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Editorial:

FOR THE SAKE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Humans are perhaps the most ambitious beings among all living creatures. This results to many discoveries and inventions throughout the human histories. Down through the human civilizations till the present technological Age, human civilizations have been progressing in great speed. Such progress bring sufferings to creatures both humans and non-humans, spoiling natural vegetations, lands, and removal of human groups to new places for giving spaces to multinational companies which produces luxury items, really disturb the life of humans and animals and another living creatures. These are all for the cause of human development and progress. But along with all these, many other creatures suffer, and human beings themselves are the most effected too. It is a high time for all sensible humans to rethink who suffer due to their enjoyment. What is said to be better is not always true.

Few days ago, a friend shared me in the computer internet facebook an article “Mizoram: bamboozled by land use policy”, written by T. R. Shankar Raman in a national news paper The Hindu, May 14, 2014. The author discusses how the development programme of New Land Use Policy (NLUP), the flagship policy of the State Government, which has been undertaken by the State government of Mizoram destroys the natural vegetations - trees, bamboos, etc, with the new artificial, commercial crops and plants such as oil palm, rubber and horticultural plantations. He argues the practice of jhum cultivation which slashes trees and burn with fire to clear thick forests for cultivation is not worse than the permanent land for cultivation with mono-crop. In his own words: “In contrast, jhum
is a diversified cropping system that causes only temporary loss of small forest patches followed by forest recovery. Understanding this is crucial to formulate land use policy that is economically, ecologically, and culturally appropriate for all the north-eastern hill States.” Let’s pause, and think this again!

It is not only good to thank God for his gifts of granting us wisdom and knowledge, but rather it is right and our duty to do that. God has been granting humans superior wisdom than any other living creatures to develop and increase our knowledge and make our life enjoyable, more entertaining and ease. However, it is also pertinent to acknowledge that by exercising the power of wisdom, other living creatures are the victims. The natural gifts of God have been modified, tested and experimented, disturbing or spoiling their natural habitat, natural quality and natural behaviour. Many a times, testing or experimentation of human defense systems such as rockets, satellites, poison, medicine, etc. spoiled the other creatures.

Let humans continue to increase and utilize the gift of wisdom, but with the thought of other creatures and other fellow human beings that such desire to ease life, develop and progress their standard of living could destroy the creatures than help them. Without this sense, they will one day knock themselves out of this earth!
MESSAGE:

EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME
(Eccl. 3: 1-14)

Rev. K. Lalhmuchhuaka
Moderator,
Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod

God ultimately controls and determines the history of this world. Many generations, rulers and mighty men and women disappeared to become part of the past. So often, we are not critical enough to notice this fact. Many of us might hold the view that we will remain unchanged. The book of Ecclesiastes asserts that the changing of time and age is God's purposeful design. Such is likely that how the book of Ecclesiastes perceives time.

Creation keeps on changing

Scientists believe the earth has its genesis in millions of years ago. The Ecclesiastes says,

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to dance (3: 2-4).

From the text cited above, it clearly perceived that humans under heaven keep on changing. Human beings grow up from birth, they grow older as they married, bearing and nurturing children, and die finally. Even other creations as well as created order under heaven are changing naturally. "All is vanity!" says the Ecclesiastes (1: 2). We are best in our own time, but life will soon grow weary, as it is God's eternal disposition. God remains unchanged. The perpetual changing of our lives along with the changing of time becomes a source of knowledge of God. No one can change God's appointed time, whatever may be the occasions - be it the most precious and pleasant or mournful and chaotic, the end of our life will surely arrive. All the incidents that meet our life are designed to deepen our knowledge of God.
Variety of God's appointed times

As there are summer and winter, we all have happy and joyous days on the one hand, days of sickness and mournful on the other hand. Both the cases, for those who wish, are the modes of divine revelation. The Psalmist affirms that 'all our days pass away under God's wrath' (90: 9) without having that valuable knowledge. God, the originator of time, wants all of us to willingly submit ourselves with our own consent to God's perfect time.

The Ecclesiastes finds 'nothing new under the sun' (1: 9). Things exist and they vanish. So, the duty of humans is to worship God and obey God's commandments. People of this generation build up riches in this world as if it is their eternal home. It seems clear that the values of God's appointed time have always been overlooked by us. It is highly important that we turn to God, the maker and originator of time in this New Year.

Changing time as revelation of God

The great thing that the Ecclesiastes discerns is - God rules over everything, thus human beings must drink and eat joyfully and live a life governed by the fear of the Lord, for there is no greater thing than this. Even though time seems less valued by us, but for God who knows - since time is meant for joy and knowledge of God - it is highly essential. We are informed that worshipping the creator and obeying God's commandments remain the blessed way for all - rich and people.

Let us examine our today's context. People are becoming dissatisfied, greedy, corrupted, and immoral. Perhaps, people are dying after losing God's purpose in their lives. It is imperative for the Mizo Christians that we spend this New Year with a renewing mind and turn to God, our Creator. God's purpose in creating human beings is that they live in God's way and do God's will. May all of us do God's will in this New Year given to us by God's grace.

[This is an English version of the Synod Moderator's New Year Message for 2014 which was published in 'Synod Newsletter', 28/364 (January 2014). We thank Rev. L.H. Rawsea, for this version. Editor].
NEWS AROUND THE MPC

1. CONSULTATION ON UNIFICATION IN KARBI: A consultation on *The Unification in Karbi Anglong Presbyterian Churches under KAGAAA* was held, in which a plan to integrate different church traditions among the churches in Karbi Anglong (Assam) to form a new ‘Synod’ unit under the Presbyterian Church of India was discussed. Rev. Lalchhuanmawia, Secretary, Synod Mission Board, Rev. R. Lalthropuia, (former missionary among Karbi), Rev. Vanlalbela, Bawngkawn (former Secretary of Synod Mission Board), Rev. C. Lalsangliana, Ramhlun North, Elder Lallianzela Laipuitlang, Elder Lalramthanga, Armed Veng, Elder Hmingthansanga Pachuau, Chhinga Veng (all members of Synod Mission Board) attended the programme from Aizawl. Other delegates were missionaries of various stations in the Karbi mission field. Karbi Mission field had been looked after by both the Khasi and Jaintia Presbyterian Church Synod and the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod for decades. Due to the different practices of both cultural and church traditions, it was felt pertinent to have this kind of consultation for the people so that when they come together under one synod, they will have no problem in the church. The consultation was one of the preparations for forming a Synod of their own. The PCI General Assembly in its last session has resolved to inaugurate a new Synod within this Karbi mission area.

2. ATC VALEDICTORY: The Aizawl Theological College held the Valedictory function on April 14, 2014 in which 24 M. Th. and 36 B.D. graduands were valedicted. Rev. Prof. Vanlalchhuanawma, Principal, chaired the solemn function which was conducted at the College Chapel, and Rev. K. Lalhmuchhuaka addressed the function with words of encouragement. Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau E/S, i/c Theological Education presented certificates of completion and commencement. Upa H. Zoliana, Synod Secretary gave away awards and prizes. Many families and relatives of the graduating students, representatives of different de-
partments of the Synod, and Church elders where the final year students were attached during their field education also attended the function. A grand farewell dinner was served after the programme.

3. MTC GRADUATION DAY: The Missionary Training College (MTC) held the 2nd graduation day on April 15, 2014 at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Centre, Mission Veng, Aizawl. On this occasion, the 2nd batch of the graduates in Bachelor of Missiology were bidden farewell and given certificates of completion of the course. The B. Miss. course is a recent Senate of Serampore College’s degree course, and the Mizoram Presbyterian Church is first to introduce it. Rev. K. Lalhmuchhuaka, Synod Moderator, chaired at the function, Rev. Lalzuithanga, the Senior E/S gave away the certificates; Rev. P.C. Pachhunga, E/S i/c Mission had the graduands confessed their commitment, and Upa H. Zoliana, Synod Secretary gave away prizes and awards to the winners.

4. PASTORATES’ MEETINGS: The annual pastorates (districts) meetings were held during April 25-27, 2014. In the meetings different agenda were discussed. Some resolutions passed would be forwarded to the presbyteries, while some other resolutions were made for the smooth functioning of the pastorate themselves. As per tradition, pastorates used to have spiritual theme for the meeting, assigning one person to address the congregation/delegates. Holy communion services were conducted on Sunday forenoon worship services.

5. SEMINAR ON CALVINISM: The Calvin Study Centre, Aizawl Theological College, organised a ‘Seminar on Calvinism’ at Synod Conference Centre, Mission Veng, Aizawl, on April 22, 2014. Two representatives each from the local churches with pastors and pro. pastors within Aizawl were invited. Altogether, 260 people attended the seminar. Rev. Dr. P. R. Hmuaka presented a paper on a topic “God’s Sovereignty and Social Reformation.’ And Rev. Laldintluanga presented a paper on a topic ‘Mizo Chris-
tians and *Chapchar kût* (*Kût* is festival/feast). The presentations were followed by discussions. The Calvin Study Centre has been organising seminars and consultations on different topics and concerns. It tries to make relevance the theological and ministerial teachings of John Calvin on social and political reforms.

6. **MUSIC CERTIFICATES**: The Music Committee of the MPC Synod gave away the certificates of completion in Trinity Guildhall Theory of Music to those who passed in the examination on April 24, 2014. A function was held at Synod Conference Centre, Aizawl for this purpose. The Synod Music School has affiliated itself to the Trinity Guildhall London. There were 12 recipients of the certificates in different grades such as: grade 2: two; grade 4: two; grade 5: three; grade 8: six. Four of them secured distinction marks.

7. **SYNOD GRANTS AID TO FIRE VICTIMS**: Fire broke out on April 24, 2014 in Putlungasih village, in Lunglei District. The MPC gifted a sum of Rs. 1,10,000/- to the twelve families, the victims of the fire whose houses were burnt down completely. Rev. F. Lalrinnunga, the Administrative Secretary of Southern Area was entrusted to offer the money to the victims.

8. **MISSIONARY REFRESHERS COURSE**: During April 16-May 14, 2014, a refreshers course for missionaries was conducted at the Missionary Training College, by the Synod Mission Board. Thirty three (33) missionaries attended the course from different Synod’s mission fields. Apart from the lecturers of Missionary Training College (MTC), experts and scholars from outside persons were asked to give lectures.

9. **MISSIONARY PASTORS RECEIVED ORIENTATION**: The Synod Mission Board (SMB) conducted an orientation course for the ordained ministers who have been sent to various mission fields of the SMB. The programme was conducted during May 7-14, 2014. They were given orientation on cultures, financial accounting, and other useful information to work in new places.

11. LAY LEADERS’ TRAINING: The closing function of the 181st Lay Leaders Training was held on May 9, 2014 in Synod Multipurpose Training Centre (SMTC), Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl. From 6 different Presbyteries and Phai Synod (Myanmar), 42 church elders attended the programme. It lasted for two weeks. Usually, newly ordained church elders were sent by their presbyteries to this training programme, and they have been given orientation on different issues and concerns and skills of the ministry of the church.

12. NEICC ANNUAL MEET: The Annual Meet of the North East India Christian Council (NEICC) was held during May 14-18, 2014 in Sielmat, Churachandpur, Manipur. Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, E/S, Elder H. Zoliana, Synod Secretary Senior, Rev. B. Sangthanga, Synod Secretary (Junior), and other assigned delegates attended the meeting. Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau delivered God’s message on May 17, 2014, Saturday evening worship service. Rev. Zosangliana, the former E/S. of the MPC was elected President. The leaders of the NEICC are as below:

President: Rev. Zosangliana Colney MPC
Vice Presidents
Rev. W.C. Khongwir KJP Synod Sepngi
Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi CBCNEI
Secretary: Rev. Lalnunzira BCM
Treasurer: Elder K. Lyngkhoi, KJP Synod Sepngi

13. THE SYNOD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEET: The Synod Finance Committee held its 109th meeting during May 21-
22, 2014. The Synod Moderator chaired the meeting. The Synod Finance Secretary Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau gave a report. According to the report the financial position of the MPC Synod between April 2013-March 2014 was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Heads</th>
<th>Budget Amount</th>
<th>Received Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral</td>
<td>Rs. 75,57,30,000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 73,54,94,210/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Rs. 51,68,53,000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 59,43,42,559/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total Synod budget amounted to 1,27,25,83,000/-; and the total received amounted to Rs. 1,32,98,36,769/- The received amount exceeded the budget by 4.50%.

14. NEW COUNSELLING CENTRE AT CHAMPHAI:
A new Counselling Centre was inaugurated at Champhai on May 31, 2014 (Saturday) 10:10 am by Rev. P. C. Pachhunga, Executive Secretary. Rev. Lalhleia, who recently completes his Diploma course in Clinical Counselling had been installed as counsellor. On the same day, following of the inaugural, a seminar on *Christian Family* was held in Champhai Venthlang Church. On Saturday evening and Sunday worship services, awareness to the need for having a good Christian family was held in 23 churches in and around Champhai town.

Champhai is located in the border of Myanmar, and thus it is known for the way of immoral trafficking of drugs and other intoxicants to and from Myanmar. While it is a fast growing district headquarters as a centre of commercial business, it is even growing in having people who need proper counselling due to different pressures. The need for such centre has been realised much earlier for the town, but now only the MPC Synod could have the centre functioning.

15. SECOND ALLUMINIUM SKILLS TRAINING: The Synod Social Front Committee organised a skill training in Alluminium trade for the second time, in which 22 young men have
been admitted in a one-month long residential course. Freedy Enterprrise and V n V Industry will help the Synod Social Front in giving training to the trainees. The first week will be theoretical orientation, and the remaining period will be practical. During day time, instructors will give training whereas during night times the members of Synod Social front Committee Economic cell will do supervision.

16. NEW ACADEMIC SESSIONS START AT ATC and MTC: The new academic session for 2014-2015 has started at Aizawl Theological College on June 6, 2014, with 155 students: B.D. - 98; M. Th - 51; D. th. - 5; Special students - 1. There are 2 exchanged students from Bishop’s College Kolkata. Two new faculty members namely Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalauva (on contract faculty after retirement) and Rev. Laldingluaia, (who recently sininishes M Th. (both theology) joined this year.

The College had their Annual Retreat programme on June 19-20, 2014 (Thursday and Friday) in which Rev. Dr. Santanu K. Patro, Registrar, Senate of Serampore College was the Retreat speaker; and in the evening community worship services, Rev. Vanlalbela, the former Mission Secretary preached the word of God.

The Missionary Training College also starts their new academic session on June 3, 2014. There are 11 teaching faculty, with 43 B. Miss. students. The concurrent short course training for missionaries have also been continuing; at present 9 missionaries are doing their training course.

17. ANNUAL LAY DAY OBSERVED: The annual Synod Lay Workers’ Fellowship Day - also called Lay Day - was observed on May 30, 2014 at Synod Higher Secondary School, Mission Vengthlang. The forenoon session was conducted by Mr. C. Hmingthanzama, Vice Principal of the school. It was a devotional session, and condolence for Mr. F. Darhuama, a former worker at Synod Press was also held. Rev. K. Lalhmuchhuaka, Synod Moderator, delivered a short message in which he urged the members to be be satisfied and content in their respective positions,
having no attitude of comparision with those of other employees outside the Synod/church. Mr. Zadawla, a prominent blind preacher, who at one time had been awarded a certificate of appreciation for his satisfactory itinerary preaching, shared the word of God on the theme of the Day “Unity”. He stressed the importance of unity in work place. To achieve such unity, he urged them not to carrying on a behavior that may hamper unity with others, and to do away with pride and prejudice, and self-centredness.

The second session in the afternoon was held in a lighter atmosphere, where different talents were shown, and happy moments were enjoyed! According to reports, there are 924 Lay Worker fellowship members, the Synod Hospital have largest numbers with 371 members. Last year Rs. 58,105/- was donated by the Fellowship towards the Synod Hospital charity Fund. This year, Rs. 95,650/- was donated for the same.

18. NURSES’ GRADUATION DAY: On May 29, 2014, a graduation Day for Nurses (2010-2014 batch) was held in the the Nurses’ School Auditorium, Synod Hospital, Durtlang. Rev. K. Lalmuchhuaka, Synod Moderator, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Vanlalruata, Director of Synod Hospital conducted the function programme. Rev. Biakthansanga, one of the Chaplains of the Hospital led the devotion. Miss. Lalchhanhimi and Rev. K. Lalmuchhuaka delivered messages. Prices and awards were given away to nurse students. There were 25 new GNM graduates this time. The Synod Hospital Nursing School was started in 1928, and altogether 1,150 nurses have been produced since that time.

“If all the world refused to believe in Christ, I should still believe in Him, and I would die for Him if needed be.” – Khuma, the first Mizo convert.
REPORT:

THE 41ST PCI GENERAL BIENNIEL ASSEMBLY

The 41st Biennial General Assembly of the PCI was held at Laitumkhrah Khasi & Jaintia Presbyterian Church, Shillong, during April 30-May 4, 2014. The theme of the Assembly was “Prophetic Role of the Church Today’.

Officials: The new Moderator was Rev. D. C. Haia Darnei of Biateram Synod, whereas Rev. Dr. S. I. Iawphniaw was the outgoing moderator; the senior Secretary was Rev. Awnkhakhup, Zou Synod, and the Junior Secretary was Rev. B. B. Lamin KJP Synod Mihngi. Rev. W.C. Khongwir was the Treasurer and Rev. R.K. Marshing was the Statistician. Rev. Khongwir will continue as Treasurer, and Rev. B. Sangthanga from Mizoram Synod becomes the new Statistician.

Business Sessions, Worship services and messages: The first day was arrival of delegates and there was an evening worship service to welcome them. But only few could arrive as most of the delegates did not yet have business to attend. The following day was spent for meetings of different committees such as the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee (in day time), and the Nomination Committee (after the evening public worship service). In the evening worship service on that day, the General Assembly was formally and solemnly inaugurated. On May 2, 2014 morning, there was Bible study class in which Rev. Dr. Ramengliana, a minister from Manipur Synod was the leader; he led the bible study class basing on the theme of the Assembly. In the forenoon of the same day, the outgoing Moderator Rev. Dr. S. I. Iawphniaw opened the session which was followed by roll call and counting of delegates from different units as per tradition. The following day was also spent for business session. There were public worship services every evening. On the evening of May 2, Rev. Hangpi Manlun (Manipur Synod) was the preacher. He preached on the need of playing
the prophetic roles in times of ethnic and regional conflicts today. In the morning of the following day, there was Bible study class again, and the same leader took the class. The leader in these Bible study classes highlighted the biblical prophets’ ministry in their own times, and contextualising their messages for the present. He drew the attention of the delegates as to where and how the Church today need to play the role of the prophets in political, social and religious realms.

On May 3, Saturday evening, the public worship service was the time for delivering the ‘spiritual’ theme of the General Assembly. Rev. Joshua Jeme, a minister from Cachar Hills Tribes Synod delivered God’s word on the theme. It was inspiring and encouraging message.

On Sunday morning, there was the celebration of the Holy Communion, where delegates gathered to share the Lord’s table. The Moderator Rev. D.C. Haia Darnei was the celebrant.

**Important resolutions:** The General Assembly comprises eight unit synods; while some of the agenda were forwarded from those units, there were others which were brought up to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee and other sub-committees. The followings were some of the resolutions:

1. A new Synod unit will be inaugurated under the name **Karbi Anglong Presbyterian Church Synod**, which is inside Assam state of Northeast India. There are 6 ordained ministers, 1 probationary pastor, 12 districts/pastorates, 62 churches and 13,351 members. Earlier, the General Assembly had prepared this area to become a full-fledged Synod.

2. **Meitei Singlup** has been given a status of **provisional Synod**, which, until recently, was under the Mizo Synod Mission field. There are 10 ordained ministers, 56 elders, 85 churches, 12 districts/pastorates, and 8785 members.

3. The proposal to inaugurate the mission field of Tripura by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod into a full-fledged Synod status will be discussed again in the General Assembly of 2016. There are 19 ordained Ministers, 16 districts/pastor-
ates, 99 churches 148 church elders, and 19242 members in this area.

4. The proposals forwarded by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod to amend the Constitution in which the chairman elect of district/pastorate or moderators elect of presbyteries/Synods to become members of the Nomination Committee was approved. Besides, the proposal of the Mizoram Synod to review the norms of making numbers of representatives for General Assembly was left to the Executive Committee and bring it back with proposal to the subsequent General Assembly for approval.

5. The Executive Committee has been entrusted to form Finance Committee of the PCI, a proposal forwarded by the KJP Synod Sepngi.

6. It was resolved that when the agendum submitted by either of the KJP (Regional) synods has to be discussed, the Executive Secretary of the concerned Synod (KJP) could be an invitee of the General Assembly’s Executive Committee.

7. Ms. Hana Kharbukhi was appointed to become the Chairman of the Presbyterian Women Fellowship (PWF), whereas Rev. Khamchinkhai was appointed to become the Leader of the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF).

8. A new mission statement, which was pertinent for the Assembly in its partnership with other Church denominations or organisations (Parachurch) was approved.

9. The recommendation in the consultation held at Jowai to change the name of the ‘Ten Articles of Faith’ of the PCI into ‘The Confessions of Faith’ was accepted.

Since the General Assembly is the apex church court of the PCI, the resolutions made in the Sessions were applicable for the whole PCI synods. Each synod units has, however, freedom to decide on what is applicable and pertinent to their contexts and situations, as long as it does not contravene the Constitution
Summary of the statistics reports:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Synod</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Administrative Area/Units</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Presbyteries</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Districts/pastorates</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Local Churches</td>
<td>3432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Branch church</td>
<td>1018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ministers</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Pro. pastors</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. church elders</td>
<td>10,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. missionaries</td>
<td>2147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. communicant members</td>
<td>761,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of non-communicant baptised</td>
<td>390,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Males</td>
<td>655,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of females</td>
<td>691,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total members of the church</td>
<td>1,347,683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday worship services:** Apart from the Holy Communion service in the morning, worship services on Sunday were held at the Polo Ground, a famous playground in Shillong. The incessant monsoon rain hampered the forenoon worship that it could not be started on time. However, the local Khasi church members would not be turned back by the rain from coming to worship. Inspite of the rain, and the water filling the ground, they sat still to wait for the rain to stop and the worship service to begin. At one time, the Moderator asked the congregation to pray together for the smooth worship service. God answered the prayer, and the worship was commenced. The rain fell again incessantly, but no one would leave the ground, slowly the rain stopped completely and the service was in good mood. The Rev. Jerry Pillai, President, World Council of Reformed Churches (WCRC) delivered God’s message. In the afternoon worship service, the Rev. Dr. Collin I. Cowan, General Secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM) delivered God’s message. The Khasi Christians are known for their commitment in and diligence to attend Church’s conferences and meetings. This time also many people came from in and around the Shillong city, even from far
distance places by their own expenses and carrying their own tiffins to the ground and worshipped with the delegates. They would never complain even when they were not given proper seats; rather they would patiently and intently listened to the long preaching of sermons. At noon break, the delegates were served with lunch packets, while the congregation members satisfied themselves with their own tiffins.

Apart from the regular business programmes and worship services, mentioned should also be made choirs which sang praises and adorations in every worship services. Choirs from local churches were asked to present their numbers, and the Mizo and KJP Synods’ standing choirs also presented their numbers in different services.

**New Administrative Secretary:** The General Assembly has three Administrative Secretaries. The Senior Administrative Secretary, Rev. S. S. Majaw who had been in the office for two terms has retired. The new Administrative Secretary Rev. G.S. Lyttan was installed. Rev. David Thatkhohai Lhouvum became the Senior Administrative Secretary, and Rev. V. L. Luaia Hranleh is another Administrative Secretary.

**Obituaries:**

Obituaries were conducted for the Ministers who answered the heavenly call on Sunday morning during the Holy Communion worship service. They were:

**Mizoram Synod:**
- Rev. Lalchunglûra died on 10.05.2013
- Rev. L. Gorongo Sing died on 07.06.2013
- Rev. Lalbiaktluanga died on 15.09.2013
- Rev. C. Lalrampara died on 05.09.2013
- Rev. Thansiama died on 08.02.2014
- Rev. Rohnuna died on 08.02.2014

**Cachar Hills Tribe Synod:**
- Rev. Laltinlam Vaiphei died on 18.07.2012
- Rev. Rengchomnga Durpui died on 09.01.2013
Khasi and Jaintia Synod Sepngi

Rev. Moonson Star Lynngskor died on 04.11.2012
Rev. Sterly Philineal died on 07.13.2014
Rev. Simon Suchiang died on 17.03.2014

(Manipur, Biateram, Zou, Ri Bhoi and KJP Synod Minghi did not have obituary).

The next Biennial General Assembly will be hosted by the KJP Synod Sepngi; the place will be selected by the Synod. The spiritual theme of the next Assembly will be ‘The Gospel - Transforming Power’ which will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Vanlalchhuanawma, Principal, Aizawl Theological College, Mizoram Synod. Rev. Laldawngliana of Manipur Synod was the Moderator elect.

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Enormous Efforts for Media Development

The first books in Mizo (apart from the Scriptures) were printed in the Government Press at Shillong. Subsequently books were sent for printing to half a dozen places, according to D.E. Jones in his autobiography. They went to presses in Shillong, Sylhet, Dacca, Calcutta, Allahabad and Madras. The reason for sending the work to these various places was because sending proofs to and fro from Aizawl took an inordinately long time.
REPORT:

THE 11TH NEICCWA BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY-CUM-SEMINAR
By Lalrinkimi

The 11th The North East India Christian Council Women Association (NEICCWA) Biennial Assembly -Cum- Seminar was held during April 3-6, 2014 at Mission Veng Church, Aizawl, Mizoram. The Office Bearers were:
- Mrs. Sweet Mary Rapthap - President,
- Mrs. Lalrinkimi - Vice President,
- Mrs. Sony Baite - Secretary (absent),
- Miss Kuholi Chishi - Asst. Secretary,
- Miss Hanabalahun Kharbuki - Treasurer,
- Mrs. Lalnunmawii - Finance Secretary.

Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, Executive Secretary i/c Women of the MPC-PCI welcomed the delegates and expressed greetings on behalf of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Women, and Elder Dr. Tawnênga, Mission Veng, said welcome speech and greetings on behalf of the host church. The seminar topic was "Strategy to create awareness on crime against women in North East Region."
The resource person was Mrs. Lalthangpuii Pulamte, MPS. The Assembly was attended by 420 from the 22 units in the North East India. The theme of the Assembly was "Be transformed" (Rom 12:2) and the theme was divided into sub-themes as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-themes</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Keynote Address</td>
<td>Rev R. Lalnunzira, Secretary, NEICC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Be transformed as a living sacrifice to God</td>
<td>Mrs. Vanlalthiani, Lecturer, MTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Be transformed to become a Godly mother in the family</td>
<td>Mrs. Lalthienzo, ICI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Be transformed towards God's holiness</td>
<td>Mrs. Larlout Khawbung, EFCI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Be transformed for such a time as this  
    : Commissioner Lalngaihawmi, SA

**The business session** was held on April 5, 2014 (Saturday) and resolutions are as follows:

1) The Secretary term of NEICCWA shall be two years for one term and the secretary should not be extended for more than three terms.

2) Next Biennial Assembly will be hosted by KJP Synod Sepngi in the month of April 2017 due to the rule made by the NEICC that the NEICCWA & NEICCYA should have their Assembly in the odd number year after 2014 onwards.

3) Resolved to continue unit exchanged visitation programes within the NEICCWA family.

4) Resolved to have programes for fostering the unity & Co-operation among the members of the NEICCWA Ministry

5) Resolved to give awareness on the role of women in preservation of environment fir which the Executive Committee was entrusted to provide guidelines for the same.

6) Resolved that an outgoing President as Ex-officio member for one term.

7) Budget Estimate for 2014-2015 was accepted such as:
   1) Girls Hostel Budget : Rs 9,44,600
   2) NEICCWA activities: Rs 3,00,000

8) **New Leaders of NEICCWA for the year 2014-2017**
   **Office Bearers**
   President : Mrs Lalrinkimi, (Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod)
   Vice President  : Miss G. Hanabalahun Kharbuki, (KJP Synod Mihngi)
   Secretary : Miss Holikali K Yeptho, (Nagaland Baptist Church Council)
   Asst. Secretary : Mrs. Lalremkimi Hmar, (Evangelical Free Church of India)
   Treasurer : Mrs. Teresa Joan Tariang , (Church of God Meghalaya & Assam)
   Finance Secretary : Mrs. Briltimai Lynshing , (KJP Synod Sepngi)
Executive Committee Members
1) Dr Chawngthanpari : Baptist Church of Mizoram
2) Mrs. Deem Melody : Manipur Synod
3) Ms. Florence Lalparmawii : Tripura Baptist Women Society
4) Rev Narola Lemtur : Nagaland Baptist Church Council
5) Lt. Colonel Lalhlimpuii : The Salvation Army
6) Ms. Roselyne Haokip : Evangelical Churches Association
7) Mrs. Lalhlimpuii Khawbung : Cachar Hill Tribes Synod
8) Ms. L. Shalom : Independent Church of India

Ex-Officio Members:
1) Rev. R. Lalnunzira, Secretary, NEICC
2) Mrs. Sweet Mary Rapthap, Ex-President

The following choirs and female group voices were listened during the Assembly:
1) Mizoram Synod Choir, 2) Central Church Choir, (BCM)
3) NBCC Unit Choir, 4) EFCI Choir Aizawl, 5) Mission Vengthlang Pastorate Choir (BCM), 6) The Territorial Songster, SA,
7) Bawngkawn Presbyterian Pastorate Choir, 8) Mission Veng Pastorate choir (MPC-PCI), 9) Ramhlun N Female voice,

Bible Study classes were conducted by Miss. S. Thanchhûngi, Lecturer, JRTS two times in the mornings from the story of Mary Magdalene and Samaritan Woman, who were transformed by Jesus. The Holy Comunion was prepared by Rev. Hmingi Marak on Sunday morning and some ordained women from different Dinominations assisted her. During the Assembly, the resource persons, choirs, female group voices and all who were entrusted to present their items were inspired by the Holy Spirit and their songs and messages touched the hearts of the congregations. Exhibition-cum-sale was prepared during the Assembly; all the units
were requested to bring their hand made articles for sale to raise funds of NEICCWA and the Mission Veng church women made arrangement for this exhibition. On Saturday night, a cultural programme was conducted by Dr. Vanlalhruiii, the Assistant Secretary of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Women and the programme was interesting for and enjoyed by the delegates. Different cultural items and dances reminded us the glory of God who created us, and so also that we all are one in Christ.

Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau Executive Secretary i/c Women and Rev. R. Lalmunzira Secretary, NEICC were with us from the beginning till the end; Rev. Jessaia L. Neitham, President of NEICCYA and Dr. Hrangthanchhungi, Secretary, Tribal and Adivasi, NCCI said greetings.

We are very thankful to all of them for their presence with us. We also very thankful to Pastors, elders, and all church leaders who attended our Assembly for their co-operations. Rev. J. Huoplien, President of NEICC installed the new leaders; Elder Dr. Tawnênga said vote of thanks on behalf of the Host church and Miss Holikali, our new Secretary said vote of thanks on behalf of the NEICCWA at the last service.

As said earlier, this NEICCWA Biennial Assembly was hosted by Mission Veng church. Words failed us to express our gratitudes to this church due to their excellent hospitalities towards us. They sacrificed themselves for the success of the whole programme day in and day out during the Assembly meeting in giving care to all the delegates. We hope and pray that God would reward the church and bless them abundantly.

Lastly, we give many thanks to our God who inspired and guided us, poured many blessings to us all through our Assembly. Praise be the Lord Almighty.

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CymanfaGanu

The first Singing Festival in Mizoram, called ‘CymanfaGanu’ was organised during the Autumn Presbytery in 1917. On that day, children sang their hymns and songs in the afternoon, and in the evening the young people sang theirs. Such festivals are said to have been characteristic of Welsh Nonconformity and had become immensely popular after the Revival of 1904.
REPORT:

MZORAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
MANIPUR AREA

Introduction

There are many different church denominations in Manipur. Most of them are based on ethnic groups or clans. There have already been two Synod units in Manipur under the Presbyterian Church of India namely Manipur Synod and Zou Synod. The Mizoram Presbyterian Church has been doing mission works among the Meitei (Manipuris) which have now been preparing themselves to forming a new Synod. The MPC Synod has withdrawn its missionaries from among them. But she has been serving among other ethnic groups such as Vaiphei and Gangte. Manipur Synod and Zou Synods are its partners as they are closely related tribes and clans.

1. The Beginning of Manipur Area Mission

In 1910 the Gospel was first brought in Manipur by North East India General Mission (NEIG), and the churches grew well. After the NEIG mission, churches broke up into different denominations, naming themselves whatever they liked, affiliating to their own choices either in India or abroad. Even a similar ethnic group has been divided into different denominations.

Recently, in 1997, ethnic war broke out between two close-knit ethnic groups, namely Paite and Kuki, but ironically the Vaiphei clan suffered badly. Thirty (30) of their villages were set on fire, which completely destroyed their houses, and almost 100 people were killed. The fire burnt even their church buildings, leaving them empty-handed. Consequently the Vaiphei Church was affected badly and they became very poor financially, even to the extent of extinction. Seeing the Mizoram Presbyterian Church working in Manipur with a firm funding, the leaders of the Church approached
the MPC, asking them to help survive and the gospel fire burning continuously among the Vaiphei community. As a result, in 2000 onwards, talks were held between the MPC and the Vaiphei churches at the level of Synod Executive Committee, and the matter was brought to the Synod of 2000 with the draft of admitting the Vaiphei church to the MPC.

Most of the churches under the Vaiphei community wanted to join the MPC excepting few of them. Following the 2001 Synod's 39th resolution, those who were willing to join the MPC were inducted on December 16, 2001 at the function in Manipur Presbyterian Church Synod Compound, Lamka, Churachandpur, Manipur. Those who joined the MPC at that time were Evangelical Organisation Church (EOC), Evangelical Church of Manipur (ECM), Revival Church of God (RCG), Independent Church of Manipur (ICM), Full Gospel (FG), Evangelical Partnership Church of Christ (EPCC); all were formed by Vaiphei community.

After this event, there were some among members of the EOC who did not want to join the MPC, thus creating hurdles to their fellow believers of joining the MPC. They even went to court claiming the right to properties such as buildings and lands. They divided themselves into two groups - EOC (P) and EOC (ECCI). This further has delayed the full integration of the EOC with the MPC. The EOC (P) group, more in numbers of members, wanted to join the MPC while the EOC (ECCI) refused to do it so. The MPC found it difficult to welcome only one of them, but agreed to give the grant a sum of Rs. 1,50,000/- per month to EOC (P) until they could be fully inducted. In 2008, the dispute was solved; thus, in February 17, 2008 (Sunday) the EOC (P) was formally inducted into the MPC. Later, in 2012, the Evangelical Synod Church (ESC), the Gangte ethnic group, followed suit in joining the MPC. This was followed in 2013 by the Evangelical Church of India (Vaiphei Neihshial sub-clan) to join the MPC. This means that the Manipur Area mission is comprised of eight different denominations joining
the MPC, predominantly the Vaiphei community, followed by the Gangte community.

2. Mizoram Synod in Manipur Area

Although the churches mentioned above were not new believers, they had different denominational backgrounds with various church traditional practices. Most of them were charismatic and revival in nature, but due to lack of higher theological degree holders among church leaders, they lacked administrative skills and pastoral attitudes. The MPC, from the beginning of their induction, intended to give them proper guidance towards these, and as a result of this, the Synod Executive Committee, in its 239th meeting, approved the new guidelines of Rules for Manipur Area, in which one of the clauses says, “the [Manipur Area] will be under the MPC Synod for ten years, during which they will be trained with the Presbyterian Administrative system, and they should be made financially self-satisfied. When they could function by themselves, the Synod would consider whether to establish a separate Synod, or to give it to the Manipur Synod.”

Ten years have now passed since their induction into the Mizoram Synod; a careful study on their situation has been conducted whether they could have a synod of their own. Steps have been taken to this effect, and different committees have been formed as below towards their preparation.

(a) Manipur Area Committee: This is a sub-committee of Synod Executive Committee to be more responsible to the Manipur Area. The Synod Moderator is the Chairman, and Administrative Secretary of Manipur Area as its secretary. Committee members include Senior Executive Secretary, Mizoram Synod, Synod Secretary, Manipur Area Coordinator, five members appointed by the SEC, and four members from Manipur Area - all together 14. They usually meet thrice a year.

(b) Administrative Office: This is called Synod Office, Manipur Area, located in Churachandpur, which is functioning un-
under the Administrative Officer, looking after the whole Manipur mission area on behalf of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod. He is assisted by Area Co-coordinator, Accountant, two Office Assistant (O/A), three Literature workers, one computer operator, a driver and Grade IV worker.

(c) Pastoral Ministry: The system of pastoral ministry of the MPC has been followed, and churches have been given proper orientation to master this as far as they could. Annual districts and presbytery meetings also meet according to the Synod calendar. If there are matters arising in the meetings to be forwarded to the Synod, it would be submitted through the Manipur Area Committee. Monthly offerings or collected funds were submitted following the same channel. Women and Youth fellowship follows the same guidelines followed by Presbyterian Church Women and Presbyterian Youth Fellowship of the MPC.

3. Brief Statistical Reports
The brief report of the statistics may be given as below:

- No. of Presbyteries: 4
- No. districts/pastorates: 23
- No. of churches: 110
- No. church members: 16,572
- No. communicant members: 10,369
- No. of pastorates in Myanmar mission field: 3

There are six pastors from the MPC in Manipur Area, who have been in charges of six districts under the four presbytery areas. They are working hard to give proper guidance to church leaders and members to be acquainted with the rules, regulations and practices of the MPC.

Conclusion
Since the members of the churches in Manipur Area have their own dialects - Vaiphei, Gangte and Zou, and although the dialects have same origins and many vocabularies have similar meanings with the Mizo language (formerly known as Lusheis language), com-
communication problems still exist. Text books of Sunday School - both for adults and children, and lessons for Wednesday evening worship services have to be translated into their dialects. Usually since these text-books are published towards the end of a year, it is difficult for them to start learning the lessons at the beginning of the year.

The MPC Synod is giving support to the churches of Manipur Area in all possible ways in terms of funding for construction and buying plots of land for church buildings, and even nurturing churches towards Christian maturity. Constructions of fifteen (15) pastor quarters have been completed. It is hoped that when they have their own Synod, they would be self-sufficient, self-support and self-propagating like the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. A Synod Office is under construction in Churachandpur town. The construction of Rostad Memorial High School has also been completed, having more than 500 pupils. God have been pouring its blessing to the mission in Manipur through the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod, and it is hoped that the people will one day come up with having their own Synod, serving the Lord in harvesting God's people and nurturing them in the likeness and fullness of Jesus Christ.

(Taken from the article “Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod, Manipur Area Chanchin,” in Kristian Tlangau [Christian Herald], the Organ of the Presbyterian Church, Mizoram, July 2014, 32-35).

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Origin of KrawsSipai

Some of the youths inspired and supported by Dr. Fraser formed themselves into a group called “KrawsSipai” — the soldiers of the Cross. Khuma, the first Christian, was one of the most devoted KrawsSipai. Their practice was to go from village to village telling the Good News. This ardent group continued its works for a number of years, and if remained an unpaid, voluntary band, dependent for food and support on the villages which they visited.
REPORT:

MEETING ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR RE-INTERPRETING CALVIN'S THEOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA

Since 2009 when John Calvin's 500th Birth Anniversary was celebrated across the globe, scholars have been busying preparing lectures, seminars, consultations and writing books about Calvin, his life and theology. Opinions have been spilt over the relevancy and importance of this great reformer-theologian who lived five centuries ago. On the one hand, there are scholars who think Calvin is outdated and no longer relevant to our present context. On the other hand, there are scholars who find Calvin and his teachings still relevant to the present world. The Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) seems to belong to the latter and wanted to learn from Calvin's life, faith, and theology. Hence, the PCI called for a meeting on strategic planning that attempts study Calvin's theology in his own context to make it relevant to the context of PCI today.

The meeting for Strategic Planning was held at the Aizawl Theological, Mizoram on the November 13, 2013. It was organized by the Theological Education Committee of PCI. This meeting was moderated by Rev. V. L. Luaia Hranleh, Administrative Secretary, PCI, i/c Theological Education. He read Ps. 119: 105 and Rom. 15: 4 and offered a word of prayer. The Administrative Secretary informed the participants that this strategic meeting was a follow up of the celebration of the 500th Birth Anniversary of Calvin that was held in 2009.

Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalauva who has spent much of his theological career on Calvin studies was the resource person of the meeting. He was at that time the Dean of Department of Research/SATHRI at Senate of Serampore College (University). He presented a pa-
per on the theme, "Calvin's Theology for Today: A Concept Paper for Contextual Formulation." The presenter highlighted the historical context of Calvin, analysis of Calvin's theology in his social and political milieu, and he gave some profound reflections on Calvin's theological frameworks for contextual formulation in the context of PCI. Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalauva pointed out that Calvin was a genuine theologian who took his historical context seriously and engaged not only with theological issues but also socio-political and economic issues of his own time. He invited the participants to "thank God for having been rooted and nurtured in Calvin's thought." In his paper, the presenter noted that re-interpretation of Calvin in the context of PCI is an urgent task. He urged the participants to give serious efforts to understand Calvin creatively and inclusively so as to make his thought more meaningful and relevant in PCI context today.

The presentation of the paper was followed by a lively discussion. The discussion was centred on what strategy or strategies shall be employed if Calvin's theology has to be re-interpreted successfully in the context PCI today. Various issues and concerns were raised and deliberated upon. From the discussion, it appears that the participants wanted to understand Calvin's theology rather than Calvinism that has been influenced and controlled by the Western dominant view and practices. In the midst of various viewpoints and concerns, the consensus of the participants lies on the fact that Calvin was a profound contextual theological thinker who made people's experiences as well as his personal experience to his theological articulation. Calvin's theology provides us insightful methodology and perspectival sources for the formulation of liberative theology that would resist powers in north-east India. That inclusive and participatory community will be established within the PCI family is perceptible if Calvin's theology is re-discovered and applied in context.

After the general discussion, Rev. Lalchungnunga, Dr.
Lalnghakhuami, and Rev. L.H. Rawsea were assigned to highlight the findings of the meeting. Rev. V.L. Luaia Hranleh proposed vote of thanks. Rev. Dr. Vanlalchhuanawma, the Principal of the host college thanked the Theological Education Committee for organizing the meeting at the college. The Principal invited the Faculty of John Robert's Theological Seminary at Shillong, who could not turn up for the meeting due to unknown reason, to remain as faithful partner of the college in the upholding of Calvin’s theology and traditions. The latter offered a closing prayer and the meeting was ended.

(Reported by Rev. L.H. Rawsea, Aizawl Theological College)

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**What makes our response to the HIV/AIDS issues, a ‘Christian Response’?**

- The fact that we are doing it?
- The people whom we are doing it for?
- The areas of work we are involved in?
- The way we are doing our work?
Report: Student Exchange

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT OF INDIA - EVANGELISCHE STUDIERENDENGEMEINDE (BONN, GERMANY)

- Mimi Lalruatsaki
  M. Th. II
  SCMI, ATC Unit

During the summer break April-May this year, I had a privilege of attending the 2nd Students' Exchange programme of Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) and Evangelische Studierendegemeinde (ESG) Bonn, which was held between May 18 - 31 at Bonn, Germany. Altogether, we were 12 SCMI members, hailing from different parts of India. Prior to our departure for Germany, we had an orientation programme at SCMI Headquarters, Bangalore, where we got acquainted with the prerequisites for the programme including the introductory German language, songs, etc.

On May 17, we reached Frankfurt, Germany via Colombo (Sri-Lanka) which was about 10 hours journey by flight. Rev. Michael Pues, the student pastor of ESG-Bonn and the organizer of the exchange program and John were there waiting for us at the airport. On the same day, from Frankfurt we continued our journey to Bonn. The journey to Bonn was exciting as we were enthralled by the beautiful scenery throughout the way. Despite the novelty of a new environment, adjusting to the food was a kind of cultural shock that we first encountered in Germany. Regardless of the difficulty we had in adjusting with the food, gradually without our notice, largely due to the daily hectic schedule we soon found ourselves coping and appeasing our appetite with the items served in the food menu. Every day was a new experience and a new op-
portunity for us to learn new things as we visited two or three places every day to expose ourselves with the culture, educational system, political system, churches and German Christianity at large. At the end of each day, we sat together to reflect on what we learned from each day's trip.

During our fifteen days programme, we mingled with different people along with our German counterparts, ESG members, so to say. Along with our German counterparts, we took a trip to many important places and landmarks like the castle of Poppelsdorf, Rhine River side, University of Bonn, catholic cathedral and protestant church. Other important historical sites include Beethoven's house which is quite intriguing for a western classical music lover like me, the magnificent Munster palace built by Romans in the 1st century, the Indian monastery at Siegburg and the Goth idiosyncratic architectural design of Cologne Cathedral impresses us a lot as well. Hiking at the ruins of Drachenfels castle was tedious yet rewarding as we were able to see the beautiful scenario surrounding the site from the top. A trip to a historic Haus der Geschichte war museum was a remarkable experience for younger generation like me as it gave me a vague notion of the dreaded Second World War that was ferociously fought by brave men in Europe. Apart from all the field trips and exposures to different places, we sat with students of Master of Ecumenical Studies and attended a lecture on reformation history which was quite enriching.

Sadly, our sojourn came to an end on May 31st; it was like waking up from a surreal daydream, some tears were shed while for some it was a nostalgic moment, we bid farewell to our German friends at the ESG campus and some came along
with us to the airport at Frankfurt to see us off. Surprisingly, our excursion continued even inside the airport as we were informed about the presence of religious chapels within the premises, so we visited those chapels belonging to the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Muslim and Jewish. Inside one of the chapels, our exchange programme finally came to an end as short prayer of blessing was uttered by the pastor.

Lastly but not the least, I am indebted to express my gratitude to the SCMI, SCMI-ATC Unit, and the Faculty of Aizawl Theological College for selecting me to attend this programme. Above all, the abounding grace of the God almighty who has tremendously blessed me through this exposure.

ATC Valedictory Service, April 14, 2014
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