Centre for Leadership Development (CCLD):** The Clark Centre for Leadership Development was officially inaugurated on 1st August 2007 during the 10th CTC Alumni Association meeting cum mission Consultation. The CCLD offers Leadership training to the students in association with the Global LEAD Alliance. This year, altogether **64 B.D.** graduating students have successfully completed the course and received the Certificate on leadership.
- xv. **College Awards for Certificate in Church Music Ministry:** The Certificate in Church Music Ministry Award for overall performances. This Award was given to: **Ms. Imnaienla**
- xvi. **Choir Certificate:** Beginning from 2014, the College has been giving certificate to those who has faithfully rendered his/her service to the ministry of the College Choir. This year, altogether 32 of them received the choir certificate.
 - 1. Ms. T. Ngipchem Konyak – M.Th
 - 2. Ms. Wapangsenla L. Longkumer
 - 3. Ms. Yangthrila Mongzar
 - 4. Mr. Aohajung – BD
 - 5. Mr. Hikhilo Apon

6. Mr. N. Hongben Konyak
7. Mr. SentiakumYaden
8. Mr. ThankfullLyngdoh Mawlieh
9. Mr. TS. Nohrin Anal
10. Mr. Yarmanen
11. Ms. Akumnaro Longkumer
12. Ms. Akumsungla Longkumer
13. Ms. Bendangnungla
14. Ms. Lanang Dai Naw
15. Ms. Lanutola Lkr
16. Ms. Levisonla Chang
17. Ms. Nukshilemla Jamir
18. Ms. Nukshirenla Kichu
19. Ms. Nungtila Changkiri
20. Ms. Nyanbeni N. Humtsoe
21. Ms. Ojungmenla
22. Ms. Phyobeni N. Ngullie
23. Ms. Sashikumla
24. Ms. Sowakala
25. Ms. Tiakala Pongen
26. Mr. Vanbemo Lotha
27. Mr. Imlitoba - CCMM
28. Mr. Imolangba Jamir
29. Ms. Imlimenla
30. Ms. Imlirenla
31. Ms. Imnaienla
32. Ms. Sentikumla Aier

2. Senate of Serampore College Result 2018 -2019 Academic Session

I. Master of Theology (M.Th.):

a. Communication - 05 students: A = 01; A - = 02, B+ = 02

b. Christian Ministry - 07 students

i. Christian Education – 04 students : A- = 03, B+ = 01,

ii. Counselling - 03 students : A - = 03

- Total No. of students appeared = 12 students

II. Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) : BD final year – 66 students

A - = 01; B+ = 12; B = 38; B - = 12; Fail = 01; Absent = 02

3. New Academic Year (2019-2020):

The new academic year was started on 6th June, 2019, which was followed by a community retreat from June 8—9, 2019, basing on the theme “Re-imagining Christian Identity”. On June 10, 2019 General Orientation was held for all the students and a special session was held for new students in the afternoon. Classes were begun from June 11, 2019 and MTh Methodological Seminar was conducted from 11-14 March, 2019. A warm befitting Fresher’s Night programme was held on June 14, 2019 in welcoming the new students to the CTC community.

I. Total Enrolment of Students (Class-wise) for 2019 - 2020 Academic Session

Sl. No	Class	Male	Female	Total
1.	D.Th Communication	01	00	01
2.	M.Th II Christian Theology	03	01	04

3.	M.Th II Communication	04	04	08
4.	M.Th II Christian Ministry			
	Christian Education	02	03	05
	Counselling	02	01	03
5.	M.Th I Christian Theology	05	00	05
6.	M.Th I Communication	03	05	08
7.	M.Th I Christian Ministry			
	Christian Education	01	02	03
	Counselling	06	06	12
8.	BD IV	15	23	38
9.	BD III	27	36	63
10.	BD II	38	33	71
11.	BD I	38	36	74
12.	BD OC	22	22	44
13.	CCMM Students	02	03	05
Total No. of students		169	175	344

4. Tribal Representations (2019-2020) Academic Year:

Sl. No.	Tribe	Male	Female	Total
1.	Amri Karbi	01	02	03
2.	Anal	02	-	02
3.	Angami	02	03	05
4.	Ao	85	93	177
5.	Assamese	01	-	01
6.	Bhutan	01	-	01
7.	Chiru	01	-	01
8.	Chakesang	02	01	03
9.	Chang	03	03	06
10.	Chin (Myanmar)	04	00	04
11.	Garos (Meghalaya)	10	07	17
12.	Hmar	01	-	01
13.	Jantia (Meghalaya)	03	-	03
14.	Kachin (Myanmar)	03	-	03
15.	Khasi (Meghalaya)	01	-	01
16.	Khamniungan	01	07	08
17.	Konyak	08	11	19
18.	Lotha	07	18	25
19.	Mao	-	01	01
20.	Maram	01	-	01
21.	Nocte	01	-	01
22.	Nepali	01	01	02
23.	Nyishi	01	-	01
24.	Phom	08	10	18
25.	Rengma	00	01	01
26.	Rongmei	01	-	01
27.	Sangtam	04	04	08
28.	Sumi	07	07	14
29.	Tangkhul	03	-	03
30.	Tangsa	02	-	02
31.	Tikhir	02	-	02
32.	Yimchunger	-	01	01
33.	Zeliang	05	02	07
Total		169	175	344

5. Tutorial Group Meet:

The purpose of meeting tutorial group is aimed at giving tutorial advice and guidance to each student in the group. In this connection, each student is being assigned to a tutorial group under a faculty guide for the whole of his/her study period. In addition, a total of 16 tutorial groups met in their respective places on every first and third Tuesday morning for worship and Bible study which provides plenty of opportunity for participation and spiritual nourishment.

6. BD Thesis Workshop:

On July 22 – 23, 2019, thesis workshop was being conducted successfully for BD III students. Faculty members were being assigned to discuss on various methodological issues and concerns for writing a good thesis. The students were benefited a lot through their interaction with their teachers. Altogether 45 students are going to write their thesis under their respective faculty supervision in the next academic year 2020-2021.

7. Submission of Thesis:

Altogether 29 BD final year students have worked on their thesis under the supervision of their assigned faculty and successfully completed their thesis and submitted on February 26, 2020.

8. College Awards Ceremony:

The College Award ceremony for the academic year 2018 -2019 was held on 10th November, 2019 (evening). The deserving students were given class wise academic proficiency awards, language and Scripture Knowledge awards. The various awards and prizes were given to the deserving students as follows:

I. M.Th. Academic Proficiency Award**M.Th. I (Christian Theology)**

1. Mr. Akumsashi	70.62%	1 st
2. Ms. Limasangla	69.37%	2 nd

M.Th. I (Christian Education)

1. Ms. Renemkala	68.12%	1 st
2. Mr. Fillingson Sutong	66.25%	2 nd

M.Th. I (Christian Counseling)

1. Ms. Wangshirenla	66.42%	1 st
2. Mr. Sukumba Aier	65.71%	2 nd

M.Th. I (Communication)

1. Ms. Kungkam Newmai	72.77%	1 st
2. Mr. Yimrenemba Imchen	71.66%	2 nd

II. BD**BD III: Academic Proficiency Award**

Ms. Yangermenla	70%	1 st
Ms. Nukshirenla	69.6%	2 nd

Scripture Knowledge

Ms. Nukshirenla	85.75%	1 st
Mr. Obangsunep Pongen	77%	2 nd

BD II: Academic Proficiency Award

Mr. Kinley Tenzin	71.15%	1 st
Ms. Imsuben Changkiri	67.30%	2 nd

Scripture Knowledge

Ms. Toshirenlā	81.5%	1 st
Ms. Meyijungla	80%	2 nd

BD I: Academic Proficiency Award

Ms. Loreno T. Lotha	70.76%	1 st
Ms. Moabenla	68.46%	2 nd

Scripture Knowledge

Ms. Loreno T. Lotha	84.50%	1 st
Mr. Tinuyanger Pongen	84.50%	1 st
Ms. Phainyu Konyak	84%	2 nd

Language Award**Greek language:**

Mr. Mopa Wallang Konyak	97%	1 st
Mr. Tinuyanger Pongen	96%	2 nd

Hebrew Language:

Mr. Likha Kaku	92%	1 st
Ms. Loreno T. Lotha	91%	2 nd

Music Award:

Mr. Tinuyanger Pongen	74.50%	1 st
Mr. Likha Kaku	71.50%	2 nd

BD OC: Academic Proficiency Award

Ms. Lochumi A. Murry	72.08%	1 st
Mr. T. Nungsangmanen Aier	71.25%	2 nd

Scripture Knowledge

Mr. T. Nungsangmanen Aier	88.50%	1 st
Mr. Wangjoy Sonthing	88.50%	1 st
Mr. Nokchusanen	88%	2 nd

Music

Ms. Lochumi A. Murry	68%	1 st
Ms. Sungjemsenla	65.50%	2 nd

A. SCHOLARSHIP**1. BD Class Topper Award Sponsored by 2008 Graduates**

Ms. Lochumi A. Murry	72.08%
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2. Merit Scholarship:**i. M.Th. Topper Award sponsored by Changki Baptist Arogo**

Ms. Kungkam Newmai	72.77%
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ii. Dr. I. Ben Wati Merit Scholarship (This award is given to First and Second toppers from the overall classes)

Ms. Kungkam Newmai	72.77%
Ms. Lochumi A. Murry	72.08%

3. Scholarship**i. Rev. & Mrs. M. M. Das Scholarship— Ms. Yangermenla**

ii. Rev. & Mrs. John Desai Scholarship— Ms. Nukshirenla

B. BOOK GRANT

i. Late T. Aliba Book Grant— Ms. Renemkala, Mr. Sukumba Aier

ii. Late Dr. Imtisungkum Book Grant—Ms. Y. Honngam Konyak, Mr. Lasang John Awng

iii. Changkiyimlang Arogo Book Grant—Ms. Temsurenla T. Jamitsür, Mr. Sungjemrenba Jamir

iv. Late Burkumba Book Grant— Ms. Sukumbeni Ngully, Mr. Tengseng M. Sangma

9. Leadership Development Course:

The Leadership Development course in collaboration with the Global LEAD Alliance was being offered to present BD III and BD final year (BD IV) students. The following faculty members were assigned to teach the course to the students: Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir, Mr. Toshi Aier and Mr. Renbi Rangthang. Upon the completion of the course, the present sixty three (63) final year students were given away certificates during the 45th Graduation ceremony.

10. NITS Conference 31st October – 3rd November, 2019 at Eastern Theological College, Jorhat. The following faculty guide and students participated in the conference.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| a. Mr. Kadidingbou Newmai | – BD IV |
| b. Mr. Nukshirenla | – BD IV |
| c. Mr. Kinley Tenzin | – BD III |
| d. Dr. Boholi Z. Sema | – Faculty |

Conclusion:

We are indeed thankful to the Almighty God for His unceasing love and blessings throughout this academic year. And appreciates the support received from the individual, families, churches and various organizations for the life and ministry of CTC.



“SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT.

IT IS HARD WORK, PERSEVERANCE, LEARNING, STUDYING, SACRIFICE

AND MOST OF ALL,

LOVE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING OR LEARNING TO DO.”

- *PELE*



Dean of Post Graduate Studies Annual Report

REV. DR. K. DHANBIR RAI

It is a special occasion for me to greet all the readers, well-wishers and partners of Clark Theological College. You will be delighted to know that the Post Graduate program has made significant strides in promoting theological education in North East India. Enrolment of the students has touched 48 (forty eight). A substantial growth in the enrolment is an indication that CTC is becoming a crucial player in promoting master's program in our region. And so, it is an opportunity for CTC to provide relevant and the choicest academic knowledge to all the future theologians. Beginning from 2020-2021 academic session, Post Graduate program is glad to announce the addition of Christian Ethics as a new department. For 2020-2021 academic session, 29 (twenty nine) students have qualified themselves in the department of Christian Theology, Christian Ethics, Christian Education, Pastoral Counselling and Communication.

May I present a brief highlight of Post Graduate Program for you all to comprehend and endorse CTC in all possible ways.

1. Student Enrollment: For the academic session 2019 - 2020, the total number of students enrolled in the following disciplines were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| i. M.Th. II (Christian Theology) | : 04 |
| ii. M.Th. II (Christian Education) | : 05 |
| iii. M.Th. II (Pastoral Counselling) | : 03 |
| iv. M.Th. II (Communication) | : 08 |
| v. M.Th. I (Christian Theology) | : 05 |
| vi. M.Th. I (Christian Education) | : 03 |
| vii. M.Th. I (Pastoral Counselling) | : 12 |
| viii. M.Th. I (Communication) | : 08 |

2. Graduation 2020: There are 20 (twenty) M. Th. II students who will join in the graduation ceremony scheduled on 21st June, 2020.

3. Seminars

a. General Orientation & Methodological Seminar:

General Orientation & Methodological Seminar was held from 11th – 14th June 2019. Students were introduced to a wide range of topics that included Spirituality, Administration, Discipline, Research and Modern Trends. Following are the faculty members who delivered lectures during the seminar.

Topic I: What is Research? How to identify Research Problem? Finding relationships between Theology and Social Sciences. Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao

Topic II: Components of a Thesis Proposal. Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir

Topic III: Modern Trends in Communication. Prof. L. Imsutoshi Jamir

Topic IV: Modern Trends in Christian Ministry. Dr. Tsuknungrenla

Topic V: Modern Trends in Biblical Studies. Dr. Temsuyanger

Topic VI: Modern Trends in Christian Theology. Dr. Sangtemkala Ao

Topic VII: Modern Trends in History of Christianity. Mr. Toshitemjen

Topic VIII: Modern Trends in Religions. Rev. Dr. K. Dhanbir Rai

b. Thesis Proposal:

Thesis Proposal Seminar for M.Th. I students was conducted from 20th – 25th Sept 2019. Altogether 28 students presented their thesis proposals in 4 (four) different disciplines.

c. Integrated Paper:

Seminar for Integrated Paper was held from 4th - 8th November 2019. The theme for the seminar was “Reimagining Christian Identity”. Concept note was delivered by Prof. L. Imsutoshi Jamir, Professor, Communication on 17th June 2019.

d. Remedial English:

College offered Remedial English course to M.Th. I students in order to enhance their reading and writing skills. Ms. Oshyajem Longkumer, Mrs. T. Imsunaro Ao and Mr. Akok Walling were the resource persons. Topics for the course comprised of Listening Skills, Indianisms, Common Errors in English, Subject-Verb Agreement, Grammar, Reading Skills, Phonetics, British and American English, Some Whys and Why-nots in Academic and Everyday English and Choice of Words in Formal Writing.

e. Faculty Seminar:

i. Dr. Boholi Z Sema read a paper on 11th July 2019 at Jungshinokdang Hall. Her topic was “Pathological Coping of Grief and Therapeutic Procedures in Pastoral Counselling.” Dr. Tsuknungrenla responded to the paper.

ii. Dr. Zubenthung Humtsoe read a paper on 29th August 2019 at Jungshinokdang Hall. The topic was “Christian Environmental Ethics: Methodological Explorations.” Dr. Sangtemkala Ao responded to the paper.

3. Entrance Exam: M. Th. Entrance Examination was held on 11th & 12th February 2020. For the upcoming Academic Session (2020-2021), 29 (twenty nine) students were selected for master’s program in various disciplines.

i. Christian Theology:	02
ii. Christian Education:	04
iii. Pastoral Counselling:	12
iv. Communication:	06
v. Christian Ethics:	05

Finally, may I sincerely acknowledge all the well-wishers for encouraging and being the pillar of our institution. College is extremely fortunate to receive your constant support. CTC will continue to garner strength from you so that we keep the vision and mission of the college afloat and provide impetus to the young minds of our region. We look forward to tread with you all and make significant contributions.

Annual Report of the Dean of Practical Minis-

The Practical Department of Clark Theological College tries to develop skills among the students in the process of reflective learning, self-awareness and a critical approach to ministry.

During the Academic Year 2019-2020, along with their academic learning, the students are engaged in their Weekend Ministry where they not only learn from doing, but learn how to be a life-long learner. Their Weekend Ministries in different churches, jail, hospitals, streets, Sunday Schools and youth, and hostels are supervised by a mentor with whom they have constant consultations and reflection.



DR. R. NUNGSHILEPZUK

The BD II students were sent for their wholistic ministries during their Winter Break for a month to Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Unfortunately, only 6 groups were able to go for the wholistic ministry due to the bandh related to the issues of CAA. Though about 30 of the students could not go for their wholistic ministry, our enthusiastic students involved themselves in different church related ministries and NGOs. All the students reported a self-evaluation of their wholistic ministries which includes, ministerial issues pertaining to the context of their fields, supervisory relationship and action-reflection learning. In doing this they have also learned the method of recording and analysing ministerial experiences.

The BD III students are gearing up to go for their ministry with NGOs during the Summer Break. They will be involved with orphanages, differently abled people, old aged homes, substance abusers and rehabilitation centres, slum dwellers, and NGOs that deal with rehabilitation of prostitutes and human trafficking.

The BD IV students were sent to their respective churches during their Winter Break for their pastoral ministry. Apart from Pulpit ministry, they were asked to evaluate different worships conducted in their local churches. They had interviews with their own pastors on the challenges faced by them as pastors, as individual, and as a family man/woman. They also interviewed the pastors on the issues faced by their churches in relation to baptism, weddings, ethical and social issues faced in the local church.

I would like to personally thank the authority of CTC, Faculty and Staff members and also the students' convenor Mr Obangsunep and the team, for their co-operation and support throughout the academic year.

Two terms working as the Dean of Practical Ministry, Clark Theological College was challenging but an enriching experience for me personally. Since its inception, CTC was envisioned by the pioneers to be a centre of academic excellence with an equally strong practical oriented centre. I hope and pray that CTC along with the academic programmes, different practical experiences throughout their studies here at Clark, will implicitly model spiritual discernment for the students and this in return will help them in their theological reflection in the classroom as well as in their ministries.



A brief report of Clark Communication and Cultural Research Centre (CCCCRC)

In God's grace and guidance, we are at the close of another academic year. Due to several constraints we could not do much during this academic year. I am presenting a brief report of the Centre during the academic year 2019-2020.

PROF. L. IMSUTOSHI JAMIR

Communication Scholars Study Cum Exposure Trip

As part of the Study cum Exposure trip, the Master's Students in Communication studies visited Delhi during the second week of January 2020. As planned, the team visited 6 different places during their stay at Delhi. First, **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)**, one of the World's largest modern Art museums. Second, **CoreConxcept**, a Design-centric, End-to-end, creative Agency based in Delhi. The center design and produce interactive content of visual and technical excellence. The Director of the center gave a talk on Digital Media. Third, **Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK)**, one of the India's largest Christian multi ministry organization. During the visit, a profile presentation of the office and the mission works they were involved in, and the issues of publishing were shared by General Secretary and Associate General Secretary. Fourth, **Mega Voice**, a leading source of Solar Audio Bible for Ministry, a ministry which focuses on non-readers and unreached people groups. A PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Jeff, a Jewish media expert on how to handle media especially audio for ministry followed by interaction. Fifth, **Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)**, Christian Network of hospitals and healthcare professionals. During the visit, three sessions were conducted for the students, the first was on Printing and Publishing, the second was on Media and Health and the third was on Strategies, Role and Aim of CMAI. And the sixth was a visit to **The Word Press** and interaction with the renowned senior *Journalist* and *Columnist* A.J. Philip on Alternative Journalism.

Through this report, I would like to sincerely thank the following **Unforgettable Personalities** on behalf of the Clark Communication and Cultural Research Centre, Clark Theological College:

Miss Sentinaro Longkumer, *Publishing Manager*, Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Graduate of CTC. She is one of the first batch who passed Master's in Communication Studies with First Class grade. She was the person behind realizing this Study cum Exposure Tour.

Rev. Dr. Ashish Amos, *General Secretary*, Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Dr. Ella, *Associate General Secretary*, Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Yanger Lemtur, *Managing Director*, CoreConxcept.

Lanu Yaden *Additional Director*, Mega Voice.

Jeff, *Media Expert*, Mega Voice.

Lata, *Head of Communication Department*, Christian Medical Association of India.

Dr. Abhiheet Sangma, Christian Medical Association of India.

Imtinenla Aier, *Secretary*, Chaplain Section, Christian Medical Association of India (CTC Graduate).

A.J. Philip, *President*, Deepalaya and a renowned *Senior Journalist and Columnist*.

Master's Programme in Communication

The final results of MTh in Communication studies continue to be very good and encouraging every year. Moreover, eight scholars will be graduating this April. Also this year we have 8 first year students and admitted 6 more students for the academic year 2020-2021.

Doctoral Centre in Communication Studies

If God willing, Clark Theological College will be launching Doctoral Centre in Communication Studies from the Academic Year 2021-2022.

New Journal in Communication and Cultural Studies

All requirements, formalities and permission to publish "*Sümedem: Journal of Communication and Cultural Studies*" (SJCS), a peer reviewed journal is completed and the first issue is likely to be published in a couple of months' time.

Support

The Clark Communication and Cultural Research Centre continue to receive prayers and other support from friends and well-wishers. This year we have received 21 new titles on Communication, Media and Cultural Studies from family friend Mr. T. Temsunungba, Sabangya Compound. The generous donation of books is acknowledged with sincere thanks.

In view of starting Doctoral programme, the Centre need more library resources and for which we sincerely pray that more generous donors will come forward. Any well-wishers may contact the undersigned for the titles of the required books and the price.

All for the Glory of God.



*"Twenty years from now
you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do
than by the one's you did do."
- Mark Twain*



MS. IMTIWALA IMCHEN

Clark Centre for Peace Research and Action (CCPRA) Annual Report

It has been a year of immense blessing and active involvement for CCPRA in initiating various programs towards peace building in different capacities. CCPRA remained committed to its call for promoting and witnessing the message of peace by relating to various contextual realities and with great delight I present the annual report of CCPRA for the session 2019-2020.

CCPRA Publication

CCPRA released its 11th series of publication entitled “Christian Response to Human Trafficking: Biblical, Theological, Ethical, Ministerial, NGOs, and Legal Perspectives” edited by Dr. Sangtemkala and forwarded by Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir. The book comprises of 9 (nine) articles contributed by different scholars which will enable the readers to see the dehumanizing reality of human trafficking in the society. The articles represent a wide range of lived experiences and expertise that directly deals with questions relating to human trafficking, its causes and effects and how should the church, institutions, organization and Christians respond to this variegated crime.

Programs

- A two-day consultation on peace on the theme ‘Transformative Mediation for Peace’ was organized by Clark Centre for Peace Research and Action (CCPRA), Clark Theological College (CTC) for the deacons of the Ao churches under Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM) on October 29 and 30, 2019. A total of 164 deacons comprising of 146 men and 18 women participated from various Ao Baptist churches. The resource persons for the consultation were Dr. Temsuyanger, Professor of Old Testament, Clark Theological College, K. Temjen Jamir, Editor, Tir Yimiyim; Rev. Lanuyanger, Pastor; Dr. Pangernungba, Professor of Social Ethics, Oriental Theological College. The topics discussed were on re-examining the role of deacons as mediators of peace from the Biblical perspective; deacons as initiators of peace in a broken society; building a peace church: the role of deacons and deacons as transformative agents of culture and tradition. Morning devotion was led by Dr. Tsuknungrenla, Associate Professor of Counselling, CTC and gospel message in the evening worship services were delivered by Talijungla Longkumer and Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, Principal, CTC.
- CCPRA in collaboration with the Straightway Christian Mission Centre initiated a Peace Tour to Indo-Myanmar Border located near Pangsha under Noklak sub-division, Tuensang, Nagaland from 10th-14th of December, 2019. The team consisted of 11 members that includes of the Principal, faculty, staff and students of CTC. The peace tour began with the inaugural session on 11th of December, 2020 which was followed by the Straightway Soccer Championship that was held under the theme “Unity is strength”. Altogether 10 teams participated in the tourna-

ment both from India and Myanmar villages. The CCPRA fully sponsored the cash prize for the winning teams and also the individual prizes.

A very significant event during the peace tour was the Peace Talk on the theme “Peace Building Relationship”. The Principal of CTC, Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener was the resource person for the workshop and Rev. T. Yanger, PRO, CTC as the moderator. The workshop was attended by the village council leaders and members from eight different villages belonging to Myanmar and India. Peace pledge was signed by the leaders from the eight villages from both India and Myanmar as they pledged to take a stand towards peace building and peaceful relationship with every person, village and country. People’s voice was shared from the administration, village council and church during the time of interaction and discussion. Evening gospel service on the theme “Get Up and Move On”, was also conducted by the CTC team from 11th -13th of December, 2019 where Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, Rev. T. Yanger and Dr. Renbi Rangthang ministered the word of God.

- A Workshop on “Peace Within” emphasizing on Ministerial Orientation was organized by the CCPRA for the graduating students of CTC on March 9, 2020. Altogether 63 graduating students attended the workshop. The speaker for the workshop was Rev. Temsu S. Pastor, Alem-pang Baptist Church, Mokokchung. His lecture emphasized on Calling and Commitment, Decision Making, Choosing Leadership Styles and Ministerial Challenges.
- CCPRA is also planning to organize a Workshop for CTC Faculty Staff and Spouses on the theme “Management”. The resource person for the workshop will be Mr. Akok Walling.

Acknowledgement

In all the initiatives taken by CCPRA, we have experienced huge support and contribution from various individuals, churches, institutions and organizations. We are truly thankful to EMW, Germany for their partnership and generous contribution towards the ministry of CCPRA over the years. CCPRA also extend its sincere gratitude to the CTC faculty, staff, students and all the community members for your continuous support and cooperation in every possible way. Above all, we give all honor and glory to our living God for his providence, wisdom and guidance in the projects undertaken by CCPRA



“HOWEVER DIFFICULT LIFE MAY SEEM.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING

YOU CAN DO & SUCCEED AT.”

- *STEPHEN HAWKING*

**MR. PRABU P.**

Clark Library Annual Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Library of CTC for 2019-20 Academic year.

*A Well-known American writer **Sidney Sheldon** says **Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.***

Libraries are essential in a process of giving user access to knowledge. In digital times they are needed more than ever before. In times of the Digital age, everyone can visit a library without leaving home, it is just a matter of opening a library website, and you can not only borrow an e-Book but also ask the librarian an online question. Most importantly, libraries are the places where you can expect smart and clear answers to even the most difficult questions.

Clark library continues to fulfill its role as the heart of the institution and as an integral part of the educational system. It provides resources and services to support the learning, teaching and research needs of users of the College. Its regular clients: (a) Students (b) Teachers (c) Admin. Staff and (d) Research Scholars. This Annual report provides a summary of our progress in the academic year 2019-2020.

Library Holdings: (as on 29/02/2020)	Library Committee:
Books : 31,025	Academic Dean : Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir
E-Books : 2,736	Principal : Rev. Dr. Marnungsang
Periodicals : 78	Faculty Member : Mr. Visakuolie Vakha
Back Vol. of Journals : 743	Librarian : Mr. Prabu. P

Key statistics - 2019-20

- Circulation stacks and use of the library Collection: 31,025. (Feb.2020).
- 30,946 monographs/items added to library Catalogue.
- Books circulated during the Academic year
 - i. Items/books were checked out of the Library: 18,168 and Renewals: 588 (Feb.2020).
 - ii. 1350 items were checked out from Temporary Reference section.
 - iii. Reserved books in Temporary Reference :567
- New Titles added to the Library - 2019-20
 - i. Books Purchased : 538
 - ii. Books Donated : 28
- New Journals added to Library- 2019-20
 - i. 3 new journals added through subscription.
 - ii. 2 Global journals added through exchange basis.
- Total No. of bound volume of Journals: 743.
- 43 items were increased in the Library Reference section.
- 33 D.Th Dissertation added to the Thesis unit.
- Participated in Orientation visit for new users.
- Library smart cards for users.

As I conclude this report, I am enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed to our success. Special thanks to my colleagues for their co-operation and support.

All Glory and Honor to Our God!!!

Worship Committee Annual Report

Clark Theological College in all its plans and activities make “worship” an integral part of the community; which in turn plays a vital role in the spiritual growth of every individual. These worship services serve as a platform for the members of the community to train oneself through various participations- leading worship, preaching, reading the word of God, Singing, Prayer and so many more. All these activities in the community are monitored by the Worship Committee under the supervision of the Chaplain, Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao. For the academic year 2019-



MS. NUNGSHIJUNGLA JAMIR

2020, there were 16 members from among the students; unfortunately one of the members, Miss Kushen had to leave the college on health ground. However, with great support and co-operation among the members and the Chaplain, and with great guidance and leading hands of our Almighty God all the activities with regard to the worship services were a success.

Some of the activities, programmes and events initiated by the worship committee for the year 2019-2020 were:

1. The academic year for 2019-2020 began with a two days retreat programme- 8th and 9th of June 2019 with Rev. Dr. Imchayanger, Pastor, NCRC, Dimapur as the speaker, under the theme, “Reimagining Christian Identity.” This served as a crucial time for the members of the community to prepare and also commit the rest of the year in the hands of God.

2. Regular worship services-

Morning Chapel- for the academic year 2019-2020, there were 135 regular chapel services, where all the students and faculty members actively participated.

Vesper- there were 105 regular services; besides all Tuesdays which were set aside for roommate fellowship, and all first and third Mondays for hymn practice led by the Choir in charges. Out of the 105 vesper services 38 were taken up by the BD graduating class members as Practice preaching.

Devotional Service- there were 38 Sunday Devotional services for the community, out of which 16 Sundays were taken up by different small groups.

Saturday Services- altogether there were 38 Saturday community services; here the new students are given the opportunity to share their testimonies and the community also prays for various nations around the world.

3. As per the calendar of events, Clark Theological College had the annual Mission Lectures on 1st and 2nd of August, 2019 under the theme, “Reimagining Christian Mission” with Ms. K. Ela, Director Prodigals Home, and Dimapur as the Resource Person. It proved to be an insightful programme for all the students as well as the community members.

4. On the 10th of August, 2019 Clark community observed the 47th Foundation day with Dr. Akumla Longkumer as the speaker.

5. The 47th Thanksgiving Day of Clark Theological College was observed on the 10th of November, 2019; Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao was the speaker.

6. Community Carol Round, Pre-Christmas Devotional Service and Bonfire programmes were held on 6th and 8th of December, 2019 respectively.

7. In January 2020, the college re-opened with a retreat programme for the whole community; along with which the Establishment of *Mokokchung Town Baptist Arogo Chair on Christian Ministry* was also clubbed. Guests from MTBA led by Rev. Ponon Longchar, Pastor, MTBA joined the Clark Community. Rev. Ponon Longchar was the speaker of the programme on 11th of January. The Speakers for the retreat on 12th January were Mr. Toshi Aier and Mr. Visakuolie Vakha.

Clark Theological College with its motto as **“Called out for the Great Harvest”** finds all possible ways and means to prepare the students who are trained within the college to be well versed, disciplined and also matured in every aspect such as emotional maturity, spiritual maturity and more so, aims to produce academically sound students. In all of such areas the centrality is always fixed on God and this relationship between the people and God is made stronger through the activities initiated by the worship committee as one of the requirements. All the platforms and opportunities laid down by such activities has been contributing so much in shaping and moulding a person to be an effective Christian Minister, who is called out for the great harvest.

Besides the mentioned activities and regular programmes, the members of the Worship Committee contributed towards keeping the Chapel and the surroundings clean every day; all worked tirelessly and generously through rainy days and sunny days. In all of these, the members have learnt the value of time, humility, integrity, understanding people and above all, patience. Throughout this academic year the backbone of Worship Committee has been our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao who was ever ready to help and support the committee in every way possible. As this year comes to a close the committee is ever grateful to God for helping us through every ups and downs and for teaching what was needed to be learnt and also for correcting what was wrong in various ways.

Long Live, CTC.

God Bless.



“YOU WILL NEVER KNOW
THE *FULLNESS*
OF *CHRIST*
UNTIL YOU KNOW
THE *EMPTINESS*
OF EVERYTHING ELSE
BUT CHRIST.”

– CHARLES SPURGEON

Clark Theological College Students' Union (CTCSU) Annual Report

The Office of the Clark Theological Students' Union brings you all Warm Christian Greetings in the Blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At the close of the tenure, I am honored and privileged to present the Annual Report of the CTCSU, 2019-2020. The Academic Session of 2019-2020 started with an enrollment of 351 Students, 179 Ladies and 172 Gents. Owing to various circumstances 4 students could not complete the Academic Session.



**MS. YANGERMENLA
IMSONG**

Office Bearers, CTCSU

Mr. Sungjemrenba Jamir	:	BD IV	President
Mr. Naklu Imchen	:	BD III	Vice President
Ms. Yangermenla Imsong	:	BD III	General Secretary
Ms. Imsuben Changkiri	:	BD IV	Asst. General Secretary
Mr. Lichumo Erui	:	BD IV	Treasurer
Ms. Sulimi K. Zhimo	:	BDIII	Finance Secretary
Mr. Visakuolie Vakha	:	Faculty	Advisor

The following are the Programs and Activities undertaken by the CTCSU during the Academic Session 2019-2020.

Meetings

- Three Executive Meetings were held during the Academic session.
- Two General Assemblies were held on 21st June, 2019 and 13th February, 2020.

Activities and Achievements of the CTCSU (2019-2020)

- The CTCSU welcomed and felicitated 112 Fresher (M.Th. - 30, BD OC- 45, BD I- 37) on 14th June, 2019.
- Teacher's Day:** The CTCSU organized a Special Program and felicitated the Teachers in gratitude for their dedication on 5th September, 2019.
- Felicitations of CCMM Students:** CTCSU welcomed and felicitated 5 CCMM Students on 5th of October, 2019.

Plans and Projects

- Fun Fair:** As per the Plans and Budget of the CTCSU, a Fund Raising Program-cum-Independence Day Celebration was organized on 15th of August, 2019. Mr. Toshizemba Jamir, Senior Treasury Officer, Mokokchung was invited as the Guest of Honor who also encouraged the members to be living examples. The Nagaland Bible College students presented a special song on this day. The event was also graced by members of Churches in and around Mokokchung Town, Colleges, Hostels, The Royal Enfield Mokokchung and The Ashiponger Foundation. Their presence was a great encouragement to the ministry of the Clark Theological College Students' Union. All the Classes and the Community as a whole actively and diligently participated in the Fun Fair cum Independence Day Celebration, due to which the Program was a grand success.
- The CTCSU had the privileged to participate in Fellowship and cleaning the premises of two Local Churches- The Ungma Baptist Church and Artang Baptist Church and also organized informal Fellowships with Alichen Baptist Church and 2nd NAP Alichen Baptist Church.

- c. As per the Plans and Budget, the CTCSU organized the T- Shirts Project where the community as a whole was involved and contributed in buying and selling of the T shirts, due to which the Project was a great Success.
- d. Project to buy Tents is in the process.
- e. Project to buy books in aid to the Library is also in the process and will be completed within the Month of February.

Condolences: CTCSU attended about 10 funeral services and shared condolences among the bereaved family members of Students and Faculty.

Consolidated Report

- a. The Literary Committee, The Drama and Culture Committee and the Music Committee in collaboration hosted the Annual Literary Week under the theme, **“Back to Our Roots”** from 11th - 13th September. All the classes participated in exhibiting their talents in the various organized Programs.
- b. The Literary Committee also publish the College Annual Magazine based on the Theme of the Academic Year, **“Reimagining Christian Identity”**.
- c. The Music Committee took the initiative in leading the Praise and Worship during the Mission Nights every Saturday.
- d. The Drama and Culture Committee organized a Folk Fusion Cultural Program on 2nd of August, 2019 during the Mission Lecture.
- e. The Prayer Committee continued to nourish the CTC Community spiritually by organizing Thanksgiving Services, Prayer Walk and Chain of Prayer throughout the academic session.
- f. The Environment Committee organized social work several times, planted ornamental trees, and successfully installed 4 dustbins in the campus.
- g. The Mission Committee took the initiatives in organizing the prayer for nations every Saturday evening, screened gospel movies and organized the Save Soul Boxes which immensely contributed towards the payment of five students’ Mess Fee.
- h. The Games and Sports Committee successfully organized the Community Games and Sports on 23rd and 27th of January, 2020.
- i. The Worship Committee organized worship services throughout the academic year which enriched and equipped the community.
- j. The Practical Committee nurtured the students towards holistic development and enlightened the students to have a clear understanding towards ministry and mission.
- k. The Mess Committee served the community throughout the year, with the help of the students through class wise and Tutorial group wise in serving and cleaning.
- l. The Hostel Secretaries helped the students in maintaining good discipline, harmony in community, living together in hostels and many other needs.

Acknowledgement

With its Motto **“For God’s Glory”**, the CTCSU is continuously working towards the welfare of the students in particular and the community in general. It is the co-operation and contributions of the whole community that have helped us in our strife towards fulfilling the goals of the union. I on behalf of the CTCSU Office would like to convey our deepest sense of gratitude to all the students, faculty led by the Advisor and the Ex-Officio, the community members, well wishers and everyone responsible for making the CTCSU tenure 2019-2020 a great success.

The Clark Theological College Students’ Union stands in humility and continues to strife forward with oneness and with the spirit of unity. May the CTCSU continue to excel in achieving the goals set for the welfare of the students and the community for God’s Glory.

M.Th. Christian Ministry Department Exposure Trip: A Reflection

MS. MOASENLA, M.TH. I

Christian Ministry Department (Pastoral Counselling and Christian Education) has initiated an exposure trip to CMAI Delhi, from 10th-18th Dec 2019 with the purpose of integrating academic into practice. 12 students have actively engaged in this internship with the CMAI under the Supervision of Miss Imtinenla Aier, who is an alumnus of CTC and currently holding a position at CMAI office in Delhi.

About CMAI

Christian Medical Association of India is one of the oldest forum, a gathering place, a potent instrument to bring about social reform. It is a fellowship of doctors, nurses, administrators, chaplains, and allied health professionals. Their mission statement is to serve the churches in India in its ministry of healing and building a just and healthy society. It is a membership organization which made significant contribution to academics, health, development and relevant issues through Christian perspective.

Activities with the CMAI

- * The students were warmly welcomed and were given attentive hospitality till the completion of intern by the CMAI office and staffs.
- * The students were given various opportunities at CMAI to actively participate in daily morning devotions through the entire week.
- * The students were given few introductory classes, time of interaction and discussions about various prevailing issues in the society that need societal and church's attention. There are many branches of CMAI extended to various parts of India but not in Nagaland. We were invited to avail such good initiatives of CMAI even in Nagaland.
- * The students visited Azad Foundation that works towards the upliftment of poor and deprived women. This foundation helps women to engage in non-traditional roles like driving, mechanics, navigation and several other factors for women's safety in India. It was delightful to see women rising above traditional role.
- * The students were exposed to the realities of slums at Zakhira. There were countable Christian individuals amidst different faiths and unruly environment. The students attended those individuals who needed prayer and hope in their lives and within their community. It was challenging for the students to observe such a condition, particularly the little children in the slum school.
- * The students were also taken to The Leprosy Mission Trust in India. This is a Christian Mission Hospital particularly for the poor and outcaste lepers. The students were informed about the leprosy mission through audio-visual, through the experiences of doctors and chaplain with social and biblical insights. On interaction with the afflicted lepers-young and old with their arms and feet amputated it reminded us to reconsider God's blessings in our lives.
- * The students represented as a choir for the CMAI in many occasions. The students were invited to present special numbers at the Logos Fellowship, at CMAI advent Christmas celebration, at the Festival of Peace initiated by CISRS (At the festival of peace we were privileged to listen to

different messages of peace from interfaith perspective). We also had a meaningful time with the Delhi Bible Fellowship.

- * The students also had immense pleasure of visiting sacred and historical places like the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Gurudwara- a worship place for the Sikh. It was an eye-opening experience to just sit and witness how other faiths ardently worship their gods.

Reflection

The exposure team unanimously concluded that it was an enriching experience to witness different realities of lives. We felt that the senate syllabus came alive to us and that we have so many roles to play. Through various observation, engagement, involvement, interactions and discussions our minds were enlightened and motivated. Consciously or unconsciously we began to compare our lives and when we tried to identify ourselves as one of those afflicted and poverty stricken people, it's just hard to imagine. We kept our eyes and ears open to see and hear the call of God. It was truly amazing to see how dedicated people are in solidarity with the poor and needy and finding peace in serving them. We have so much to truly count our blessings. We also learned much from Miss Imtinenla, her commitment, her systematic organization and relationship with different people was an inspiration.

The report is just a nutshell about our engagement with the CMAI. The experience was even more intense if we were to recollect the tensions we had because of the CAB bandh. There was an unseen force stopping us every now and then since the departure from the college. We were resentful about the situation that we had to encounter with anger, pain, confusion, discomfort and tears. We even considered returning back because some of us were stranded and had to literally walk to reach the destination. But God in every situation enabled us the narrow escape. We have experienced God's miracle in numerous ways and surely this exposure trip became even more meaningful and memorable. We are immensely grateful to our college authority, Head of Department Dr. Tsuknugnrenla Longkumer and to the CMAI for the opportunity and persistent support.



MTH COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT EXPOSURE TRIP: A REFLECTION

MS. IMLILEMLA PONGENER M.TH.I

Day 1 visited National Gallery of Modern Art and CoreConxcept team

Day 2 visited ISPCK and Mega Voice.

Day 3 sightseeing to Agra.

Day 4 visited CMAI and meet A.J. Philip (Journalist)

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA):

We visited the NGMA on the 11th of January 2020. The NGMA is the premier art gallery under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, located near the Jaipur House, Rajpath, New Delhi. Its collection of more than 1700 works by more than 2000 artist includes both Indian and foreign artists. It is said that NGMA is one of the World's largest modern Art museums.

The NGMA has several floors with collection of photographs, art, paintings, sculptures etc. The ground floor purely consists of selected 79 photographs of Satyajit Ray, who is considered as one of the greatest film makers of 20th Century. This section of display is to show the invaluable moments and experiences that happened in the film set under the lenses of the artist photographer, Nemai Ghosh. The other floors consist of collections of paintings and arts from different centuries. There are Miniature paintings which are small in sizes, Company paintings meaning paintings influenced by the British East India Company officials, oil paintings etc. There is also another section that contains sculpture by different artists.

CoreConxcept

The team met Mr. Yanger Lemtur the Managing Director/Head of Production of CoreConxcept which is a Design-centric, End-to-end, creative Agency based in New Delhi. They design and produce interactive content of visual and technical excellence. They promote brands, corporate videos, explainer videos, music videos, motion graphic, animations, and documentary specials and so on. He gave a talk on Digital media, how we are surrounded by endless opportunities due to digital media, brand communication and video productions. He also talked about branding values and how to bring the product into market and the three theories of Sale product; 1) Reputation, 2) Review, and 3) Prepetition. He also based his life on Christian principles and exhorted us by saying "... it's all about stewardship nothing is ours; all that we have is life and talent not wealth." We had a fruitful time of interaction and learning over a cup of coffee in a cafe nearby.

Indian Society for Promoting Christian knowledge (ISPCK)

On the 2nd day of our trip, the 13th of January 2020, we visited the ISPCK office. ISPCK has gone through a transformational change from a single mission society to one of India's largest multi ministry Christian communications organization. We were fortunate to meet the General Secretary Rev. Dr. Ashish Amos under whose leadership the ISPCK office has been running for 35 years now. We were given a profile presentation of the office and the mission works they were involved in by Maam Ella. The ISPCK also gives several trainings on writings, teachings and publishing. One of the interesting trainings they give is the Writer's workshop where they train interested people on how to write. We also had an interactive discussion with the General Secretary and Maam Ella on the issue of publishing, extended mission works writer's workshop and also challenges faced by the office. As a gift to each of us, Rev Dr. Ashish Amos asked us to pick any books published by the ISPCK worth Rs. 1000 from their book store.

Mega Voice

Mega voice is a leading source of solar audio Bibles for ministry work among non-readers and un-reached people groups. They produce a small solar audio Bible which is like an Mp3 device to communicate the Bible to non-readers, illiterate, visually impaired and blind people. The device is solar powered and totally independent of electricity which becomes a valuable feature in countries where thousands are without electricity. We were given a power point presentation by Mr. Zev on how to handle media, especially audio for ministry. For example, prisoners, the device is transparent in order to avoid smuggling of drugs and illegal items, for children they have stuff toys where they can insert the audio Bible, and for countries where Bibles are not out in the open, they have come up with a device like MP3 players which has a secret button for Bible.

Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)

On the 14th of January 2020, we visited the CMAI office. CMAI serves as a Christian network of hospitals and healthcare professionals promoting healthcare in hard to reach communities through its members, institutions or by direct technical inputs. The vision of CMAI is “That they may have life... and life in its fullness”. CMAI’s mission is to serve the churches in India in its ministry of healing and to build a just and healthy society. The first session was taken by Maam Lata who is the head of the communication department. The Communication department in CMAI is more to do with printings and publications especially the CMAI Newsletters. So in this session, a detail process of printing was projected. The second session was on Media and health and it was taken up by Mr. Abhijeet Sangma. He gave a talk on how media has created so many platforms for people to get connected and so also how it can be used for health care communication. The last session was taken up by Miss Amenla the chaplain and counselor in CMAI. She gave a brief review on the strategies, role and aims of CMAI.

A. J. Philip’s Office

A.J. Phillip is a senior Journalist and columnist who write regularly for the Indian Currents, the Oman Tribune and the New Indian Express. We got the opportunity to visit his office “The word press”. We had an interaction with Mr. A.J. Phillip on Alternative Journalism and other aspects of journalism. From our interactions with him, it is observable that he has a concern for the betterment of our country. He usually writes to the leaders of our country on political, social, and religious issues, confronting, questioning, correcting and pleading.

Implication and Challenges

- ⇒ The paintings and arts in the gallery hold different stories. They depict the socio, political, economic situation of different time period. Gender issues were also presented in the art and paintings. Pictures are a powerful way of storytelling and narration. In our process of communication and studies we can strengthen and implement the use of pictures, paintings and photographs and not just writings for clear and effective communication.
- ⇒ In the market of digital media, three theories is applied i.e., the Truth theory which means buying products based on reviews from others, Reputation meaning the recall value and Supplemental messaging. As students of media and theology, we have to be open to experiment the tools in the digital space and to monitor church health and evangelism.
- ⇒ Writing is one of the key elements in the process of communication. One great challenge faced by the ISPCK is threats from the RSS on account of the work the office is involved in. They even receive personal online death threats asking them to stop their work of publishing. But despite the threats and challenges the office still stands firm in their commitment.
- ⇒ As Communication students we are deeply inspired by how media can be such a powerful tool to spread God’s message across. Today we live in a visualize world where especially youngsters

are not into the culture of reading, so we should be challenged to explore in what ways media can be used and implemented for communication.

- ⇒ There are lots of people in our churches who cannot read or write and depend only on the sermon preached by the preacher on Sundays. Mega voice audio bible is such an effective tool to keep the listeners in touch with the word of God anywhere.
- ⇒ CMAI hospitals are degrading because of less support from the churches. One different thing about CMAI hospitals are, it has counselors who play an important role in the well being of the patient. The churches especially in Nagaland are rich but hardly pay attention to the mission hospitals. Our mission as Disciples of Christ is not only about soul winning but is also about healing and restoration. So as a church or as theological students, we should be encouraged to render our best support to such health care missions.
- ⇒ A.J. Phillip says that we do not need a lot of hard vocabularies to be a good communicator. So as communication scholars, it is beneficial because a good communicator, as in writer or an orator should be able to write and speak simple language so that everyone can understand and get the message across. The strategies of A.J. Phillip are a great call to us as theological students.

At the end of the day, the bottom line is

‘God created human to fulfill His purpose and human are the steward of God’s creation’



"Route Along Ladies Hostel Life"

MS. NUKSHIRENLA
LADIES, HOSTEL SECRETARY

For the academic year 2019-2020, the total number of ladies was 171 and they were accommodated in three different hostels- Mary Mead, International and P.G. Womens. The hostelers are taken care by secretaries appointed in the various blocks of the hostel and headed by a warden. Various activities are being carried out in the hostel such as prayer fellowships, roommate fellowships, social works, different programs and events all throughout the year.

Hostel life is a valuable and memorable piece of experience that really changes the life of a person. It moulds and shapes the person in various ways that when one goes out he or she is a completely different person. Hostel life teaches the Students to become self-dependent because many of the responsibilities and chores are to be done by oneself. Hostel life here is not only about studies, it builds one to be hardworking, adjustable, sharing, self-management, pushes one to be dynamic, to have the heart of caring for others. It teaches many things which are not taught in an educational institution. Even the different people from different backgrounds and culture influences a person as it makes the inmate to know much about life and way of life. And it is here the people finds family among friends that helps and supports one another and build up each other. It is not about the infrastructure or the facilities that matters though to a certain extent it is required, but what matters is, what kind of a person or friend are you to your inmates?

One should be diligent to make use of the stay in hostel to better oneself so as to impact and inspire others.

The hostel, apart from being a place of education and building various areas of one's life, it is also a place of fun and enjoyment. There are varieties of students such as- the sincere ones (whose frequently travelled routes are from their room to class, class to room, room to library, room to chapel and so on), the counselors and prayer warriors, (heals people spiritually, emotionally, mentally), the massage party/ the physicians (they heal people physically...eh.) the mischievous gangs (who would like a step a foot beyond the rule, they are the reason the students get scolding sometimes), the fun loving (who go room to room spreading laughter), the dancing divas, the groups which only thinks about food, the quiet and weird ones (who barely socializes with people), the singers, selfie groups, the loud-speakers (they are the reason why the word "shhhh" is often used in the hostel), the emotional ones and so on. Different in personality and character, but each bearing different talents and abilities that contributes greatly to the life to CTC. Moreover, this mixture of people makes the hostel life more lively and interesting. Thus, the hostel life is a part and parcel of CTC.

Hostel life... sounds scary aye? Thinking it would be like a cage with strict routines and where you struggle immensely, where you are ripped of all your freedom and being forced to face a book almost all the time? Well, the Hostel life in CTC tells a different story.

“ROUTE ALONG GENTS’ HOSTEL LIFE”

**MR. KADIDINBOU NEWMAI
GENTS, HOSTEL SECRETARY**

CTC is a premier theological seminary and continues to grow at fast pace. Every year hundreds of aspiring students from every nook and corner of NE region and beyond join the college. The community of CTC is a community of communities. There are varieties of ethnic groups and vibrant cultures which make the community life a unique one. The hostel life in CTC is terrific for everyone though it may be challenging at times. However, there is enormous liberty enshrined for fullest enjoyment of life in the hostels and experience intensive theological training. In the academic session of 2019-2020, 168 gents were accommodated in different hostels viz, Immanuel Hostel, BD Men’s Hostel, PG Men’s Hostel and Guest House. These Hostels are located in strategic terrains making them accessible to water and congenial weather adaptability. During the academic year, few students had to go back home because of health issues. Nevertheless, as far as the academic year is concerned, the stay in the hostel was marked as the most peaceful, enriching experience for all the hostellers. The hostel warden along with the hostel secretaries maintains rules and regulations inside the hostels. They used to organize social works on alternate Saturdays to promote cleanliness and maintain hygienic environment within the hostels. Hostel prayer and worship are conducted every month to encourage and motivate one another. It is a time to share our burdens to one another and pray. Obviously, the feeling of oneness and concern for each

other has developed because there is such power when hundreds of young people come together and pray. Therefore, hostel fellowship is a wonderful opportunity for renewal of faith through powerful sharing of the Word of God. Another commendable hostel tradition is Tuesday night roommate fellowship where roommates conduct special time for devotion and prayer in their own rooms. The Warden and Hostel secretaries too have done commendable job in providing needs and security to the inmates and taking care of all the hostel properties. And according to the needs of the inmates some are given counseling and guidance for their personal and spiritual life. Through such efforts and care, some inmates are saved from taking extreme decisions in their lives. After all, hostel life is a one time stage of equipping for ministry, but most crucial because from here we are to cultivate and develop the spirit of tolerance, care, help and support to the people. Therefore, we need to value our hostel life and care for our neighbor, only then can we be true in the ministry. You may sing beautifully or preach powerfully, but if your inmates and roommates despise you at heart for your antagonist i.e., character in the hostel, one need to rethink and relive one’s hostel life. Think about these things. Shalom.



MR. I. MEYIONEN JAMIR
CHAIRMAN, CTC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REFLECTIONS ON CTC

The Clark Theological College was born out of the prayers and tears of the believers. What CTC today is because of ABAM. The generous and continuous donations and contributions of churches and individuals under ABAM has brought the CTC this far.

Personally, my association with CTC began with my appointment as a member of the CTC Board of Governors. The first meeting I attended was a special session of the CTC Board convened on January 14, 2016, when Mrs. Rowainla was the Chairperson of the Board and Principal Rev. Dr. Takatemjen was on the verge of his retirement. The first meeting was the introduction to CTC and an eye opener for me as far as CTC was concerned. I began to develop a concern and interest for the welfare of the CTC after attending my second meeting in April 2016, where deliberations were held on the finances, academic concerns and the future of CTC. The need to rope in more dedicated believers from all walks of life as Life Members of CTC as support base to expand the CTC family was realized. Therefore, a few friends were made Life Members of CTC and some donors were found for construction of the PG Women's Hostel during the year.

The following year, during the April 17, 2016, BoG meeting, I was unexpectedly chosen as the next Chairman of the Board of Governors. God had given me a big responsibility and a burden which I accepted humbly. However, even before I could prepare myself mentally to take on this responsibility, one night in May 2017, a powerful cyclonic storm brought down a sizeable

branch of a nearby tree which fell on the roof of the CTC Mess Hall right in the middle and bent the roof beyond repair. It was a major unfortunate mishap as we had to look for alternative arrangement as it was insecure for the students to continue using the Mess in that condition. Without having a single penny, the Board took a courageous decision in faith, to dismantle the old building and start a new construction with increased capacity. Funds were raised from here and there on a war footing involving almost everyone in the college including the Students community, Faculty & Staff, churches, especially the Alempang Baptist Church, well-wishers and friends.

The construction team consists of technical officers led by Er. Chubatoshi EE NH, Mokochung without whose leadership the building would not have come up in a record time. Simultaneously, along with the construction of the new mess hall, the Board also decided to develop the site belonging to CTC at Burma Camp, Dimapur, which was purchased in 2003 with the objective of having a regular source of income for the college.

A local construction committee was constituted under the Convenorship of Rev. L. Lima Asso. Pastor, DABA who himself is a member of the BoG and an alumni of CTC.

The earth filling work was started just before the 2018 State Assembly elections. There were some interruptions and disturbances from the anti-social elements initially but the Committee could manage to carry on with the work with their tireless and dedicated efforts. A ten room

building along the main road could be constructed in record time by mobilizing resources from various quarters and many a times the Committee had to arrange materials on credit so as to continue with the work. Prior to 2018, the CTC site was earning a monthly income of around ₹ 15,000/- (rupees fifteen thousand) per month. However, with the completion of the new developments i.e., construction of building for shops, earth filling for empty spaces to be used as Workshop, construction of drainage etc., the College is now getting approximately ₹ 1 lakh per month. All this was made possible due to the contributions and efforts of the Local Committee from DABA under the leadership of Rev. L. Lima. The Board appreciates their contributions to the college which will always be remembered.

The Budgeting system in the College has been improved after the employees under the Accounts Branch were imparted training by the officers from the department of Treasuries & Accounts. The College has also adopted its new Financial Rules and thereby streamlined the financial transactions in the college. New RoP for the Faculty & Staff of the College has been implemented during April 2019.

The CTC is one of the premier Theological institutions in the country having produced nearly two thousand graduates including many students from the neighboring countries. As a layman, I have been closely observing the products of various theological colleges in the country and it is my findings that what makes CTC different from others is the CTC's strong spiritual foundation, the regular Chapel in the college and the practical ministry. However, a lot more needs to be done in the college. For instance, the college is turning 50 in the year 2022. Yet, there is no proper Library with the state of the art facilities; the hostels have over stretched its capacity and are not having the minimum facilities for a friendly study environment.

It is therefore, observed that unless and until the funding pattern of the college is changed, it is not possible at all to undertake any developmental activities in the years to come.

The big contributing churches like Dimapur Ao Baptist Church, Kohima Ao Baptist Church, Mokokchung Town Baptist Church, Ungma Baptist Church etc. has done more than others by installing Chairs to augment the financial needs of the college by sponsoring salaries of few senior lecturers.

The fees collected from the students are for normal maintenance but not for any developmental works. This is a concern area for the college. We are being reminded time and again that the harvest is plenty but the workers are few. Unless the believers are encouraged to send more, start sacrificial giving and focus on the development of the college, CTC may not be able to compete with the mushrooming of new theological colleges in the State.

In spite of the financial constraints, the college has set a high moral standard under the able leadership of Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, the Principal and his dedicated team of faculty. There is demand for opening of new departments for doctoral studies in the college. This is evident from the performance of CTC students topping the Senate exams for the last few years.

May the Lord Almighty lift up CTC to greater heights for His own glory.

TIME TO SAY “NONSENSE” TO MAD KINGS AND QUEENS OF OUR TIME

PROF. L. IMSUTOSHI JAMIR

I still vividly remember 16th of May 2015. On this day, the then Deputy Commissioner of Mokochung, may be like other district heads, circulated an information or rather served a notice, ordering people to visit their own respective pooling stations the next day, which happened to be Sunday! for so called “National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme” (NERPAP) special camp. Several questions came to my mind, with a tag “what is happening in Our Christian Land?” Why should Deputy Commissioner organize this camp when he knew the fact that Sunday is a day of worship for the Christians? Was this a part of the strategy adopted by our own elected members who were all Christians but acted upon, to please BJP government at the center with an intention to get more favor and money? Or “was our then Deputy Commissioner attempting to gratify and embrace Prime Minister Modi’s mission of clean India by cleansing all other minority religious communities in India? That was five years ago.

On 16th of February 2020, which was Sunday, I went to Mokochung Town Baptist Church for participating in Community Worship, when on my way to the church, I saw something very strange and agonizing, which I still cannot fathom. When MMC members are all good Christians, when our Deputy Commissioner is a good Christian, when most of the government departmental heads are good Christians, few people blocked the whole stretch around MTBA main entrance lane just to put marker for car parking signs, creating not only inconveniences to the Church goers and worshippers during church worship hours but more serious concern was the indifference showcased by few of our own good Christians during Sunday worship hour without any remorse. I heard a senior citizen susurrating, ‘it is not a giant task and responsibility...the work can be easily accomplished during the afternoon hours after the devotional worship’. What is going on in our Christian land?

Little more than four decades ago American evangelical theologian, philosopher and Presbyterian pastor Francis Shaffer wrote a book, *How Should We Then Live?* In this piece of work, Shaffer talks about how a true Christian ought to live in our times. How shall then we live in our present context as true Christian ought to live? Our life testimony, our action, our Christian witness in such a time as this, when all our Christian traditions, practices and belief systems are systematically threatened both from within and without.

Shaffer urges us, challenges us and cautions us to prepare ourselves, equip ourselves, looking at and understanding the context and signs of the times in which we live and do our Christian ministry. How should then we live in such a time as this?

Then I remember my childhood favorite novel *Alice in Wonderland*. Alice’s adventures in wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. The novel tells of a young girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. One day as Alice in Wonderland was strolling near the Queen’s palace, she saw three gardeners painting the white rose red! When Alice asked them why, they explained that if they didn’t, they would be beheaded by the Queen. For the Queen, the roses were meant to be red. For the Queen the Roses has to be red but by mistake these three gardeners have planted white ones. And this is the only reason, they were painting all the white roses red. At that moment, the Queen passed by. Immediately the three gardeners put their faces to the ground in fear. But, Alice looked the Queen straight in the eyes. Alice was not afraid. The Queen was very angry because nobody dare to look at the Queen like Alice did. “Off with her head” pronounced the mad Queen with anger. Little Alice retorted back and said “Nonsense”.

This in fact is just a fairytale. Nevertheless people encounter such happenings in the world today. Similar events are taking place in our society too. There are people who always think that they have the last word on everything we do. Sad to experience, but today our country India, our north east Indian states and 'even' many of our churches and Christian institutions/organizations are being run by such people, politics and ideology like that of the Queen in the fairy tale. Unfortunately, in most cases, all of us, just like the three gardeners, simply bury our faces in the dirt. Often we bury our faces in the dirt to gain favour of the mad queens and kings, of course not realizing that it could be our heads next.

However, living in such a context and silently compromising with the principalities is not our calling. We are called to say with boldness and courage 'nonsense' to evil practices, beliefs and ideologies like the little Alice did. Along with it, we are called to tell the people, educate them, empower them and convince them that 'we need not bow unnecessarily for fear of those mad kings and queens or for a favour. We need not sell our Christian identity and our testimony for a plate of rice, like in the Old Testament story.

We have become just like a dried leaves which is blown away where the wind goes. Today our Christian leaders are embracing Hindu ideologies for sake of money and power at the cost of our Christian identity, beliefs and practices. Tomorrow, if there is profit to be made out of Islam, they will convert to Islam. Today in India, some mad kings and queens are deadly against Indian youth celebrating Valentina's day. But, I tell you, if Archie's give them a royalty on the sale of their Valentina's day cards, they will be promoting Valentina's day. People don't see the hidden agenda of these mad kings and queens, their evil and selfish designs, because they bow so low every time such mad kings and queens pass by that they don't notice the danger.

Such mad kings and queens are 'always' manufacturing consent and unfortunately 'always' even succeed in making some people believe that all roses should be red in colour. And all

those who love the colour red or hate white agree with them in unison. Today, the pursuit of truth apparently is banned. It is rather dangerous pursuit and who knows what it will lead to. Even Church in a state which is not only considered as Christian (absolute) majority state but proud with the slogan 'Nagaland for Christ' and where all the people's representatives and executives are Christian, we watch silently as time and again the mad kings and queens scream and shout and force us into believing and accepting their manufactured beliefs.

This is our context today. In such a time as this, *how should we then live?* It won't be easy unless we are fully committed and prepared. It won't be easy to live and make impact, unless we are totally and boldly prepared. It won't be easy 'because' more and more mad kings and queens are exercising their selfish motives. It won't be easy 'because' like Pharaoh in the story of Israelites liberation, God seems to have hardened the hearts of these mad kings and queens. More so, it makes it more difficult for us because majority of the people follows mad kings and queens and not the narrow way.

May be, some of them are living a confused life, despite of their high qualifications and experiences. May be some of the people wish for favour from such mad kings and queens, or may be, like Jesus's time, some of the people follow these mad kings and queens because they dislike the white rose. As such, churches and theological community is finding it more difficult to address such dilemma. We are becoming more and more insignificant in our troubled society.

May be, we ourselves are also confused! May-be we ourselves are also looking for favour from mad kings and queens! Or may be some of us also dislike the white rose!

Apostle Paul in first Corinthian chapter 4 reminds us to once again revisit our 'calling', 'commitment' and 'credentials'. Our calling and commitment is not to those mad kings and queens. Rather our credentials should made us audacious and courageous to say 'nonsense' to all the evil designs of these mad kings and

queens. Of course, such boldness and courage is possible only when we are not only committed but it also requires 'discerning heart.' Over and over again, we unconsciously or unfortunately even consciously naturalize our following Christ with the world, its structures, systems and ideologies. The ultimate concern of true theology has been compromised not only because of the power and politics of these mad kings and queens, but we ourselves have become handy man and women of these mad kings and queens whenever opportunities come our way. From the pulpit as Pastors and Church leaders, we glorify these mad kings and queens as 'good Christian', 'committed Christian'. During the last several years, theologians that includes, like me as theological teacher, who are involved in training only 'scholars' for Church/Christian ministries as well as active Church leaders are unfortunately and unconsciously yet seriously involved in dividing between secular and sacred worlds (in individual lives). Churches and Christian institutions/organizations, though not deliberately, have legitimized 'any means' of procuring wealth and money. Like in the *Scooby-Doo* Classic Cartoon, we have made people grow believing manufacturing consent that the moment pastor says AMEN, instantaneously, such 'stolen' money become 'white money' and the giver is blessed!!!

We talk about following Christ, we theologize what it means by following Christ. Often we shout from the roof top that we are following Christ and the worst of all, through our manufactured performance and dress code, and possession of Bible and Cross, we naturalize and legitimize against the teaching of the Master whom we proudly follow every day. In the contemporary society, following Christ is not just following along with the crowd, it is not just studying and knowing theological and biblical truth, it is not just singing with angelic voice, it is not just delivering beautiful sermons each time we stand in the public sphere. Bonhoeffer cautioned us, 'If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction'.

Rather, it means "becoming" imitators of Jesus Christ. There is a big difference between 'just following' and becoming imitators. Imitating what Jesus has done during His ministry and also imitating faithfully to what He commissioned us to imitate. Imitating Jesus Christ is 'always-24x7' centered on what German theologian and Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer calls it, "the cost of discipleship". Then only we can also say to our congregation and community and to others including those mad kings and queens of our times, like Paul urged believers in Corinth, "be imitators of me". In other words, Apostle Paul means, 'follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ'. Unfortunately, the Cost of Discipleship is compromised 'in' the cost of ministry we are involved with. We are so comfortable walking side by side with the mad kings and queens of our times, misinterpreting and going beyond Jesus's attitude towards sinners. We not only walk side by side with these people but go on approving the injustices and wickedness committed by these mad kings and queens from the roof tops. We are not only comfortable but we show indifference to all the victimization committed by these mad kings and queens against the citizens who are poor, helpless and marginalized in the society.

It is not difficult to tell people what to do or how to live a good Christian life. We explore, exegete and explain everything. Still we are not making any desired impact on individual lives and on our society. Someone said, "People just don't want TALKING PASTOR. People desires for DOING PASTOR". "Do not tell people what they should do, show them what you did" is what should caution us. They have heard enough. They just don't want to hear it any more. People are touched, people believe, people come to Christ by what we do. People change their lives when they see Christ living in us. And I believe this is envisioned when Frances Shaffer wrote, *How Should We Then Live?* When we imitate Christ we will be equipped and able to say with clarity, authority, integrity, and with boldness, "Nonsense" to the mad kings and queens of our time.

REIMAGINING CHRISTIAN IDENTITY: SOME RANDOM REFLECTIONS¹

REV. DR. A. TALI AO

First, a few words about Imagination: Imagination is a very powerful inherent and essential character of human beings from birth. Even before we start speaking and doing anything we get into imagination using different images of reality around us. We construct and re-construct a symbolic world of the past, present and future using images of God, people and things around us. To be human is to imagine and reimagine and construct and re-construct our symbolic world using different images. Some images are creative, constructive and beautiful, while others are destructive, horrible and ugly. We must admit that we all resort to all kind of imagination consciously and unconsciously. How can we reimagine a better world?

Second, a few words on the Christian Images and Identities around the World: Western and European Christian identity as conquerors and colonizers, were devastated with two great wars riddled with images of terrors and horrors of violence, (even as I prepare this sermon more than 20 people were killed in the US yesterday in a civilian gunshot, the Texas Walmart shooting, 03/08/2019, plus many injured), spiritual bankruptcy, secularism and materialism pervade the Christendom of the West and Europe.

Christian Identity in India: Despite our significant presence and contributions in all walks of life we, Christians are regarded and treated as aliens, foreigners, outsiders, given to drinking, immorality, loose characters, easy going people highly westernized and Europeanized people. 'If you want to be Christian go to West or Europe if not become a Hindu' is what we hear.

The man who killed Mahatma Gandhi had a girl friend who was a Christian, raised in a mission compound and mission school. The common Indian Christian images and characters in the mass media, electronic and print media, TV, movies, etc., are all characters which bring shame and dishonour, like the drunkard and naughty Anthony in the popular Hindi movies, like *Amar Akbar Anthony*.

The images of Naga Christians are associated with the images of one of most corrupted states, less developed and backward in India. Even we members of theological community are often sneered at as 'you theologians are the worst', 'you missionaries...', 'you church leaders...' and associate us with all the negative images and identities. These images are truly supported by important documents and cases like electoral rolls with dead persons' names not yet deleted not because of technical errors but deliberate intention to do wrong. Dead persons still drawing salary, bogus appointments, etc., the list goes on. These are the challenges before us to un-mask our superficial or false identities and come to terms with the realities of our identities.

The Challenge before Us: As we embark on the task of re-imagining Christian identity we need to take seriously the conflicting images around us and go to the Word of God and allow us to inspire and be challenged by both. Our imagining and reimagination should be firmly grounded on the realities of our life, on the one hand, and, on the Ultimate Reality of God revealed in the Word of God and finally and decisively manifested in Jesus Christ. First, this will control us from landing up in mere fantasy, fanati-

¹A reflection on the year's theme, 'Reimagining Christian Identity', delivered on Sunday, August 4, 2019 at the CTC Chapel.

cism, phantomic world and become fanatic. Second, this will also guide us and give us clear direction, meaning, sense and significance in our imagination and re-imagining. Third, this will make our re-imagining Christian identity real and realisable in our life.

The Big Question for us is: Is a better world and better society possible than the present world and society we are in? I firmly believe the answer is yes, because our God is *El Shaddai*, the Almighty God (Gen 17:17), the Creator, the Redeemer, and Sustainer of life and giver of all good things “who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Eph 3:20).

The Example of Abram: God challenged Abram to reimagine his identity from a childless man to the father and ancestor of a multitude of nations, and exceedingly fruitful. From him God will make nations and kings and queens to come. This requires a complete change and transformation of his imagination, his life, his wife, and his family, his future. All grounded on God.

The Big Question and Big Problem for Abram: He is 100 year old and his wife 90 years old, how can he become father and ancestor of a multitude of nations. That is why Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” Un-imaginable, unreal, not realizable? Right? Definitely this was not the first time Abram was asking these questions and these are not the only questions. What about the promises God made to him when he painfully left his father’s house and his birth place?

Remember the tragedies Abram faced then: Death of his brother Haran, death of his father

and the social stigma because of the barrenness of his wife, Sarah (Gen 11:28, 30, 32). Definitely Sarah’s childhood hopes and aspirations, imaginations of being a mother and nursing baby on her lap, breast feeding her babies, etc., have been shattered and evaporated into nothing many years back.

But God is Saying He can ‘turn around the clock’ Because, God says, “I am God Almighty”, *El Shaddai*. This is the first time in the Bible God is revealing his identity as Almighty God. *El* signifies the strong one and *Shaddai* the breasted one. This image, picture and identity of God as the strong-nourisher, strength-giver, power-giver, enabler, satisfier, all bountiful, the supplier of all the needs of his people, reveal that God is the fruitful God, who is to multiply Abraham abundantly, the life giver who is to restore life to Abraham and Sarah who were as good as dead as far as offspring is concerned. The Almighty God is going to change and transform both the names and identities of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah respectively and many peoples and nations identities and life will be changed and transformed through their life and family.

Concluding Words: Reimagining Christian identity is first and foremost grounded on the Almighty God. He is the source of all good things. He only can inspire and direct our imagination and action to change and transform our life in the right and new ways. Provided we have authentic faith in Him and we are willing to allow him to work in and through us to be the change and change the world, another world is possible and a better image of ourselves and our world is possible.

Reimagining Christian Identity in the Context of Water Crisis *Revelation 22:1-2; Proverbs 11:25b*

DR. TEMSUYANGER

Water has a special place in the word of God. From Genesis to Revelation we see water. The spirit of God was hovering on the waters in Genesis 1 and the river of life flowing in the last chapter of the book of Revelation. Water means life, blessing of God, goodness of God, favor of God in executing the judgement of God and living water. Revelation 22: 1-2 calls the communities to celebrate water which is life giving, and challenges us to make our water bodies like waters of life.

If we see the environment that we are living in today, all our water bodies have been polluted, destroyed and contaminated, all driven by the greed of human beings. It is no exaggeration when one may argue that “if at all a third world war is going to happen on the face of the earth, it will be for waters.”

Several people are dying of thirst every day, several women walk for kilometers to fetch some water. Some communities like Adivasi and Dalits are denied their right to water. Millions of indigenous people around the world are losing their life and livelihood due to privatization of water. Today we are experiencing a phenomenal increase in the privatization of water all over the world. It is reported that industrial farming uses one third of the land on earth and up to 74 per cent of fresh water. Several water bodies are today on the verge of extinction for they are filled to make lands for development. Life in water bodies are affected due to contamination by the pollutants, including nuclear waste. Many perennial rivers have now become seasonal or even dry rivers etc. Therefore, there is an urgent need and call to address

the issue of water and to strive for water justice.

It is reported that in India over 250 districts are reeling under severe water crisis. Scientists have already sounded the biggest alarm in June 2019 that India is facing the worst water crisis in its history. It is warned that twenty one India cities will run out of ground water, therefore, called for an urgent and improve management of water resources in India.

Nagaland receives very high rainfall and enjoy sub-tropical monsoon climate. However, Nagaland is one among the most water scarce state in India, because of insufficient water management, lack of adequate preservation and effort to harvest the free gift of nature. Nagaland being a predominantly rural and hilly state, more than 90 per cent of water for livelihood in rural areas depends on springs.

But unfortunately many springs and streams are already dried up and many are dying due to development activities and deforestation.

Another major concern in the state is the contamination of groundwater that threatens the health of the people. Through an investigation it is found out that the ground water contamination in Kohima is way above WHO permissible limits. It is found out that the main cause of contamination of the water in Kohima is because of human and animal excreta, due to absence of proper sewage. Ground water is one of the most valuable natural resources, but the depletion of ground water is a critical ecological crisis. Ground water is required for drinking, domestic needs, agriculture etc. The depletion of ground water results in drying up

of wells, reduction of waters in streams and lakes.

The Bible treats water as a concept of reality, “It is called the water of life” (Rev. 22:1). In the book of proverbs, the writer states, “and the one who gives water will get water” (Proverbs 11: 25). The wisdom literature always brings out the contrasts of both realities, that is, good and evil. Therefore, with every action comprising of good or bad, it has its own ends, according to the law of the Old Testament. Two points can be drawn from the statement of the wisdom writer:

Firstly, “one gives water,” if we take this phrase in opposite factor, to put in simple words, “one who withholds water.” This reminds us about the existing dual realities among the people, one who wants to give water and another who wants to withhold water. If we see the social scenario of our society today, we may find several aspects that withhold one responsible for the growth of water resources. In the name of development, cities and towns expand to great extent and the natural resources are damaged. Today, we witness even in our nearness towns and cities, agricultural lands are being transformed into plots; the water resources being blocked or damaged. Every day we see extensive constructions consuming the water resources, streams, lakes, etc. Moreover, the failures of monsoons, occasionally adds up to the decline of underground water resources. The word of God calls us to be the one who gives water. Being aware of the atrocities done towards the natural water resources, we are called to let the streams of water flow naturally without damaging it in the name of development and thus, give life to the creation of God.

Secondly, the reward “will get water” carries several meanings. The intention to preserve God’s creation makes one to be channel of God’s blessing to society. The reward transcends from an individual blessing to a corporate blessing.

Therefore, as we make way for God’s creation in their sustenance of life, we also participate in God’s plan which will eventually establish God’s reign on earth. Here, the wisdom writer breaks the human-centered view, where one takes the resources for granted and denies meeting the needs of other fellow human beings and also to nature. The wisdom of the wisdom writer “one who gives water will get water” clearly explains the idea that they will receive the blessing of God generously.

The phrase “will get water” calls us for mutual sharing of resources. We are called not to monopolize creation, especially water. Monopolization of water results in wastage and depletion of water resources. Moreover, water is seen only as a commodity in our times. Christians are called to be the channels to uphold the importance of water to society where we live in.

Today, we live in a context where water has stopped rolling and the rolling streams have dried up and become never flowing. In such a time as this, the God of justice invites us and entrusts us that water justice should flow like river and eco righteousness should permeate our hearts and minds like an overflowing streams. May the God of living water enable us to repent, reconcile and restore our broken relationships with the living waters.

From a Teacher's Log Book

MS. OSHYAJEM LONGKUMER

There was this little girl who would wear “mekhela” (Wraparound) , put on a spectacle and her mother’s shoe; She would then gather all her friends in the neighborhood in a room that had been set up as a classroom, with chairs and tables and a blackboard that was bought by her parents. She played the role of a Teacher. When you as a child is playing the scene of a classroom, you always want to be the teacher because then, the rest have to do what the teacher says or instructs. This girl was so interested in teaching that she would not allow anyone to play the role of a teacher except her! She would somehow lock the door from inside so that her students do not run away. Because she loved checking answer scripts, she would even make her friends-turned-students go through the ordeal of appearing examination! And since they have been locked inside by this stringent little teacher, they had no choice but to oblige. In spite of their reluctance, at the end of the class they would beam with joy, because the teacher would make it a point to give away prizes to the students. This little girl’s passion for teaching was unmistakable and today, by God’s grace “I” have responded to the calling of becoming a Teacher – A fulfilled dream of being in this noble profession.

If we consider our current state’s education scenario, there are many teachers out there, who have become teachers not

because of their interest for teaching, but just because they had no other choice. Our people are still obsessed with this idea of securing a Government job and teaching job seems to be one of the easier way out. If one fails in their first preference of profession in Competitive examinations, they try and opt for other examinations related to teaching as their second preference. I understand that we are all living in a world of “Survival of the fittest” and with lesser options, one just have to try whenever there are opportunities. However, having said that, I strongly feel that when it comes to the teaching profession, a person’s choice of this profession should be churned out of his or her passion for teaching and that the inner conscience should speak to that person. This is because if you have become a teacher not by your conscious choice but because you have no alternative left, you remain accountable to the thousands of students that you will be teaching all throughout your life. Becoming a teacher comes with a lot of responsibilities. You are responsible in shaping and molding the lives of many students.

If we as teachers do not have the passion to teach then like R. C. Wallace said,

“A dull teacher with no enthusiasm in his own subject commits the unpardonable sin”.

The students look up to their teachers as a role model therefore, what we say and what we do have a lot impact on the lives of the students. There was this boy who was

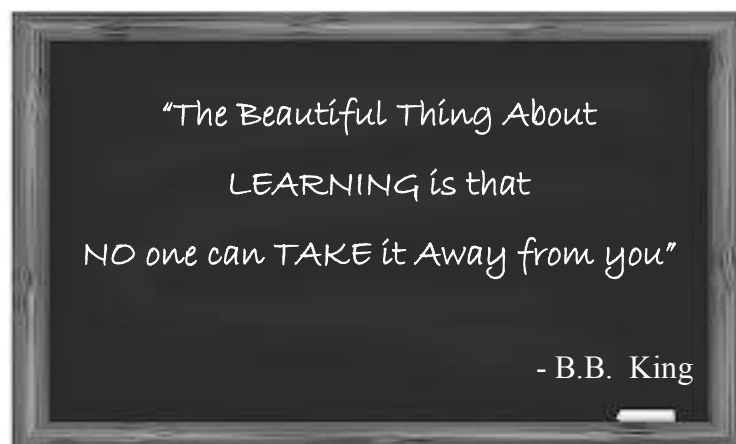
taught in the school to pronounce the word “Kettle” as “Kettel”. The parents who knew that the kid’s pronunciation of the word “kettle” was wrong, corrected him. But the boy was adamant not to accept his parent’s correction because that was how his teacher taught him in the school and for this boy, his teacher was always right! This is just one simple example of the impact of a teacher’s teaching on the student’s learning, be it positive or negative.

As a teacher myself, I still strive to become better at what I do every day. And I must admit that as much as I love teaching, there are also times when I face a myriad of challenges and struggles as a teacher in making learning effective for the students and teaching them with love and enthusiasm or building relationship with the students or striving to be a teacher that inspires. I watched a TED Talk by Rita Pearson, a teacher for 40 years, and this was what she said at the end of her talk :-

“Teaching and learning should bring joy. How powerful would our world be if we had kids who were not afraid to take risks,

who were not afraid to think, and who had a champion? Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

How important it is for Teachers to give ourselves unselfishly to the education of our students and to teach them with love. In one of the surveys of college students preparing to be teachers, the students listed “Love for and patience with students” as two of the most important qualities of a Good teacher. Love indeed makes us a better teacher because it makes us humble, modest and willing to accept correction, to change, to improve and to admit mistakes. Love reminds us that we as teachers do not know it all. And so, as teachers, it is important that we all continue to learn; to change and grow for when we lose our zeal for knowledge, we lose our enthusiasm for teaching. When I cannot remember why I am where I am, I look in the mirror and ask the one who still remembers. Let us remain true to our calling.



BACK TO OUR ROOTS¹

REV. DR. A. TALI AO

1. Why Is Journey To Our Roots A Must?

In time such as this², as storms of life are eroding and uprooting our roots, and at the same time, questioning and threatening once deep-seated values and positions of our cultural and spiritual life; when numerically, culturally, religiously, politically, economically, demographically, and ethnically smaller and voiceless communities like the tribal communities in North East India and elsewhere are overwhelmed by the dominant forces of cultures, religions, ideologies and politics accompanied with modern scientific technologies, materialism, money and muscle powers; and when we are struggling for survival in all areas of our life due to outside and inside challenges in life; it is very fitting, pertinent, and imperative for us to take some serious thinking on the questions of our roots as persons committed to serve our families, churches, communities and societies. And if at all possible and viable, we must make serious efforts to take a journey back to our roots and revisit them at least imaginatively and symbolically. Above all, I would urge everyone to make a point to take again a real journey as far as practicable in space in time to our roots. I remember some years ago, some students' organizations connected to our village put up a programme called 'Imagine Mopungchuket'. I do not know what their activities were and the outcome, but those words really triggered a lot of imaginations and thinking in relation to my roots and identities, and reminded me the importance of my roots whether they are sweet or bitter or both.

2. The Current Scenario of Journeys to Roots

Many people belonging to various communities, cultures and countries are seriously engaged in search of their roots. Most of these are the underprivileged and marginalized sections of peoples, adopted and orphan as well as some of those well to do ones. The notable ones in India are the Dalits, Adivasis, tribals, and the like. The Africans, Black-Americans, Hispanic, Asian-Americans and adopted children belonging to various communities are consciously, happily, adventurously, while some very desperately are engaged in search of their roots and history. For example, listen to this testimony of a Chinese origin girl:

Hi! My name is Clio Brady. I am a transnational Asian-American adoptee. I was born in China and adopted when I was only one year old by a Caucasian family from the U.S. I've lived in America for basically my whole life and hadn't been back to China until I studied abroad. I chose Hong Kong for a variety of reasons. I wanted to practice my Mandarin that I'd been learning for a few years and revisit my birth country, China. Side note: I realized later that in Hong Kong, Cantonese is more widely spoken. While abroad I did get to travel to seven other countries and also China. Going back to my roots is a whole other complicated story for another time about abandonment, governmental policies and Chinese culture. Overall though, I did have a fan-

¹ This is a paper presented at the Annual Literary Week of the Clark Theological College, Aolijen, Mokokchung, September 11-13, 2019. The writer would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude the privilege given by the Literary Committee, and the patient hearing from the audience and kind appreciation received in the interaction.

² The fallout of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam; the questions and issues triggered by the proposed Nagaland Government's decision to have the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants Certificate of Nagaland (RIIN) and the highly controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, (CAB) 2019, which has already become an Act now; all these directly and indirectly touch our roots, and have made our journey back to our roots a necessity. Moreover, the journey has become more tense and challenging.

tastic trip back to my roots!³

The search for roots also has to do with quest for one's self understanding, identity, and healing as well as coming to terms with realities of changed situation and life. From a psychological angle, one can say that general genealogy research is a way of further consolidating ego identity in an age where families have become more fractured. The search can also help a person to build a more complete sense of identity. Finding out about family 'trends', such as the handing down of certain professions, or if one's family had 'itchy feet' and travelled a lot, can validate one's sense of identity. It is reported that 77 per cent of adoptee searchers in the UK wanted to know more about themselves, expressing a need for a more complete sense of identity.⁴

3. The Need to Go Back to Our Roots and Our Distinctive Journey

The sturdiness and fruitfulness of a tree depends much on its roots and soil. Similarly, our feet must be sturdy and firmly grounded, and must not be unnecessarily blown away by various winds of change. Indeed, both the nature and destiny of our life's journey are determined by our roots and past life to a great deal. The clarity and concreteness of our vision and mission of life depends much on the farther and deeper we are able to go back into our roots and the degree of clarity we get into the aspects of our past and the courage to move to the future. Unfortunately, compared with many other communities in the world, the history of our roots is still buried in the debris of distant past and whatever precious remains we have are fast dwindling and vanishing. This is true for us because we all belong to communities of oral tradition rather written traditions. Whatever the case may be we are not alone in our journey. We must learn from journeys others have taken, the evolution of human society, its pristine formation, the emergence of civilizations, experiences of exploitations of humans by humans, the emergence of ruling and various social and economic classes of people, establishment of systems designed to change and transform indigenous communities into unequal people.

Our journey back to our roots as opposed to the cases mentioned above like the Dalits or some cases in the west, is not a movement for a search of altogether lost roots. The territories and images of the roots are there in the collective consciousness and subconscious of the people of the land. The problem for us is the losing grip over our roots and blurring our true images and identities amid 'the others'. Hence, our struggle is to bring the drying roots of our cultural identity back to life. As such, in our journey we need to identify and face courageously the forces in disguise or forces overtly eating up and destroying our roots, blurring, distracting and darkening the course of our journey. Here historical critical analysis should be entwined with analysis of space. Only then can we see our authentic images and identities, and their convergences and divergences with others and clear the past and present distortions of our images and identities.

Our journeys must be inevitably accompanied with series of actions to fight against injustice, oppression, and degradation, and the satanic system that perpetuates destruction and corruption in all spheres of life. We need social action to counter the material onslaught on the life of the people and their land in the areas of economics and politics, and cultural action to unmask distortion of facts, fabrication and concoction of lies and to reinstate the true human identity and dignity of indigenous people. Action to challenge the val-

³ Back to our Roots/Finding my Roots Reconnect with your heritage through self-discovery journey and applying for study abroad scholarships, Centre for Global Education.html. Accessed on 9/9/19.

⁴ Back to our Roots/Going back our roots: The Psychologist.html. Accessed on 9/9/19.

ues, ideologies and theologies of the oppressors. Action against colonial and neo-colonial ideologies.⁵

4. Two Clusters of Roots of Our Family Tree: A Christian Perspective

In my thinking, there are two most important and crucial clusters of our roots. The first cluster is the **biological or natural roots** with all their family, cultural, social, historical underpinnings and heritages. The second cluster is **our roots and identity in God** through Jesus Christ in faith with all the faith, theological, and historical heritages. These two are like the blood circulation and the respiratory system in our life which must coexist and function together simultaneously in healthy manner. One without the other is not only incomplete but death. They mutually support, complement, strengthen and keep us alive, healthy, vibrant, meaningful, significant and glorifying to our human family and to the divine. They should not be ignored and separated in our life as God brought them together in Jesus Christ who is the heart of our life and faith. It is necessary that our journey to our roots must cover these two fields and landscapes in equal proportion courageously accepting all the ups and downs. They are the quintessential roots in our attempt to re-imagining and re-defining our multiple hyphenated Christian identities (e.g., Indian-Christian, Naga-Christian, Ao-Naga-Christian, Garo-Christian, Mizo-Christian, etc.).

5. The Roots of Human Family Tree: A Naga Perspective

The cluster of the roots of our human family tree whether known or unknown to us is fixed and settled and we cannot change them. We can make decision and determine to a certain extent the roots and trees of our future generations but not the past. One may adopt or add new identities but cannot erase the past roots and identities. This is true for all people who are already born. The moment we were born into a human family the most fundamental aspects our roots were sealed. Hence, in all humbleness we must happily accept our roots in whatever forms they have come. That is what we are.

Here we must list the most essential aspects of the cluster of human family roots as seen from a Naga perspective. They are: the father and the mother's lineage, siblings if any, clan, village, range, tribe, district, state, and the country. Different communities trace and legitimize their lineage either after the patrilineal or matrilineal ancestry for the sake of legal and other matters like inheritances of names, titles, clans, wealth, etc. A majority of community and society follow the patrilineal including the Nagas. The Garos and Khasis of Meghalaya follow the matrilineal lineage (Here I request the Garo, Jantia and Khasi friends to enlighten us more). However, that does not mean the other lineage is forgotten and ignored. All the elements of both the roots of the mother's and father's sides should be equally respected and cherished. And we must try to discover in our journey back to our roots how God the Maker of all good things have made all these elements as the channels of His/Her blessings for me, you and others.

There are many ways to discover, rediscover our roots. One such way may be *the first language* or the mother tongue. Our first language is the part and parcel of our community's distinctive culture, and brings with it a whole worldview and system both visible and invisible. The ability to converse, write, think and articulate clearly and powerfully in our first language effortlessly with great command is one of the most precious inheritances we have received from our parents and forbears. The language represents a concrete and symbolic world. Our task of re-imagining our Christian identities and re-envisioning

⁵The ideas and words in this section three are mainly drawn from S. Bosu Mullick, "The Indigenous People's Journey to the Roots: A CISRS Perspective with Special Reference to the Jharkhand Movement," in *Religion and Society*, XLI/1 (March 1994): 27f. (26-43).

our future life must take into consideration our roots within that concrete world and symbolic world as represented by our first language(s). A language is inextricably intertwined with the native village/town/city, its polity, culture, economic, society and the everyday life of that land. Only when we live in that locality according to the lifestyle of that local people can we truly discover, know and understand their roots. Thus, learning and re-learning our native languages is a key vehicle of our journey back to our roots to revive and rediscover our true cultural identity.

Let me take an example. The most essential and stable food for the Nagas, except some Eastern tribes, is the rice. Unfortunately, the greater bulk of rice we are fed on today is imported from outside and it has different stories and histories. But the rice we used to grow and fed on had a wealth of terms, terminologies and history. A good amount of time and energy of the family members were spent and invested in the cultivation, transportation, storing, the processes of drying, pounding, winnowing, sifting, cooking, and sharing rice to feed ourselves. In English, we commonly use the word 'rice' for both the cook and not yet cook grains of rice. But in most of our languages it is not. For example, in Ao the cooked rice is *chi* (but in Ungma and Mongsen languages it is *tzü* and *atza* respectively), the rice not yet cooked but ready to cook after all the processes of drying, pounding, and cleaning is *jang*. The paddy is *tsük*. It goes through several processes to be cooked. Beginning from drying in the sun on the mat especially made out of bamboo splints, called *pakti*, then pounding upon the *semki*, paddy pounding stand in the *semkilung*, the paddy pounding hole in the *semki* with *alih*, the wooden shaft, then sifting to separate the husk from the rice in the *ber*, the winnowing tray, this process of stage will take at least twice, the first is *-tsük amongba* and the second is *tsük anoba*, then we use a strainer or sieve call *waitsü*, which are at least two types, one *mesorong/maipu jang waitsü* and the other *tsükchi jang waitsü*. In the process we get the *jangsang*, the rice mixed with paddy grains, and *jangnem*, the broken rice. The *jangsang* will be pounded again and the same process will follow till all *tsük* is turned to *jang*. The broken rice, *jangnem* is mostly used to feed chickens and pigs.

These processes are only the end stage of *tsük* being turned to *jang*, i.e., paddy grains processed to rice. The greater and more rigorous stages of cultivation involving clearing the jungle from October to December/January called *alu achiba mapang* to the harvest called *aluruba mapang* involving so many activities, festivals, folk songs and dances, and things and equipments which are too many to be described in this brief presentation which are the matrix within which our roots are embedded and grounded, and from which our 'trees' emerged. (This is an example; others may look for better ones according to their own roots and their significance).

All our personal names and titles of families and clans like Talikaba Ao/Lemtur, Sangtemkala Imchen, Marnüngsang Pongen, Longritangchetba, Süpongtemsü, etc., are interwoven in the stories and history of lived experiences of pain and suffering as well as prosperity, success, and celebration of the family and the whole village, which are the socio-political and religiocultural environments which gave birth to our roots and identities.

In all these the villages, towns, cities, the land with all its resources, the forest, the rivers, the water bodies, the heavenly bodies, etc., are so crucial for our roots. Without these our roots will eventually disappear from this earth and we cannot think and speak of our root and imagine let alone re-imagine our identities. This alerts us, and makes us to challenge any forces either within or outside that try to rob us of the land, water, forest and air, and that pollutes and destroys them. The uprising of various national movements for freedom, the rethinking of our theologies, ministries, and mission are all related to our roots and they are our endeavours to safeguard our land, roots, traditions, identities, dignity and

rights. Hence, sometimes in our journeys to our roots we encounter dangers and discouragements. But the journey must continue.

6. The Roots of Devine Family Tree: Biblical and Theological Perspectives

In the Bible, the term 'root' is used almost exclusively in figures of speech. The root of a person is the resources and security of life. Similarly, the roots of a family, a dynasty, or a nation represent its anchorage in the past and its present security. The foliage and fruits represent the extent and quality of its posterity. Uprooting may then signify judgment and destruction. Israel is often described as a plant under Yahweh's election, judgment and restoration. The expectation of a coming great ruler from the Davidic dynasty led to the development of the figure 'root of Jesse' and 'root of David'. The risen and glorified Jesus claims that he is the root and the descendent of David (Isa 11:1, 10; Rom 15:12; Rev 5:5; 22:16). In this sense, our root is Jesus Christ. And he is also the image of the invisible God (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15). Rooted in him we are able to re-imagine our identities authentically. His journeys to the earth (incarnation) and under the earth (death) and back to the Father in heaven (resurrection) changes, transforms, redeems, embraces, and brings eternal salvation to all things. This is *the* model for our journeys back to our roots.

Thus, a journey back to our roots and re-imagining our identities will be incomplete and will leave us in tenterhook tangling, if we do not take into consideration the biblical images of journeys to roots to which our Christian roots originally belong. In fact, who we are today, why we are here now and do the things we do now are the outcome of the coming of the gospel of God in Jesus Christ, and the responses and decisions our forbears made (the journeys they undertook) followed by we ourselves personally receiving and believing in the name of Jesus. Those moments are the most defining moments when God conferred the power and authority on us all to become God's children (Jn 1:12). And we become new creation (2 Cor 5:17). The acts of receiving and believing and the giving of divine power admit us into the family of God, the divine family. This is the new ground and new roots upon which we as followers of Jesus stand today. This restores the image of God in us which is *the root* of our life's tree, branches and all the good fruits.

From biblical and theological points of view our journey back to our roots in all their dimensions is correlated with journeys in the Bible and history. Journeys here must be taken in geographical, theological and spiritual senses involving nations and groups of people including Jesus' journeys to earth and his returned to God and the conflicts these people encountered, the outcome and the implications of these journeys in our life, works, ministry and community, above all on our journey back to our roots. Let us look at two examples.

An excellent example of a journey back to the roots and celebration of the roots is found in the genealogical account of Jesus in the birth narratives of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, also called the nativity. For our purpose it is enough to note that among the male dominated descendents within the three sets of fourteen generations from Abraham to Joseph, five women are included. Of these Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba wife of Uriah are somewhat scandalous women who are non-Jews (Mt 1:3-7). However, in the fulfilment of God's promise they played significant role in God's plan and providence. They are "held up as examples of how God uses the unexpected to triumph over human obstacles and intervenes on behalf of his planned Messiah."⁶ There may be

⁶ R. E. Brown, *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke*, New Updated Edition (New York: Doubleday, 1999), 73f.

similar instances in our roots, but instead of avoiding, condemning and excising them from our family roots and tree we need to acknowledge their significance in God's plan of salvation. We need to recognise how without necessarily condoning the human sins and limitations God uses the unexpected to bring His blessing to us and to our posterity.

Another example of journey back to our shared roots is the beginning of the journeys several disciples of Jesus took on the day of Jesus' resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus includes his journey to the Father, to his disciples and his disciples' journey to the empty tomb and back to the upper room and to the world as apostles, messengers and missionaries. In the process, the identity of Jesus is transformed from a corpse to a glorified body, and the identity of the disciples is also changed and transformed from being members of Judaism to now members belonging to the family of God in a new way. They are now the siblings of Jesus and God the Father is both the Father of Jesus and the disciples. As followers of Jesus we share these journeys in many ways in faith. We become the inheritors of the new life and new identity ushered in by these journeys of Jesus and the disciples through our acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and the message delivered to us by the disciples.

7. Learning to Live, Love and Celebrate Our Roots: The CTC Way

Our journey back to our roots as members belonging to different particular human communities, on the one side, and as children of God and siblings of Jesus in faith belonging to the divine family founded in his life, death and resurrection and awaiting its final judgement and consummation in his second coming, on the other side, we must allow all these elements and aspects to critically interact, intersect and interpenetrate and interpret each other in a meaningful way. The Clark community representing several indigenous communities in the region is in a highly privileged and strategic position to learn from each other, opportunities live and love diverse roots and cultures. One without the other is incomplete for our journey and re-imagining our Christian identities. A mutual and symbiotic fecundation and fertilization and flourishing is needed between all these cultural streams and the Christian roots. The life, love, grace, freedom, peace, truth, knowledge, enlightenment and equality gained as people belonging to the family of God and body of Christ must help us and empower us to discern the right from wrong, good from evil in our roots and cultures which impede and inhibit us from germinating new life and moving forward and upward in fruitful ways.

All our literary activities, be it oratory, narration, writing, composing, dramatising, dancing, rendering and retention of our deep thoughts and feelings in music in any genre; they all celebrate and preserve our cultural and spiritual moorings. At the same time, we introduce and showcase our roots and culture to newer audiences, and in return we involve the other community members in the creative process of sharing life, which facilitates and supports cross cultural learning, living, loving and sharing of community input and professional talents and skills. They also take us to our roots in a new way because we have inherited our particular indigenous roots as well as several other cultural roots in the context and atmosphere of the universal love of God in Christ. They celebrate all things we love and take us in an artistic and musical journey exploring the roots we cherish. All these bid us to love, live and celebrate our rich cultural particularity, diversity, and universality with honour and respect, and they impel us to take yet another trip to our roots and our neighbours' roots.

TESTIMONY

MR. MANGLIYANGBA JAMIR, BD I

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

My name is Mangliyangba Jamir, son of Lt. Tiatemjen Jamir and I am a living testimony of God's unending Grace and incessant action of God's providence in our lives despite of all our limitations and shortcomings.

My testimony is not about me finding God but about God finding me in the midst of my distress, sin and hopelessness. Love moved first in my life. Been born in a family surviving only by God's Grace, I have not had the easiest of life. My family was up for even worse when tragedy hit my family in the year 2007. My father, who was the only bread earner in the family passed away on the 29th of June 2007 when I was just 12 years of age. That was the darkest moment in our family. I vividly remember on that day, my mother was seated beside my father's deathbed feeling hopeless and broken thinking that me and my sister's education was over with the only source of income been cut off, because now it was not a matter of our education anymore, but it was a matter of how to bring a plate of rice to survive. We forgot that even in our darkest times God was always in control. And He was always there providing all our needs at the right time even when we did not pray.

In 2011, when I got through my matriculation, I was more sad than to be happy because I had to take a new admission for the higher secondary with no source of income from anywhere. But God sent help through the most unlikely provision, when you least expected and that is how help came to me and my family i.e., through my father's former colleague. He supported me financially throughout my higher secondary. It was not a coincidence that someone who had nothing to do with my family came forward. He was neither from my tribe, nor a Christian but a Muslim businessman who spent so much wealth to help me without any benefit for himself. But I believe that it was a divine intervention in that state of helplessness.

And yet, despite of all the Blessings and Grace, I lost my track. Pride crept in and I began to do things that I should not have done. I went to places I should not have gone. I broke promises and trusts. Often times I had forgotten God but God never forgot me and He never left me. Being the only son in the family

and growing up without a father was very difficult in our more or less patriarchal society.

I faced discrimination from every nook and corner and was at the receiving end of many insults and being looked down often times. I have had days complaining to God about my life when I would compare it with my peers who were more privileged. Many a times I have envied the lives that my friends had. Yet, today I realize how wrong I was, because if not for all those battles I have faced in the past I wouldn't have been where I am today. Everyday was a struggle thinking about where to bring a plate of rice from, but God never let us sleep empty stomach. Today, because of the situations I have faced in the past, I have learnt the value of this life and I thank God for I can deeply feel the pain in someone's struggle because I have been there. The world may say men are heads and shoulders above women, but what I am today is also a testimony of a woman, a single mother, who fought the toughest battles of poverty and rejection and being faithful to raise her three children, providing them with all the needful requirements that she could, to make sure that they were fed on time, educated and were not rejected members of the society, while compromising with her own health and needs. Most fathers may crumble under such immense pressure of life, but my mother did not.

In 2019, I decided to pursue my theological studies in CTC with a doubtful mind considering my family's situation. Yet, ever since I made this commitment, God is blessing me and my family more than ever before, that sometimes I would even question myself, "do I really deserve this much Love?" And it is quite astonishing that my admission for the first year was paid in all through the blessings I received from all the relatives, well wishers and generous givers in God's perfect time.

Reflecting on my past struggles and problems, I realize that God was only preparing me to be equipped mentally and spiritually for His great purpose. It was all God's plan after all. Every time I assess my life, I am always reminded of Jeremiah 29:11 that says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

It is my earnest request to everyone to please pray for my mother, my family and my stay here at CTC. Amen.

Reimagining Christian Identity

MR. B. PONGTHAI PHOM

The word, "re-imagining" implies retrospection, introspection, re-construction etc. We have been Christians all these years and suddenly the word reimagining pops up in our mind only makes me question, "Have we been imagining Christians wrongly so that we need to re-imagine and re-construct it again?" Oh yes, when we look in today's society that we live, our Christian conduct is utterly flawed and we need to mend them into perfection as God is perfect according to the Biblical teachings and that exercise requires re-imagining what Christianity really is? Michelangelo famously said "*trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle.*" Re-imagining Christian identity is nothing sort of doing or inventing something new but it is in fact going back to the roots of the scripture because when Martin Luther started to protest against the Roman Catholic church he was not trying to bring something new to the system but all his efforts was to bring the church back to the Bible.

Our identity as Christian must be solely based on the Bible which emphasizes truthfulness, justice, love and chastity. But sad to say, today there is a rampant corruption in every sector of the society. Corruption does not mean money, but it encompasses our thoughts and actions and our understanding at the given situation. Moses, although born to a Hebrew family, but was looked after by the princes of Pharaoh; educated and enjoyed all the kingly zest of the Egyptian empire but never forsake his root as a Hebrew. He defended a fellow Hebrew from the cruelty of his Egyptians master. If we were in his place, we would not be ready to stoop down to the status of slaves. Another example is of Joseph, he was tempted time and again by his master's wife to gratify her desires but he never gave into her seduction, instead he chose to be falsely accused by his master's wife and landed up in prison, he stood by his identity to his God.

Our identity as Christians must be based on truth. It is very difficult to stand on the truth in a society where democracy is reverted i.e. majority win, but despite the circumstances we need to uphold truth because in truth there is a way and there is a life. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "*I love your Christ but not your Christianity.*" It implies that as a follower of Christ we have failed to uphold Christ like behavior in our everyday conduct because Christianity is not only defined by water baptism, becoming a member of church, going to church service, celebrating Christian occasions like Christmas, Good Friday, Easter etc. but it is defined by the way we carry ourselves in our daily life-loving, caring, free of corrupt mindset and not discriminatory.

To be a Christian is to mend the broken system but sadly we Christians are very good at lamenting but never try to stand up and act boldly.

Brigitte Gabriel said, *"don't just pray for America; don't just hope for America; don't just wait for America; and don't just lament for America but rise up and act for America and save the western civilization build on the Judeo-Christian values."*

This statement should beautifully resonate with the Christians because we need to pray; we need to envision; we need to hope but most importantly we need to rise up and act so as to bring desired changes to our family, to our church and to our society. Nehemiah was a cup-bearer to the king of Babylon, he was enjoying his life at the king's palace but when he was conveyed of the plight of his people and the broken walls, he wailed, and prayed and fasted and he sought permission from the king to go back and rebuild the wall to which the king granted the permission not only to let him go and rebuild the wall but also provided all the required resources to build the wall. Through Nehemiah's story we learn that he prayed, observed, and acted, therefore we as Christians, in order to realise our true identity, we should pray, observe the situation and act accordingly.

Jesus Christ came to this earth and stood against the social evils of his time. He was not afraid to stand against the biased interpretation of the Mosaic Law against an adulterous woman; he broke the cultural barrier of the untouchability with the Samaritans by giving the woman the living water; he cared for the sick; the physically challenged and the poor while he fought against the hypocrites Pharisees that led him to be crucified.

Therefore, we as Christian needs to finish the mission of God or die sacrificing. To identify ourselves as Christians is to be able to reflect Christ like behavior in our daily lives. Let us re-imagine our Christian identity based on truth, justice and integrity.



***"Knowledge, Wisdom and God
are the Essence to Humanity"***

First Mitzvot

MR. OCHIMEREN IMSONG, M.TH. I

Smartphones, Gadgets, Social Medias have become a part and parcel of our daily life. You do not need to hold the “big heavy staff” in your arms and shoulders, nor to you need huge equipment’s to communicate with people around. There was a time when even a single phone call was so precious. People would wait for months to receive “hand written” messages from their loved ones.

It was a time when Televisions were the only gadgets visible to the eye. It was when T.V. regardless of the colorless pictures; bought people, homes, families together. It was when “slippers” “chapples” and “shoes” were left outside the door step as if it were “on Sale”. It was a time when today’s morning “rivals” would sit together in the evening to watch T.V., and after the TV show would become the best of friends. Those were the days!!!

Message was something very special and unique those days. Not many people were able to write those messages. And some message font styles were so unique that sometimes it needed a 10 round reading to understand simple sentence. Yet it brought great joy in reading the “hand-written- message”. Those were the days when no instant message could be sent... And as I write these lines, I just “message” a letter to my friend who is thousands of miles apart and interestingly got a reply back in no time. But those were the days, when we had to wait and wait just to know whether the other person would say “yes” or “no”. But in spite of the wait, that message had value regardless of the positive or negative response. The last “hand-written” message I received was from my grandpa which was dated “06.06.08” and I still have the letter in my diary, properly reserved. (Now my old grandpa is 95 years old and a smart fellow that he too is using an old Nokia black and white phone).

I, (when I was a handsome very young kid), over heard some elderly people talking, “there will come a time when we have to buy words from other person”. I believe

they were pretty right at that. Look in your hands, today; we buy to talk with other people (buy words). That “box-like thing” in front of you is consuming your money just to talk with people afar. Yet, the one who is seated next to you, you hardly get time to respond to them.

Let us look into some of facts. According to “Global Social Media Research Summary of 2017” there are over 1870 million active users on social media. Among this 76% uses them regularly.

And I believe even as you read this line, some of you might be holding the phone in your hand and scrolling the Facebook and WhatsApp pages.

Now I am not here to critique or to put an end to the use of social media /gadgets / phones etc... That would be absurd, as I too use all the necessary Apps to communicate. No doubt, social media has bought the world to a smaller platform. It is now not a matter of global village or city but a global platform/stage. You can see and hear everything what the other person is doing over the phone except for the feeling part, which I suppose will take no time to bring up. You are, as if, with the person in the phone that’s how gadgets has brought us to a global platform/stage. But as we run through this, I want us to pounder upon the first commandment.

I don’t want us to feel that I am about to share a “religious” message as I will not be doing that. But rather I would like to view from a “humanist perspective” and look upon how our society has change within the past 10 years.

The first commandment (MITZVOT) mentioned in the Bible says, “You shall have no other gods before me.” When we look at the definition of the word “god”, the Oxford defined the use of god with a small letter ‘g’ as, “A thing accorded to the supreme importance appropriate to a god.” It means in simple term, anything which you give more importance than you ought to, can be defined as god. Now, before we proceed further, I want us to clarify on the word “God”.

Many of us think and have the misconception about this word "God" as the name itself. "God" is only a title, not a name allotted to the Divine Being. For example, we address the Governor or President with the capital "G" and "P" whereas it is not his/her name. His name can either be, "Governor Archarya" or "President Trump". In the same manner, God is an allotted title given to him. In fact, we have various name called by Himself as "I AM", "YHWH", "JEHOVAH" and explaining each of this would take another article or two to complete.

So coming back to the word god and its definition, if god would mean anything which we give extreme importance to, what about the gadgets which is in our hand; do they not become gods for us? No doubt you are holding it, controlling it, re-charging it. Yet don't you feel that it is controlling you? For instance, can you leave your phone aside without opening your Facebook and WhatsApp and without even using your phone and carry on with your daily chores for a day? I believe many of us will not be able to do it! They have become gods for us

Studies suggest that, one in every four car accidents are caused by drivers using cell phones. Today we are more prone to have school dropouts than those past 10 years, due to excessive use of smart gadgets. Of course no doubt, smart phones have played a vital role in serving humanity as in regard to safety, staying connected and keeping updated. Yet, as we view from the first "MITZVOT" (commandment) point of view, we would realize that we have MADE THEM GODS.

Smart phones can be seen everywhere now a days, even a 7 year old kid knows how to operate the phone. In schools and colleges, students pay less attention to lectures and more incline towards phone which could affect the future of the students.

Use of phones inside the church have become quite annoying. Those ringtones that come while the Pastor is preaching spoils the solemnity of the worship. Youth, now a days, comes to church not to worship but to play games and browse in social media.

We have become "phone-worshipper" and "game/browser- addict" rather than "God worshipper". Instead of going to a worship gathering, we rather chose to gather somewhere and play games. In short, these gadgets have become our gods that we worship literally.

We are becoming more isolated than we were before. We would rather choose to be stuck in a room with phones rather than hang out with friends. Our future generation is at stake.

We choose to have thousands of unknown, unseen friends than have a true friend in real life. We choose to share our feelings in a "Post" rather than share with our parents and people who care. We would rather have thousand of "likes" than a thank you note for lending a helping hand in real.

We have become more of "selfie" and 'how do I look?' rather than care about our inner self and character. We are chasing after "becoming popular" in a small 'box-like-thing' rather than become someone in a real world. We have become so confined to the four corners of the 'box-like thing' that we are holding; than to go out and change the real world.

We have become 'heroes and legends' in an imaginary game and "crore patti" in a chips game and build "big farms" in a land we cannot reap, where as the world we are staying is in need of real heroes who could give a helping hand, help the needy by giving just 10 bucks, and build a small garden that can fill our stomach.

After examining all these, I have this question in mind, "Is there any other gods beside the one who created us? Have we, as Christians, kept the first commandment? Because we still have 9 other commandments to look into? At the end, I believe, what our great scientist once said is coming to a reality.

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of IDIOTS." - Albert Einstein.

WHAT DISCIPLINE MEANS TO ME

MR. MERANGKABA, BD II

The word “discipline” is from the Latin word *disciplina* meaning “instruction” and “training”. It is derived from the root word *discere* meaning “to learn”. The word discipline holds different meanings and each has its specific purposes. If we open a dictionary and see we find a list of meanings with regard to discipline. Discipline is “a controlled behavior; self-control,” it is “a systematic method of obtaining obedience.”

Being a student here in CTC, my utmost aim is disciplining myself while being educated. I believe that the few years stay in CTC will be the golden years of my life because I understand that this is a time of training and I reckon there is not even a single myth that says about training being easy. Training is normally hard and training in simple words, means to struggle, yet out of these struggles we develop skills that will help us face the world.

The then Principal of Ladybird School, Mokochung once said, “obedience means marching straight whether you like it or not.” This has become more like my guiding principle especially after joining CTC, for instance, I do not want to wake up early on Saturdays and do ‘social work’ but I force myself and make sure I do it even when others do not, that is obedience for me. Obedience leads to discipline. I strongly believe that one has to obey in order to be disciplined. I suppose nobody has ever lost their integrity by being disciplined.

For me discipline begins by making our bed in the morning, waking up in time even if we wanted to sleep for another five minutes. In our context discipline is going to class in time, if not, at least on time. It shows that we respect and honor not only our teachers but also our classmates as well. Discipline is going to chapel and vesper at the right time without disturbing any worshippers. Discipline is attending worship service in awe and reverence of our Maker instead of attending for the sake of our attendance. Discipline is sweeping the corridors of the hostel even when we know that it will be covered with dirt just minutes after we clean it. Discipline is when we stop cooking inside the hostel premises because we

respect people more than our desire to be a glutton.

For me discipline is when we get rid of “I am senior, you are junior” mentality.

Discipline is when we obtain permission from the rightful authority to go outside the campus instead of running around like ninjas and stop playing hide and seek with the warden and the matron. Discipline is when we stop bringing guns in the hostel and stop killing birds in the campus but plant more flowers and fruit trees. Discipline is when we start practicing what we preach and living a self-controlled life both on the stage and off the stage because I strongly believe in the power of one’s living testimony. Discipline is understanding the sweat and tears of our parents and stop being a spendthrift. Discipline is when we stay committed in relationship instead of playing around with people’s emotions and feelings. Discipline is when we stay put to our commitment and do our assigned responsibility with sincerity till the last day without compromising with anyone be it your classmates or your best buddy.

Discipline for me is rising above hate and being brave even when the world gives us enough reasons to be afraid. Discipline is when we are bold enough to walk out from certain situations because we do not want unnecessary confrontations. Discipline is when we keep fighting and never quit because we know we are fighters and fighters are meant to fight no matter how low the world may stoop down on us at times. Discipline is when we can utter, “it is well with my soul” with pure thoughts even at the lowest point of our lives. Discipline is learning how to walk properly before we start running but most of all discipline, for me, is praying against sin and not sinning against our prayers.

For a person like me who have wasted many precious years of my life I enjoy my freedom in the rules and regulation laid down by the higher authority, and it challenges me to fight within myself every single day to become better than I was before. So this is what discipline means to me in a very narrow sense. What is your version of discipline?

The Man Standing at the Edge of Sanity

MR. NUNGSANGMANEN, BD I

Ouch! He muttered.

He sat there, banging his head on the wall that was behind him. He thought to himself, "Where did things go wrong?" He acted as if he was a monk beneath the Bodhi tree, his pale face reflecting on the almost empty whisky bottle. The flashing of the lightning gave him some senses, which was immediately followed by a huge rumbling sound from the heavens. He raised his glass to pour another peg of venom, which he thought and drank as if it was an elixir. The rains hit the city floors, the evening breeze brought in the mood which he was so addicted to, the mood of melancholia. Temptation was that it could not be his last bottle, the clock was passing seven and he had kept some stew brewing on the stove, the pressure that was building up inside the cooker gave him the alarm, he rushed to the kitchen, he saw the despair condition of the kitchen sink, alas! What have I become he sighed. The sight of the sink irritated him but the aroma from the stove somewhat soothed him, as the kidney beans and the pork leg were jumping and exciting his nostrils. He took out some for himself and kept the rest for the visitors. The jealous bottle was calling him, as he started to sweat profusely, he immediately rushed and grabbed his glass and like lovers meeting after decades he, hugged the drink that was inside the glass down his impatient and unsatisfied throat. He again selfishly poured everything for himself and kept nothing for the bottle. He forcefully pushed some kidney beans down his throat, took another sip from the glass, lit a cigarette and greedily inhaled as much smoke as he could.

The last strongest sip he took started to kick in, it felt as if the drink would burn down his thyroid and would penetrate his skin, it was undiluted, it made him feel more energetic, his reflective philosophical thinking mood suddenly shifted to a more playful and jumpy mood. He pressed the play button on the woofer which was connected to his annoying laptop, which was more or less like a television set, it immediately stopped working as the power went off. He started off with Machine Gun Kelly, the whisky

kept hugging the walls of his esophagus. The rhythm of these songs did not please him for long, as he started to peel off the seal of another bottle of whisky. He completely changed the genre of the music that was playing. Sentimental, melancholic, and lyrical music that soothed his situation, he could listen to them all day long. He never was a dancer, but life taught him some moves, when John Bon Jovi, Gotthard, Guns and Roses and the Beatles started playing their own tunes, with "I'll be there for you", "let it rain", "November rain" and "hey Jude", he sang at the top of his voice. He had listened to these same old songs maybe more than hundred times each. He felt as if they have written those songs for him, punching the walls, muffled screaming and letting go of his emotions were the only moves he knew. He did not feel anything without his partner. Whisky would break this shackle and let him exercise his emotions freely. He would call this as emotional freedom. He poured out everything, he started speaking harshly to himself and the next minute he would be comforting himself murmuring that "this too shall pass." He flushed down his bitter thoughts of the past, which haunted him every now and then with the largest peg, if one was to order it in a bar, they would charge triple the price of a large peg. He was just fine, letting the old flames consume and burn him again and again, because he still hoped. He fell to his bed, groaning and mumbling to himself, he laid to rest. Every time he went to bed he pretended to be dead, because the illusive world that he had been living, demanded his soul. He wanted to be in his state of slumber, as his dreams felt much better than the reality.

He dreamed of her again, shivering and coughing he pulled himself off the bed, it was midnight. He had tears on his eyes, he wanted the dream to continue again but insomnia was nothing uncommon. He extended his right arm trembling to get the glass which he clung onto so dearly. He kept it on his bed, fearing that it might slip off from his shaky hands. He delighted as he made contact with the whisky, poured in a small amount of the devil's liquid

using both his hands, he stopped after a few seconds as the noise made by the glasses broke the silence of the dark moonless night when they came into contact. With much groaning and with much effort he pulled the glass up to his lips and drank it down as if it was the last sip of whisky in the world. He could feel the liquid travel down the esophagus, into the stomach and into the small intestine, he felt the liquid go to his bloodstreams. He could literally feel his liver working extra in getting rid of the poison from his body. Many times he claimed that his liver was made up of iron, but at the moment, he could feel the rusts forming in his "Iron Liver". Immediately he could feel his strength returning to his body, he stopped coughing, his tremor stopped and he thought to himself that it was indeed a magic potion. The food was lying there cold and unattractive, his stomach was grumbling.

He thought of reheating the stew but the kitchen seems to be miles away, he gathered all his strength, marched towards the kitchen and bolted down the cold stew. He had to run to the bathroom, "Damn gastritis" he shouted. Basic programming was familiar to him, like the programmer controlling the program, he could not do anything but to go straight into the room and grab the glass for another spree of binge drinking. He felt as if he was born to do this.

He was caught up in such a strong mirage, that he was all very happy to completely deny reality. He was the king in the fake oasis. He found joy and peace in it. When reality slapped him, he would eventually lock himself out in this mirage. He proudly grabbed his glass, cursed someone and took a heavy dosage. It was panacea to all his problems, other than that he knew nothing. This was not a special night, it was his daily routine. By the time he was about to finish his second bottle he aimlessly searched for something, he was struggling, but finally he found it, the youngest and the smallest of its kind, he called it "fire"(quarter bottle of whisky). He kept it under his pillow as a talisman for a sound sleep. It indeed worked, he dozed off.

He was disturbed by a nightmare again. He sat on his bed, trying to figure out whether it was for real. He peeped at his cell phone, it was 3

am in the morning. It was still black, as black as his future. He took hold of a face towel which he always kept on a stool near his bed. He wiped his face and body with it. The tips of the towel became like the tips of the roof in a cold winter morning. Nature was calling, the pass that came out of his body was nothing in common to a normal human. A Human urine normally contains 90% water, and the rest are urea, uric acid and organic ions such as sodium, potassium, chlorides etc. but his was different, it was pure ethyl alcohol (C_2H_5-OH). Pure soul would easily get the kick just by the smell of it. He dragged his body back to his bed, took a large beg, and went to sleep immediately.

The door bell rang, he opened his eyes, was bright and sunny. His trembling hands went straight under his pillow, pulled out his savior, this time he was too weak to go and grab his glass. Right from the bottle he quaffed a mouthful. He gave a disgusting look with a click of his tongue. He jumped out of his bed and went for the doors. It was the cleaning guy. He came on alternate days.

He made breakfast for both of them, pulled a fifty rupee note and gave the man who was working his way at the kitchen's sink. While the cleaning was going on, he finished the remaining drink from the bottle which he called fire. He went into the shower while the woofer played some old country songs. He was dressed as a gentleman now. He took varieties of medicines which he had brought from his home, gulped down a bottle of water. The liver gave a smirk, as it rushed again to do its usual work, "getting rid of the poison". He took out a Zippo stainless steel flask from his drawer. He had bought it, in his last trip to Delhi. He flung opened the wardrobe took out two kinds of bottle of the same brand. A half bottle and a quarter bottle of vodka, he poured the content of the smallest bottle into his flask and shifted the other content into a mineral water bottle. He gave a thorough look at the mirror, grabbed his bag and went off to work. He exhaled deeply as he locked the door, saying to himself "I survived yet another stormy night".

AN EXTRA MILE

MS. T. MOISHEN, M.TH.I

Every successful person holds the tag of “an extra mile”. I encountered a successful King in one of my interviews where he said, “in order to become a powerful and a successful King he must do things differently with an extra determination.” For instance, in hunting if a man under his reign killed one animal, he must kill two or even more, in a way that attracts the people to respect his position. In order to run his administration and his people well, he must be more capable, more knowledgeable, and more potential than the common people, if only then the people will follow and respect his decision and his administration will be regarded by the people.

All of us have the same time, and same number of days in a year, but to make a person distinguished and excellent in his or her life, depends on the use of the word an ‘extra mile’. Taking an extra mile is a little sacrifice, a little struggle and a little patience to achieve the goal set in life. An extra mile is a plan for the actions to take up, preparation to face the challenges, and a focus to reach the target point. Experts are of the opinion that the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just the ‘little extra’ and how we make use of that little extra matters. The Bible warns about the negative use of that little extra. “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.” (Proverbs 24:33-34). The reverse still holds true. It means that little extra effort we put in the right attitude will have positive impact in our life. Gradually with the passage of time, by making all that little extra counts, we outshine the common people for we have obviously travelled an extra mile. Nothing worthy is easy; it takes hard work and patience to achieve anything great. It is easy to give up when things are tough, it is easy to get angry when someone offend you, it is easy not to forgive others who hurts you badly, it is easy to complain against others, the world or even the creator God, when things do not unfold in our

favor. But it takes character and a little extra effort to overcome such unfavorable situations. We do not run the whole extra mile at once; every inch of little good deeds we do everyday result in completing extra miles in our life. Few people dare to travel that extra mile because it takes extra hard work. The advantageous thing about an extra mile is that there are not much of competitors. Only the committed few walk the path of winners.

Many people fall into the category of taking life for granted, not pushing oneself to become better or more capable than who they are now and it continues until it is too late or have too little time. They end up without discovering their own abilities and potentials. But now, to the remaining, like you and me, we need to challenge ourselves and become distinguished personalities by taking an extra mile one at a time. This positive thought of taking an extra mile is what makes me think about myself in God’s image and to bring glory to Him alone. We must gain confidence, for God gave wisdom and understanding to discern and achieve our goals. We do not rely on God but on His assurance to take us through. We bring contribution to the church, society, to the community, to the individuals and to oneself by realizing the full potential. We live moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day and year by year. As we look back, we will realize that our life is the sum total of all that tiny dots of contributions.

Let us take an extra mile like that successful king who decided to be a different person knowing what he possesses and what he is capable of. To take that extra mile we need to know the purpose and direction in life by keeping our focus on the productive future. Yes, there will be many obstacles. Great things begin with small but significant steps. We measure our lives not by results alone but by the contributions we make in life. Thereby, we impact lives and become way makers for others to traverse that difficult but gratifying walk.

What I Learned from Lot's Character

MR. TENSENG M. SANGMA, BD IV

The examples of men and women as recorded in the Bible can provide valuable lessons. From Abraham we can learn the value of faith in God. From Joseph we see the workings of God's providential care. From Job, we learn the importance of patience and faith under trial. From Lot, the nephew of Abraham, we can also glean valuable lessons in the art of decision making and the importance of making proper choices. Genesis 13 records one of the saddest, most troubling, most distressing, most shameful experiences of lives in the Bible. This chapter describes strife between Abraham and Lot, strife which led to separation, and separation which led to even greater sorrow. Abraham was Lot's Uncle. The story of Lot is the story of a man who chose to love the world instead of God.

1. Loving world

Lot first showed this by making the wrong choice. His herdsman and the herdsman of Abraham were often embroiled in controversy and fighting. So generously, Abraham asked Lot to choose any place and so Lot chose the well-watered land near Sodom. He depended on the land, he depended on his idea to choose a good land. He never asked God which land he would choose rather he decided by depending on his understanding. He thought that the place he has chosen was good for cultivation and grazing. He chose worldly pleasure and thought only for his gain and profit. He had the selfish worldly attitude and therefore, in the end he lost it all without regard for anything spiritual, his soul, or the glory of God. This tells us much about Lot; how he had love for this world. He had little concern for his soul, and the souls of those who were under his influence. He forgot God who made him rich when he was with Abraham. Lot was more concerned about his

wealth, so he took his wealth more seriously than he took God.

Character determines the choice. Those who lack character will make wrong choices as they depend on their understanding. They are proud, they cheat and steal but the one who depends on God will make the right decision. Matthew 7:16 says "By their fruits, ye shall know them". Yes, Lot became rich and wealthy in Sodom and his daughters married the men of the city. Genesis 13: 13 "the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord. In Sodom, Lot became a wealthy man. People in those days might have said that Abraham was foolish, for he also could have moved in the city and have become a wealthy man. But God saw Lot in danger and therefore, he warned him.

One day the king of the east made a raid on Sodom and captured Lot and his goods. Abraham gathered his men together and rescued Lot. This would have been a warning to Lot but he went back to Sodom to the old life, Lot never realized that God was giving him a warning. In our life, God never let us in trouble without warning us first. He sends something to shake us from our sins but we ignore the warning and go on without God by living in our old sins. And we do not realize God's warning.

2. Lost influence

Lot lost influence over his family because his first choice was wealth and to live a comfortable life. Lot had lived twenty years, but he had been so worldly that he had not even won his family member's heart. The night when the two angels notified him that the city would be destroyed, he rushed to the homes of his two married daughters and said to his son-in-law "to get out of this city, for the Lord is about to destroy the city" (Genesis 19:14) but they mocked him. They took him as a joke and it broke Lot's heart. He had spoken so little about God and lived a worldly life that's

why when he spoke about the Lord, it became a mockery to them. If he had taught God's words to his family then maybe his family members might have believed in God. He failed to influence other people by God's word and also failed to show a good example to others.

This picture is repeated many times even today. Our lives are not bearing Christian principles, we are not living as Christ lived. The people of other faiths do not believe in us, because we are living a worldly life. Our words are different from our actions. When we try to win them to Christ, they mock us. We become a mockery. They will never be inspired nor influenced by our lifestyles. How can we influence others if our own life is going wrong?

3. Looking back

The angels said to Lot and his family, "flee for your life, do not look back or stop anywhere in the plain" (Genesis 19:17b), but Lot's wife would not give up, for she looks back and was immediately turned into a pillar of salt. She looked back because she *longed* to be back. Her heart was still in Sodom. She doesn't want to *leave* the worldly life, she doesn't want to *leave* her wealth, and most importantly she did not hear the word of God. Her choice was wealth not God.

Many people have been *like* her, they come out of the world, they say they are through with their old life, but as times go by they look back on pleasures of their old life, their hearts are still there and soon they follow their hearts back. Most of the time we promise many things to God, but we break our promises, we confess many things to God that we will not do again those bad things but as times goes by we repeat the same things. We forget to choose good things. most of the time we pray...we confess our sins...we keep fasting... we promise many things to GOD with emotions...we cry out in tears... and the very next day we commit again...the same sin which we have con-

fessed.

I have a childhood friend who is a lady, and one day a man proposed her for marriage. She knows that he had little knowledge about God and his lifestyle was different compared to her. In simple words, he was not a God-fearing person. Despite the difference between the two of them she knowingly accepted him. After they got married, her husband began to torture and started beating her, and finally the husband left her. At that time the lady asked me why God gave her this kind of husband. Sometimes in life we make mistakes by ourselves but instead we blame God, after knowing what is good and bad. God has given us the ability to choose/to make choices but we do not utilize it the right way. A fruitful gift may bring a great loss in our life, so let us keep God first in our every decision.

Most of the time even though we consider ourselves as "Called Out Ones" we tend to forget God's purpose and God's will and many of us, including me try to live our life or make decisions according to our wants and wishes. we never ask God's will where He wants to send us even in our college weekend ministry, or where He wants us to do our NGO and Holistic ministry, or how God wants us to live. But often we fail to live according to God's will. As a result our ministry becomes ineffective and unfruitful. We are not able to give a good impact in our ministry. Proverbs 16:9 says "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps". Lot began by loving the world, but now he lost it, he lost his position, his wife, his wealth his precious time. His decision changed the whole scenario.

WHY BLACK MAN!

MR. PYNTOHMON POSHNA, M.TH.II

An exclamation that almost burst my ear out for a brief period of time, and I am happy that gradually it died down. For a time being I am happy to keep it a secret but not for long. Mind you, this is not a question that needs an answer; rather, this is an exclamation of surprise and curiosity that probably, I guess, required a response to onlookers, Why Black, Man!

Black signifies many things. Probably a dozen images, and ideas might have cropped up as you immerse in this line and they are relatively legitimate in their own sense. However, when it comes to my senses, and it might resonate well with some of you, black signifies Death. Yes, you read it well and I'm not surprised if it shocks you too. Hang on! "Allow me," to take you to my territory.

The reality of death is one of the inevitable roads that all of us are destined to. It is the surest out of all things. One way or the other it will meet us, in that sense it is also one of which we can anticipate with certainty. Forgive me, this just a diversion, though, it is the truest.

So, what is this death then that I am referring to? May be this is what we need to hear, "to die every day" to PRIDE (you name it, the list is too long for me, that's why I intend to put it in a general sense), EGO, STATUS, LUST, PRECONCEPTION, MANIPULATION, CORRUPTION, the list is open ended; it is that type of death. It is a type of death that allows new things to grow and flourish (John12:24). It is a type of death that allows for the possibility of rebirth or becoming a new being or be "born again." For how can we be made NEW if the OLD is still alive! When Hinduism talks about *Samsara*, cycle of birth, death and rebirth, though I understood it, yet, it fails to strike at the deepest level of my being. How can that be existentially? Not a chance by any means, not in this world, one life is all we have. However, interposed it in the light of the Gospel new light shines forth.

How often have we justified our act, conduct, behaviour, role, words when we are dead wrong? Probably, for me, a thousand times.

How often have we turned a cold eye towards others because of ego, status, and pride? Probably, for me, a thousand times.

How often do we shut down voices that reveals the dark truth about ourselves? Probably, for me, a thousand times.

And the question goes on and on and the response will keep on echoing, "a thousand times."

Well, here's the catch - How many times do I have to die? For Sure, more than a thousand times.

Then why- BLACK, a reminder that I have to die every day to this and that...you name it. To put it into perspective, the medium or symbol that helps me grow closer to my Maker. May you find that 'something,' whatever it may be, that will make your life a little easier because living a truthful, blameless, honest, honourable life is tough, man! At the same time a note of caution, do not let that 'something' turn into an idol either.

TOGETHER, WE DID IT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

MS. LIMASANGLA, M.TH. II

Our M.th journey began with nineteen of us, who came with different goals, vast age differences and from diverse cultures. We were joined by a new member including the adorable Clara and loving Beth, completing us as a family. This class is a unique class with all the members from the letter "M" and "N" states.

There were days when we were unable to sleep and days without meals and electricity. Our rooms were messy since we followed our principal's advice that "an M.th room should be messy with books." Our greatest fear was during our thesis proposal and integrated papers.

Our faculty members were our strength who were more like a family and friends. There were also times when we thought of packing our bags and leaving the college but today we are thankful that we struggled and have come thus far. Our strength comes through praying together.

The ladies call themselves the 'birthday band' as together they have composed so many birthday songs. And the gents can be categorized into two - the Naga brothers and the Meghalaya brothers. These are the lovely twenty:

Renemkala: I am the most **hardworking person** and I love my friends more than I love myself. Christiano Ronaldo offered to coach me football but I have more interest in family studies.

Sukumba: I am of the society, by the society and for the society. They call me **Mr. NGO**. I have a good voice and trust me, my preaching will have an impact in your life.

Joshua: I think, think and think. My room is my abode of learning. I have a heart for the word "suicide" itself. My payers are powerful and they call me the **Naughty boy** of the class.

Thekhewe: I laugh when I laugh and angry when I am angry. My electrical skills landed me a pass to the M.th. ladies hostel. I am also the most **gentleman** among my peers.

Renem: I am the captain of our class and the HOD of Christian communication. Missiological views in all the papers is important. I emit energy and **enthusiasm** to people nearby me.

Filling: I am an activist of Christian Education. I am the **sincerest** one and I have a heart for ecological concerns. CTC blessed me three wonderful sisters.

Pyntohmon: I am calm and an athlete. Call me if you need any **help** in academics. They call me curly and culture. The colour **BLACK** and I have a divine connection.

Richard: You will always see me with a bottle in my hand. I am the HOD of our

department. I have an ability to even confuse my teachers. I am **Mr Library** as I have all kind of source you might need.

Zhamha: I am the man of **charisma**. My football skills come from my thighs. I am the Samson of my class and a secret keeper. Mr. No problennn...

Pynshai: I am a loving soul and one of the friendliest ordained ministers. I work as hard as I can. Recently I became an expert in Mega Voice and gave my friends and teachers lessons on it.

Akumsashi: I am the Gordon Ramsay of my class and the most influential one. I believe in the saying – “age is just a number”. I am an expert in **Cosmic Christ**. My ability to crack a joke in any situation has been contagious among my friends.

Aylwin: My eyes are quick to detect any kind of flaws. I am often considered a **critic** and an analytic. I am a loving husband and the best papa to Clara. I make the world's best sausages.

Wangshi: I look sincere but my friends know the level of my craziness and naughtiness. I am delicate yet an **enchanted singer**. I am the source of encouragement to my friends. Remember I am from counseling department.

Tshope-ü: I am the youngest yet I am very **mature**. I love giving hugs and showing care to my friends. I can work anytime – be it morning, noon or night.

Wonglen: I am Miss Confident, **Generous** and Advance. I love playing football but my header has been a disappointment for my opponents. I prefer spending time in my room than to laze around with friends.

Sarah: I am the defender of our football team yet even a tiny insect can scare me to death. I can be as direct as I can be and they call me **Miss Funny**.

Paudon: I look tiny but I am a brave soul. My size does not determine my energy and I can sleep anywhere and at anytime. I am a strong contender for **Nagaland Chamber Choir**. My research skill is in the area of text messaging.

Bendangin: My silence can speak volumes. **Adjustability** is what you need to learn from me and I can help you anytime. I have a keen interest in superheroes.

Kungkam: I thought I was a **soulful singer** but recently I have also realized that I have the skills for mimicry. They call me miss loudspeaker and I have a heart for homosexuals and contemporary music.

And finally '**ME**' I love observing and writing about my mates. This journey has been hard but together **we did it for His glory**. Thank you all for being a part of my life and teaching me valuable lessons. May God be with us all, long live CTC.

Letter to My First Love (CTC) Grateful for Everything

MS. MERANGDANGLA IMCHEN, BD IV

Dear Love,

This letter is for you, so that you will know how much I am going to cherish you and how Important you are, and you will be in my life forever.
I have to admit that you were the first one to make me see life in different shapes and colors.
You made my life so full of excitement and passion that though I felt exhausted

I could not stop.

Because I am deeply in love with you.

My freedom and dreams were never compromised
because you always support me and believed that I could do anything.

Yes! You help me to raise high.

And, What I am now is all because of you.

Thank you for being a healthy environment where I can learn and be challenged.
You brought wonderful lecturers in my life so that I can gain so many insights from them.

You also brought for me real life experiences,
where I can put my passions into practice,
And my faith in God into actions.

Most of all, thank you for letting me live with my friends.

It's like a sleep over that never ends!

We get to do life together.

We get to laugh through our embarrassing moments,
Cry during the stressful weeks and celebrate when we reach our goals.
Love, you have provided me with a family and for that I am so grateful.

Despite the stress, the misunderstandings, the separation,
That came on my way.

The relationship we shared was magical.
Come to think of it, it was strong and powerful.

And now, I have to leave you,
With the ability to never give up on something
That comes on my way.

At last, thank you for the experience of a lifetime.
It is one I will never forget or take for granted.

Thank you for being my First Love.
And, Remember! You will always be my First Love, "MY CTC".

MR. NAKLU IMCHEN, BD III

“Ballad of Hope”

*The Rock and Shelter, matchless and endless
Every minute thing in life has been smoothened and shaped.
Out of curves and rusty road,
Reminiscing being and not being with Thee.
In the walk of life, the first Love
When Thou call'st such a weak as me.*

*Praise is worth, for steps of success is unending miles in Thy absence,
In Thy presence, hope always journeys.
My soul lingers and searches more and more.
To discern the immeasurable infinite love,
Every day I yearn and groan for Thy tender touch of Mercy.
Clinging unto, forsake me not but lead me*

*Just as a traveler, life is like a mist,
A mirage which is seen and vanishes early.
As I leap my unwavering trust through the paths untrodden.
Equip and teach me to walk closer
Smolder all bounding lines that defiles.
Provoke this breathing figure towards righteousness*

*Enchant and instill within me Thy precious oracle.
Reveal Thy Supreme word which chills every bone, piercing every heart
The mighty sword that breaks every shackle.
A living word that directs and guides to future.
And blessed are those who trust and obey the commandments
Thy word which was before inception of the world.*

*Kings to shepherds, rulers to lay people, nation to nation
Trembles at Thy word, such is thy mighty works.
It is Life to those who seek diligently.
A Source of all knowledge and wisdom
Every surpassing moment Thou art there.*

*Through thick and thin, rough and narrow,
Thou dwell and comfort every broken piece.
In the form of wind, fire, cloud and water Thou'st appears.
It purges and refines searches and renews every known and unknown act.
Oh mortals remember the Lord is good and His Steadfast loves endures forever.
From the rising of the sun till it goes down the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

*In darkest night, thou art there, thou art my refuge,
In my stormy season, my soul finds solace in thy grace alone.
Filled with your goodness and Lost in your love,
Thy truth cannot be chained, for its breaks and hammers.
Oh mortals remember thy creator, who has formed you and chose you,
For God alone is able.*

Okonkwo

MS. TIAJUNGLA S. LONGKUMER, BD I

*Beneath what counts as life,
There remains the self that is dead.
There remains the life that is numb.
Morning burn out and are white washed.
The head swirls into an endless abyss of
despair.*

*Beneath what count as happiness,
There remains the tears that are unshed.
There remains the fear of being found out.
The heart throbs and tells the muscles of its
pain.
Bang! Comes the hurt and tells me my guilt.*

*What lies beneath is what is real.
What remains is what is true.
What numbs and hurts gives you sense.
Your fear is found out from your lives.
Evident is the truth that is written all over
your face.*

*"Truth is unpleasant
But it sets us free"*

T. Moishen



Battle Cry

MR. LONGSANUNGSANG P, BD II

Soldier was I, since the
beginning.
Fighting and marching toward the
goal;
Battles fought but none to
boast.
Armours and weapons forged for
my own
Fought the battle by ones might,
Yet, unable to shield myself.
Rejected, and abandoned by
comrades;
Denied favour, and left alone;
Crying my lungs out, and down on
my knees.
A soldier reflecting on one's
wilt and feebleness.
The beautiful armour and the
broad sword,
Grew like the banner for my
downfall.
Crawling forward in search of
the Blacksmith;
Until in my wretchedness, I fell
upon Him.
He forged me the Armour of God
So that in the battlefield,
When the enemy strikes down.
I will be able to stand again.
Lust and pride, the greatest
enemy
To ruled the kingdom where I
belonged
Striking every soul that dared
to cross.
Alas!! The full Armour was at
hand;
The two-edged sword and the
shield;
To cover against the flaming
arrows,
That set to charge as I walked
the path.
Like the rejected Cornerstone,
Becoming the Foundation,
So shall I with the full Armour,
Awaiting the Battle Cry.

MS. ALEMKALA P JAMIR, BD I

Amidst!

It's mid Feb, the ambience that winter brought are slowly passing off; no doubt the cool chilly wind too. The threshold of my first year in Clark Theological College is coming to an end with bubbly melody of the Campus! Nathaniel Hawthorne has wisely said that, "Time flies over us but leaves it's shadow behind." Truly enough, my first year has swiftly whisked away before my eyes and I am left with its shadow behind.

In my musing, I see myself struggling to paint with the colours of love, kindness, humility, forgiveness and faithfulness. Oh! What a wonderful journey it has been! A journey where I was splashed with the colours of love, kindness and forgiveness. A journey where I was taught to rejuvenate when I was down on my knees, a path where I was taken to the land of magical people and I stand here today "What's next? "

"The Woozy World"

MS. ZUBENI NGULLIE, BD III

Deep inside the dark Pot
Where the unchanging minds trapped on it.
Where all the woozy and confusion tied on their long neck.
Where every being is confused with bag full of thoughts.
Lost its taste and its key.

Hovering and raging of the dark cloud, all shallow down.
Walking on the dark broken future.
Where the light has gone dim and where darkness rule.
Where humankind seek comfort inside the cocoon.
Where the pages of the world is submerged.

Days gone by, as yesterday ended the last dark night
Now time to change the old dress, to the new one.
Where the vivid future waits for the new beam of light.
Where clouds of hope and rain waits for humankind.
The dark dawn has gone by, now it's time to rejuvenate.

The clouds of hope soaring high above the blue sky,
as the bright dawn has entered to lives.
Where the time dress has dressed toward the vivid future.
Where humankind opens, the door of hope.
Chasing towards the sliver garden where all hope lies.

Sane's Vanity: Nature's Poverty

MR. IMSENTIBA JAMIR, M.TH.I

Stricken by the wave of sane insanity, Cried loud to save who are in vanity. Yet, yield no tears for it is in deplete, Water apocalypse that might soon escalate.

Unchangeable mysterious rainforest wildfire, not forgetting the devastating bushfire. Sane richness fails to make revive, the ashes of two A's to relive.

Mother Nature's simple unified dimension, Turns vague in sane's multi dimension. Mother's voice reaches a state of dim and lost, for the air is cloudy pollute at someone's cost.

Mother's need becomes her child wants, for they choose to have beyond counts. Recognize no more, their Mother's voice, as they embrace a sane means of voice.

Mother speaks to her child in her last breathe, Come! Fix the land, that later cannot be soothe. Fill the space not with greed but hold to Nature's borne as she rests under the shelter of depleting ozone. Mother seeks her child, use Nature's ear to perceive, See not with your eyes, seek visions to receive. Let go of your ego and think for the age to go, Else, Mother dies all vanishes from the eco.

“ I KNOW ”

MR. SUKUMBA AIER, M.TH.II

So she thinks that life is Over,
That life has finally reached the Edge.
Come a day, when her Spirit was Broken.
Who needs a Life, when you're meant to be Broken.

Life isn't fair, I Know
But don't you worry Pretty darling
Cause Love (God) is there, Love is Knocking at your heart
Love is watching, Love is waiting for you
I Know, I Know.

There is not a Day, she dreams
When dreams were meant to come True,
Birds free to fly.
Who need a sky?
Where it's meant to be Dark.

Life isn't fair, I Know
But don't you worry Pretty darling
Cause Love (God) is there, Love is Knocking at your heart
Love is watching, Love is waiting for you
I Know, I Know.
Someday somewhere Rainbow and Clear sky for the Bird's to fly.
I Know, I Know, Pretty Darling.

Photo Montage



FACULTY



STAFF



MESS COMMITTEE



KITCHEN STAFF



CHOIR DIRECTORS AND ASST. DIRECTORS



**PRACTICAL
COMMITTEE
WITH DEAN**

**CTC
PRAISE TEAM**



**MUSIC COMMITTEE
WITH ADVISOR**

**MISSION COMMITTEE
WITH ADVISOR**





SPORTS COMMITTEE WITH ADVISOR



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LITERARY COMMITTEE WITH ADVISOR



CTCSU OFFICE BEARERS WITH ADVISOR



LADIES HOSTEL SECRETARIES WITH WARDEN



GENTS HOSTEL SECRETARIES WITH WARDEN



**CLASS
REPRESENTATIVES**



D.TH. COMMUNICATION



MTH II CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY



**MTH II CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

**MTH II
PASTORAL
COUNSELLING**



**MTH II
COMMUNICATION**

**MTH I CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY**





MTH I CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**MTH I
PASTORAL
COUNSELLING**



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COMMUNICATION**

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BD OC



GRADUATING STUDENTS OF 2019-2020

M.TH. STUDENTS



LIMASANGLA



AKUMSASHI



**ZHAMHALIE
RUPREO**



**RICHARD G.
MOMIN**



**KUNGKAM
NEWMAI**



**YIMRENEMBA
IMCHEN**



**PYNTOHMON
POHSHNA**



PAUDONWILIU



**WONGLEN C.
PHOM**



**TEKHEWE
KHUTSOH**



**PYNSHAIBOR
DORPHANG**



**BENDANGINLA
AIER**



**FILLINGSON
SUTONG**



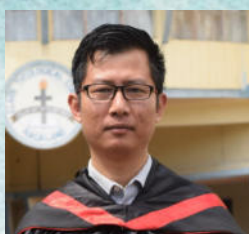
H. SARAH



RENEMKALA



TSHOPE-U KRONU



**AYLWIN LALRAM-
BOUTSAI TUSING**



WANGSHIRENLA



JOSHUA K. SWU



SUKUMBA AIER

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**APANG
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**CHUBASENLA
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**FIRSTLINE CH.
MARAK**



IMLIKUMLA



IMNAKUMLA



IMTINUCHETLA



**JAI PRAKASH
SHARMA**



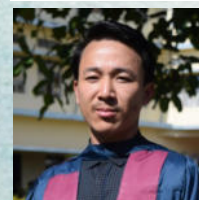
**KADIDINBOU
NEWMAI**



**KANGLILA H
SANGTAM**



**LAMBORLANG
SOHSHANG**



**LASANG JOHN
AWNG**



**LICHUMO O
ERUI**



**MERANGDANGLA
IMCHEN**



**MOAKALA
LEMTUR**



**MOILEN
NYIAM**



NUKSHIRENLA



**NUNSHIJUNGLA
S. JAMIR**



OPANGLANGBA



**OBANGSUNEP
PONGEN**



**RAKSAL D.
MARAK**



**RENCHILO
LOTHA**



**SENGME
SANGMA**



**SEPITONGLA T.
SANGTAM**



**SUKUMBENI
NGULLY**



**SUNGJEMRENBA
JAMIR**



**TEMJENCHUBA
OZUKUM**



TEMJENSENLA



**TEMSUREN
LONGKUMER**



**TEMSURENLA T.
JAMITZUR**



**TENSENG M.
SANGMA**



**TLUANG CUNG
HNIN**



**TSUKTITOLA
JAMIR**



VIKANI K. ZHIMO



**WATIKALA A
PHOM**



**Y. HONNGAM
KONYAK**



YANGERMENLA



**MENLEI N.
KONYAK**



**IMTILONG
MONGRO**

Events Round - Up: April, 2019 – May, 2019



COMMISSIONING SERVICE ON APRIL 13, 2019 & THE 44TH GRADUATION CEREMONY ON APRIL 14, 2019

were held with Rev. Dr. Limatula Longkumer, Dean, Department of Research/SATHRI as the speaker. All together 82 students graduated (12 – Master of Theology, 64 – Bachelor of Divinity, and 6 – Certificate in Church Music Ministry).



FAREWELL



**DR. I. ASONGLA
PONGEN**
left CTC after serving for
10 memorable years.
CTC wishes her God's
blessings in her future
endeavors.



**DR. EYINGBENI
HUMTSOE**
left CTC after serving for
9 notable years. May God
bless you as you take up
higher responsibilities.



ABAM THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS MEET

EVENTS



**REV. DR. IMCHAYANGER
DURING COMMUNITY RETREAT**



**MS. K. ELA
DURING MISSION LECTURES**



**DR. AKUMLA LONGKUMER
DURING 47TH CTC FOUNDATION DAY**



**MR. I. MEYIONEN JAMIR
DURING 47TH CTC
FOUNDATION DAY**



**MR. TOSHIZEMBA JAMIR
DURING COLLEGE FUN FAIR**



**REV. DR. A. TALI AO
DURING THE COLLEGE
LITERARY WEEK**



**MR. THUNGCHANBEMO
TUNGOE, S.D.O. CIVIL,
MOKOKCHUNG DURING
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL NIGHT**



**REV. TEMSU S. PASTOR,
ALEMPANG B/C DURING
MINISTERIAL ORIENTATION
FOR THE GRADUATING
STUDENTS**



**MR. YANGLU, PASTOR, MTBA
DURING COMMUNITY SPORTS
DAY**

REV. LANUYANGER



PROF. PANGERNUNGBA



MR. K. TEMJEN
JAMIR



DR. TEMSUYANGER



MRS. TALLJUNGLA
LONGKUMER



CONSULTATION ON PEACE



REV. DR. MAR
PONGENER

FRESHERS' SOCIAL



47TH CTC FOUNDATION DAY





PRINCIPAL WITH DR. DARRELL WHITEMAN, GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, INC., USA



ANNUAL LITERARY WEEK



CAMPUS CHILDREN WITH THE WEEKEND MINISTRY TEAM

CTC COMMUNITY SPORTS DAY



CAROL ROUND



A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL, FEATURING CLARK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE CHORALE



FACULTY-STAFF FAMILY PICNIC

4TH LT. REV. DR. I. BEN WATI LEGACY TALK



PEACE WITHIN, MINISTERIAL ORIENTATION FOR THE GRADUATING STUDENTS

FACULTY-STAFF & SPOUSES AT UNGMA BAPTIST CHURCH



CTC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE LEADERSHIP COURSE IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL LEAD ALLIANCE FOR BD III



SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE LEADERSHIP COURSE IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL LEAD ALLIANCE FOR BD IV



CTCSU OUTGOING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (2019-2020) WITH PRINCIPAL AND ACADEMIC DEAN



CTCSU NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (2020-2021) WITH PRINCIPAL AND ACADEMIC DEAN



CANAAN FARMERS' SCHOOL

NEW APPOINTED FACULTY



MS. MOALILA
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
(EDUCATION)



REV. DR. H. G. MITHRA
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
(EDUCATION)



DR. HUKATO N. SHOHE
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY



Dr. R. Nungshilepzuk received his Doctor of Theology in Old Testament from the Senate of Serampore College (University). His dissertation was on *"The Poor and Sages in Wisdom Literature: A Reading with Special Reference to the Ambiguous Attitude of the Sages towards the Poor."*

ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Renbi Rangthang received his Doctor of Theology in New Testament from the Senate of Serampore College (University). His dissertation was on *"The Multiple Facets of Church-State Relationship in Pauline Writings and the Implications for an Ecclesiology in the Naga Context."*



Dr. M. Zubenthung Humtsoe received his Doctor of Theology in Christian Ethics from the Senate of Serampore College (University). His dissertation was on *"Colonization of the Commons: An Ethical Inquiry into the Lotha Naga Struggle against the ONGC to develop a Lotha Naga Christian Earth Ethics."*

OBITUARY



"Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear."

In Memory of a loving wife,
mother, sister and friend,
Mrs. Rokolhuno Vakha.

CLARK THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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A Place

To Learn God's Word

Experience Christian Fellowship

Equip for Holistic Ministry

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Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) – 5 Years

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) – 4 Years

Master of Theology (M.Th. in Christian Ministry - Education & Pastoral Counselling,

Christian Theology, Communication & Christian Ethics) - 2 Years

Certificate in Music

Certificate in Church Music Ministry

Certificate in Leadership Development (21 lectures offered in collaboration with the
Global LEAD alliance)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

The Principal, CTC - 09402695009 ; ctcprin@gmail.com

The Academic Dean, CTC - 08837002616 ; ctcacademic@gmail.com

The Dean of P.G. Studies, CTC - 09862882888 ; dhanbir_rai@yahoo.com

Clark Theological College

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