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CTC NEWSLETTER 8

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Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, Principal

“GIVING THANKS DURING DIFFICULT TIMES”

Loving greetings to all readers!

Everybody would agree with me that COVID-19 has been one of life’s most threatening virus. It was also paired with fear, anxiety and muddled everyone’s routine and mindset. The virus continues to raise fear for both young and old. The pandemic also continues to hamper what used to be the normal way of living. Meeting up with friends, shopping and travelling are still restricted. Many educational institutions were forced to close and some still remain unsure on their reopening. Long awaited programs and social events came to a halt and even if they did function, it was never to its full potential. Consequently, churches could no longer conduct worship services in-person and sadly, it remains the same for many churches to this day. The pandemic has had its effect and continues to affect all spheres of human life. On the other extreme, we still remain oblivious on how long we will have to tackle a world dominated by coronavirus.

How can we continue to be thankful as we live through such uncertain circumstances? It is only normal to feel doubt and be less appreciative during times like this. Considering the dynamics of today’s reality that has influenced people to

feel like there is no room to be thankful, the bible reminds and teaches us to always be thankful in every circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is easy for people to become bitter and frightened in these circumstances, and many will blame God, but God’s Word tells us of a better way. Thanksgiving becomes possible only when we reflect on the blessings that God bestows upon us. There’s a lot to give thanks for, too, when we’re going through difficult times. God is with us, and He is in control. What a joy we have knowing that we have God’s presence and protection. There are reasons to be grateful to God when we are going through difficult times. We have the opportunity to acknowledge God’s presence and protection that will uplift and refresh our spirit when the whole world around us seems to be shutting down.

I am so very thankful to God for His sustenance on Clark Theological College (CTC) till today. The amazing grace of God upon the ministry of CTC cannot be easily comprehended by mere human knowledge. God owns CTC and it is He alone who is leading us thus far. As readers flip through the newsletter, you will see the wonderful feats achieved by CTC during the pandemic.

Join us in counting God’s blessings! May God help us all during these challenging times to be the light that He wants us to be.

Stay safe and stay thankful!

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Events Gallery



The Clark Theological College 48TH THANKSGIVING DAY Program was held on November 10, 2020 (Tuesday). The program was led by Dr. Akala Ao; voices of thanksgiving were shared by Dr. Y. Tonchingsangla, Mr. Lanu Atsongchanger, and Ms. Imtisenla; special song was presented by Ms. Lendimen and Mr. Jongshir; special thanksgiving prayer was offered by Dr. Renbi Rangthang; Offertory by Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao; scripture reading by Mr.Thejasikho Vakha; and the word of God was shared by Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir.

A workshop on the theme “MANAGEMENT” was organized by Clark Centre for Peace Research and Action (CCPRA) for the CTC Faculty, Staff and Spouses from November 21 – 22, 2020, at the Multi-purpose Hall, CTC. The resource person for the workshop was Mr. Akok Walling. The topics for the workshop were- Family Management, Personal Management, Time Management and Human Management.



Participants of the workshop with Mr. Akok Walling (standing 5th from L-R first line).

ADVANCE CHRISTMAS celebration organized by CTC Women's Fellowship on December 6, 2020.



Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener sharing the word of God

Tribal Sister leading the Carol Singing

Mrs. Aseno Rai leading the program

Campus Youths

Campus Children



The 45TH GRADUATION CEREMONY of the Clark Theological College for the graduates of 2019-2020 was successfully held on January 8, 2021 (Friday) at the Multi-Purpose Hall, CTC. Dr. Renbi Rangthang, Associate Professor, Department of New Testament, CTC (sitting 7th from L-R), was the graduation speaker. All together 63 of them received their diplomas and certificates: MTh- 20; BD- 38; and CCMM- 5. The overall Academic Proficiency Awards were given to – Ms. Kungkam Newmai for MTh; Ms. Nukshirenla for BD; and Ms. Chubatsur Jamir for CCMM.



Graduate Response
Mr. Yimrenemba Imchen, M.Th



Graduate Response
Ms. Nukshirenla, BD

Events Gallery



A prayer fellowship to start the construction of the First Floor of the Students Mess Hall cum Multi-Purpose building at CTC was held on January 16, 2021 (Saturday). Rev. Dr. Temsu S, Senior Pastor, Alempang Baptist Church (standing 7th L-R) offered the dedicatory prayer.



On February 2, 2021 (Tuesday) the CTC families had a prayer fellowship, dedicating the whole campus and also for the safe arrival of the students.



On February 4, 2021 (Thursday) CTC Faculty and Staff members cleared the jungle for the Coffee Plantation and also build house to start the Poultry Project.



CTC Faculty, Staff and family Picnic at Just A Venue on February 20, 2021 (Saturday).

The CTC Community officially welcomed 97 fresher's (M.Th. 1- 28; BD 1- 39; BD OC- 26; CCMM- 4) into the community for the academic session 2020-2021. The program was held on February 26, 2021 (Friday) at the Multi-purpose Hall. Rev. Prof. Dr. Mar Pongner, Principal and Mr. Geiwang Konyak, President, CTC SU, shared the words of welcome. The response from the fresher's were given by Mrs. Tiainla, MTh I; Miss Matsunginla Jamir, BD I; Mr. Yimkum, BD OC; and Mr. Akangtemsu, CCMM.



Faculty with the fresher's



Joining the rest of the world, the CTC community celebrated the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY on March 8, 2021 (Monday) at the Multi-purpose Hall.

Seen in the pictures (L-R): Mr. Sosheem and friends presenting special song; Dr. Nungshi Tzudir & Ms. Vonchili, delivering their speeches.

WHY DO WE NEED TO READ THE BIBLE IN OUR CONTEXT?

Today, in different parts of the world people seek ways to develop new ways of reading the Bible, by scrutinizing the scriptural texts in the light of their day-to-day struggles to survive in a situation. Those who have heard the cry of people for God to speak to them in their context have begun to develop a new way of reading the Bible. “[c]ontext is the locus of theological activities, which provides a faith community to live out the contemplations shaped by their theological endeavours derived from their particular contexts.”¹ Therefore, a living theology must always emerge out of peoples’ historical and cultural experiences of a particular context. An empowering and meaningful theology has to be grounded in the socio-economic and political realities of the people, and also it must incorporate the best of peoples’ values and traditions. “[t]heology is the witness and proclamation of salvation and providence of the living God towards people of different races in different times and space...God’s work cannot be restrained or bound by any set of theological propositions. In different historical and cultural environments there have been and will be different theologies.”²

God speaks to us in our context in various ways. The Bible is clearly one of the primary ways in which God speaks to

us; but we often cannot hear what God is saying because we think we already know what the Bible says. When we read the Bible in our context, it is more specific to the context of the reader. Therefore, when we read the Bible in a tribal context, our context must be acknowledged and recognized. Like in any context, our context has affected us and our reading of the Bible. In our reading of the Bible if we do not acknowledge and recognise the influence of our reality it is very wrong. Acknowledging and recognizing the role of our context in reading the Bible is important because not only we read the Bible in our context, but we are reading the Bible from and for our context. The Bible itself shows that God speaks specifically to specific people in specific life situation. Therefore, acknowledging and recognizing our context in our readings of the Bible is important. Again, there are many different realities even within the tribal context. We need to be more specific about what we mean by reading the Bible from our tribal context. The Bible is and will continue to be a significant resource for our people in the church and community. Therefore, we should find ways of reading the Bible which are transformative and liberative in our context.

- *Dr. Temsuyanger Aier*

¹ Huang Po Ho, *Mission from the Underside: Transforming Theological Education in Asia* (Kolkata: BTESSC/SATHRI, 2010), p. 117.

² Huang Po Ho, *No Longer a Stranger* (Tiruvalla: Christava Sahitya Samithy, 2001), p. 12.

BOOK RELEASE & PUBLICATIONS



A book entitled “COVID-19 Rangben Temoatsü” (COVID-19 Holistic Blessing) written in Ao-Naga dialect by Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, Principal, CTC, was dedicated and released on November 29, 2020 (Sunday) by Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir. In the picture - (L-R) Rev. Dr. A. Tali Ao; Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener; Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir.



Reading in Context: 1 King 1:11 in a Contemporary Tribal World authored by Dr. Temsüyanger Aier was formally dedicated and released by the Principal of the Clark Theological College Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener on February 21, 2021 (Sunday). In the picture (L-R): Prof. Imsutoshi Jamir, Dr. Temsüyanger Aier, Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener & Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir.

Engaging the Dark Forces

COVID-19 has brought the world to a standstill. Some point their fingers towards Wuhan while some towards the evil of capitalism. Christians were quick to accuse Satan's evil design. Will you relate this problem to the dark forces?

Who resides in the dark?

Satan the "accuser" or "adversary" is the master of the dark world. Satan was created by God as the cherub (Ezekiel 28), the most powerful of God's angelic beings. But Satan, the Lucifer, became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone. As ruler of the fallen angels, he continues his plans against the kingdom of God by seducing human beings into sin. Satan's plan is to disturb and destroy the purpose of God. We fight with no one but the enemy of God (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is waging an all-out war against the human race. Is the dark force responsible in creating confusion and fear by deceiving us?

Evil forces in the context of COVID-19

Evil forces can throw up surprises in the form of COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all deaths during the pandemic were suspiciously linked to Covid deaths. Families were denied permission to visit or pay final tributes to their departed soul. Some authorities of hospital and doctors took this opportunity to loot the public by charging high fees. The dark side of doctors and medical fraternity were exposed badly when humanity needed love and care. Money took the center stage for many. Satan took this opportunity to lie and blur the true ministry of Christians. Satan's plan is to destroy and to kill. His job is to manipulate/divert the children of God from

holding on to truth.

Wholistic engagement

Our love for each other can be measured by the mark of discipleship. Rick Warren has listed three things that attracted the crowd to Jesus' ministry.

- i. He loved them (Matthew 9:36)
- ii. He met their needs (Matthew 15:30)
- iii. He taught them in interesting and practical ways (Matthew 13:34; Mark 10:1)

If we do not love people, nothing else matter. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8). Perfect love casts out all fears. The church is a hospital for sinners, sick, oppressed and poor. James rebukes Christians who involve in lip service. "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him. 'Go' I wish you well; keep warm and well fed; but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? (John 2:15-16). Meeting human needs, regardless of their identity are regarded as doer of the word. God's ministry must be the center of our wholistic engagement.

Many people have become lover of money, possession and lies. Christians are challenged to fight these evils that threaten to destroy the kingdom values. Jesus attracted crowds by meeting people's physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, and financial needs. To exhibit the marks of Christian is to involve wholistically for human cause and fight against the dark forces.

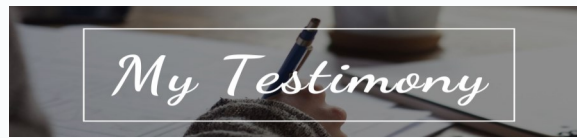
- Ms. T. Moishen, M.Th. II

Thank You

MARGOT & RUSSELL LANDER, AUSTRALIA
for generously supporting the ministry of CTC for the past many years.

May God bless you!





Greeting in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My name is Helena Th, of Maram Bazar Baptist Church Christian Colony, Senapati District Manipur. I am a living testimony of God's unending Grace. I have received extraordinary gift and providence from almighty God in my lives despite of all my limitations and shortcomings.

In the month of March 2020, my family experienced a bolt out of nowhere. My elder brother by the name Solomon age 31, was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. Upon further tests, it was reported that both the kidneys were damaged. My family was helpless and hopeless, moreover his health condition became worse. Every passing day, we tried to take him out of Manipur for better treatment but it was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic. As the days and months prolonged money started to dip heavily. He was under treatment from March till September in Imphal. Throughout these month he was under peritoneal dialysis (a treatment for patients in which severe chronic kidney disease in fluids are exchanged from the blood in the patient's peritoneum in the abdomen), followed by hemodialysis (a dialysis utilizing extracorporeal removed of waste products from the blood on the care of kidney failure). Due to his health condition we were asked to go for transplant as soon as possible with a high risk of 50% survival chance. My family was in dilemma, because our savings were almost over. In other words, there was very little money to buy kidney from donor. Final option was to sell our house which was built from our hard earned money. But for our loving brother, parents decided to sell our house for his treatment. I cried to the Lord through fasting and prayers. And after much contemplation I decided to donate one of my kidneys. Fortunately, I was the only one whose kidney was compatible among our siblings. We went to Delhi in the last week of September for further treatment and for possible transplantation of kidney. Treatment and tests continued for both of us till the month of October. By

God's grace all the necessary tests and treatment were positive. Doctors confirmed that our kidneys matched and fit for surgery. We got admitted on 29th October at Escort Fortis Hospital, Okla, New Delhi, and surgery was successfully done on 30th October 2020.

In the midst of all these struggles I started to doubt the promises of God, and I had many questions. I even thought of giving up my M.Th. studies due to stress and my health conditions. My entire family had to go through stress, anxiety, fear, loss of appetite, and sleepless nights. People blamed our spirituality as the reason for the health situation. But the amount of strength that I received from friends, well-wishers and people was immense. I experienced the reassurance of God's provision through various encouragements, financial and prayer support. God always takes control of everything and I am even more grateful to God for He gave me strength to continue my studies. Living a life with a single kidney do not require major changes. I am still living a healthy life and I am happy. I have realized that donating one of my kidneys was the least I could do to save a life. My brother is back to normal, and that was my family's prayer and priority. When I reflect upon the struggle and pain, I realize how God had been faithful. In my weakness, hardship, mockery, I experienced God's grace. I am strengthened by the word of God that says verse "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weaknesses" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all my near and dear ones, friends, well-wishers and people around me, for all your unconditional love and constant support till today. Above all, I give thanks to almighty God for His unceasing love, mercy and grace. It is my earnest request to everyone to kindly continue to pray for me, my brother and my family, for health and life so that we can glorify His Name for the rest of our lives. Amen.

- Ms. Helena Th, M.Th. II

Academic Programs & Certificate Course

MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM

CTC offers two years postgraduate degrees in the following theological disciplines:

- * Christian Ministry (Education & Counseling)
- * (Christian) Communication
- * Christian Theology
- * Christian Ethics

**Entrance Exam
May 11 & 12, 2021
(Tues & Wed)**

Admission Requirements

- Passed BD and equivalent with overall minimum grade of B-(52.5%) and B (57.5% and above) in cluster/branch.
- For Christian Theology, (Greek/Hebrew/Other biblical language/s) with B grade (57.5% and above) is a pre-requisite.

BACHELOR OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

Bachelor of Divinity (BD) is the primary degree offered at CTC. Potential students may choose any of the options:

- * BD 5 years after 10+2 education. .
- * BD 4 years after BA and above and for a mature candidate who has 5yrs ministry experience after basic theological education (subject to passing qualifying exams conducted by SSC).
- * BD 2/3 years for BTh graduates (A lateral entry program to BD after SSC BTh).

**Entrance Exam
May 11 & 12, 2021
(Tues & Wed)
&
June 24 & 25, 2021
(Thurs & Fri)**

N.B—CTC is a center of examination for DMin, BCS & MCS (External studies with SSC).

- ◆ CTC also offers leadership development course to the BD graduating students in collaboration with Global LEAD Alliance.

For Application forms and other inquiries related to academic programs please contact the following:

Academic Dean, Rev. Dr. A. Temjen Jamir: +91-9402831514/ctcacademic@gmail.com

Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Rev. Dr. K. Dhanbir Rai: +91-9862882888/dhanbir_rai@yahoo.com

Principal, Prof. Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener: +91-9402695009 /ctcprin@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE IN CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide Church workers and music ministers with a strong basic musical foundation and leadership skills so that they will be equipped to serve God in the field of Church music.

NATURE OF STUDIES

- ◇ Residential full time learner
- ◇ Full-fledged student of Clark Theological College
- ◇ Participate in all activities of CTC
- ◇ Join CTC choir
- ◇ Fulfill all course requirements
- ◇ Abide by all rules and regulations of CTC

COURSES OFFERED

The certificate course will offer basics in the following subjects:

- ⇒ Church Music
- ⇒ Music Theory
- ⇒ Conducting
- ⇒ Voice
- ⇒ Piano hymn-playing
- ⇒ Cantorship
- ⇒ Music Composition
- ⇒ Choir Organisation

Contact:

9402695009 (Principal)
7005362825 (Music Teacher)
E-mail: ctcprin@gmail.com

Eligibility:

Working knowledge of English; Sing in pitch and sense rhythm ; Commitment to serve in the Church

COURSE DURATION

6 MONTHS (OCTOBER - APRIL)

Congratulations

Dr. Moalila for successfully completing Doctor of Theology in the department of Christian Ministry (Education).



Dr. Temsuyanger & Mrs. Sungtinaro were blessed with a baby girl on November 12, 2020. She is named Yujachen Aier.



CTC BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S



Outgoing Board Chairman
Shri. I. Meyionen Jamir



Incoming Board Chairman
Dr. Sunep Imchen

V i s i t o r s



With members from Canada Baptist Ministries and Alempang B/C



With members from SBAK



With members from CMAI

PRAYER POINTS

- April 09, 2021 — *Peace Within Workshop for the Graduating Students*
- April 19 - 20, 2021 — *CTC Board of Governors Meeting*
- April 29 - 30, 2021 — *CCPRA Seminar– Holistic Engagement: Quest for Peaceful Existence*
- May 07, 2021 — *Principal's Forum*
- May 28, 2021 — *Farewell to the Graduating Students*
- May 30, 2021 — *Principal's Dinner*
- June 02 - 19, 2021 — *Senate and College Examination*
- June 19, 2021 — *Commissioning Service*
- June 20, 2021 — *46th Graduation Ceremony*

CONTRIBUTING AND PARTNERING WITH CTC

The college thrives on the generous contribution of Christian individuals, families, churches and related organizations. We are thankful to God for all the blessings and look forward to having the participation of many more. The following are some of the ways by which you can contribute and partner in the ministry of CTC:

- INDIVIDUAL TRUST— One time payment of INR 500,000/-
- BOOK GRANT— One time payment of INR 100,000/-
- PATRON – One time payment of INR 100,000/-
- LIFE MEMBER (Church/Organization)– One time payment of INR 50,000/-
- LIFE MEMBER (Individual/Family) – One time payment of INR 10,000/-
- CO-SPONSOR (Church Association level) – Annual payment of INR 30,000/-
- CO-SPONSOR (Overseas donor) – Annual payment of INR 100,000/- or USD 1500.
- CO-OPERATING CHURCH (Local church) – Annual payment of INR 5000/-
- STUDENT SUPPORT—INR 17,000 (Yearly Mess Fee) and/or INR 65,000 (Yearly Admission)
- PRAYER PARTNERS – Pledge to pray regularly. May also contribute otherwise at will.

Editorial Team:

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Rev. Dr. **K. Dhanbir Rai (Editor)**
Mr. **Moatemu Jamir (Asso. Editor)**

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