

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



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AIZAWL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:
Service to God and Humankind

**Presbyterian Review is a quarterly news magazine
concerning the Life and Witness of the Church
in Mizoram and other related matters,
published by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod**

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Editorial:

Service to God and Humankind

When the Christian missionaries from Great Britain preached the Gospel in Mizoram more than a century ago, it was not well received by the Mizo audience in the beginning. To drive home their message, they looked for a point of contact and begun to theologized the Gospel for the Mizo context. Instead of talking about their need of a savior from sin, the missionaries told the Mizo people that Jesus is the vanquisher of the devil. Thus, Mizo people started embracing Christianity and within a short span of fifty years the whole Mizo community became Christians.

Soon after there were Mizo Christians, the missionaries started running a theological school to train natives for different ministries in the church. Most of the leaders and ministers in the Church of Mizoram have been the product of this theological institution. Academically, too, this school gradually evolved into an institution where one can attain the highest theological degree that can be conferred. Behind the enormous growth of the Aizawl Theological College stands the Church which supports the College through thick and thin. Therefore the success story of ATC is also the success story of the Church in Mizoram. So, we give a highlight of the history of ATC in this issue.

As ATC is riding high on success, the challenge before her is to maintain a good balance between academic excellence and relevancy for the Church. Pursuit of academic excellence at the cost of losing relevance for the Church and the society will truly deny the aim and vision of a living theological education. But a static institution that lacks vibrancy and innovative vision may not live up to the challenges that our fast-changing world poses to the Church today. Therefore, ATC needs to be firmly rooted in the Church for continuing relevance while the Church need to encourage ATC so that the institution can continue to provide a meaningful and relevant vision for the Church. An ever-renewing commitment to serve to God and humankind must be the guiding principle to meet this need continually. With this commitment, the Church and ATC can always look forward to a better future.



NEWS AROUND MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. Distribution of Synod Relief Fund: A total amount of Rs. 10,14,000/- was given from the Synod Relief Fund during the month of April to the victims of natural calamities in different part of Mizoram like destruction of houses by fire, wind, rain and hailstorm, landslides, and as a relief to long sickness.

2. New Synod Bookroom Building at Lawngtlai Branch: A new Synod Bookroom building at Lawngtlai Branch was inaugurated on April 6, 2016 by the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia. Synod Bookroom Lawngtlai Branch was established in 1986 and the old building was constructed in 1989. Because of the growing need to expand, construction of new bigger building begun in 2014. The inauguration programme was led by Elder R. Lalmalsawma, General Manager, Prescom and the Synod Moderator delivered a message.

3. Aizawl Theological College Valedictory Service, 2016: ATC Valedictory Service was held on Apr. 19, 2016 at the College Chapel. The service was led by the Principal Rev. Dr. C. Lalhlira and the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia delivered a message. Elder H. Ronghaka, the Synod Secretary distributed various prizes to the outgoing students and Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, Senior Executive Secretary i/c Theological Education distributed certificates to the outgoing students. For the first time, ATC had a DTh candidate who successfully finished his course while 25 B.D. students and 25 MTh students also graduated.

4. Missionary Training College Graduation Day, 2016: The 4th Graduation Day of the MTC was held on April 20, 2016 at the Synod Conference



Centre's Pi Zaii Hall where 13 B. Miss students graduated. The service was led by the Principal Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima and the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia delivered a message. Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, Senior Executive Secretary i/c Theological Education distributed certificates to the outgoing students and Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Mission distributed various prizes to the outgoing students.

5. ***PBS Farewell and Dedication Programme:*** The 36th Session of the Presbyterian Bible School Farewell and Dedication Programme was held on April 25, 2016 at the Synod Conference Centre's Pi Zaii Hall where there are 57 outgoing students. The service was led by the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia and Elder H. Ronghaka, the Synod Secretary distributed certificates to the outgoing students.



6. ***Synod Hospital Nursing School Graduation Day, 2016:*** Synod Hospital Nursing School Graduation Day was held on April 27, 2016, at the Nursing School Auditorium where 34 students, including 3 male students graduated. The programme was led by Dr. L.H. Thanga Singson, Hospital Director and Rev. P.C. Pachhunga, Executive Secy i/c Hospital distributed certificates to the graduating students.



7. Missionary Refresher Course Training and Mission Orientation Programme for Missionary Pastors: During April 26 – May 24, 2016 and May 4-13, 2016, Missionary Refresher Course Training and Mission Orientation Programme for Missionary Pastors was held at the Missionary Training College, Mission Vengthlang. 28 missionar-



ies attended the first programme where ministerial and mission-related subjects were taught by different resource persons. The other programme

was attended by 4 Field Secretaries and 11 Missionary Pastors.

8. Synod Social Front Charity Store and Old Age Day Care Centre: A Charity Store managed by the Synod Social Front was officially inaugurated on May 5, 2016 at Mr. R. Zathanga Building, Tuikhuahtlang, Sikkulpuikawn. This store was a follow-up to the 2014 Synod Meeting resolution where it was decided that used materials and clothes be donated for the convenient of the poor who will purchase at special discount prices. Items from the store may also be given to victims of natural calamities and abject poverty. Various Pastorates will be requested to make donations in turn - Kulikawn Pastorate and Tuikhuahtlang church were the first to donate items for the store. On the same day, the Synod Moderator dedicated an Old Age Day Care Centre at the Synod Conference Centre with a prayer. This centre was meant for senior citizens to keep company and have fellowship.

9. The 25th Church Leaders' Intensive Residential Pastoral Care & Counselling Training: The Church Leaders' Intensive Residential Pastoral Care & Counselling Training, organized by Family Guidance & Counselling Centre (FG&CC) of the Mizoram Synod was held during May 18 - May 31, 2016 at the Synod Conference Centre. In the 'Final Evaluation & Graduation Service', Rev. R. Lalhmingthanga, Director, FG&CC led the programme while the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia delivered a message and distributed certificates to the outgoing students. There were 22 participants from 9 pastorates in this training.

10. 3rd Missionary Retreat for Home Mission & Cachar Tlangram Region: Missionary Retreat for Home Mission & Cachar Tlangram Region was held at the ITI Veng Church during May 26 - 29, 2016. Workers and their partners from these regions along with workers from Masihi Sangati (Mizo-speaking) attended this retreat and they were 1121 in numbers. Besides learning various mission-related topics, leaders of the Synod Mission Board take turn in delivering the Word of God in the worship service.

11. Celebration of the 42nd Synod Lay Workers' Fellowship Annual General Meeting (Lay Day): The 42nd Lay Day was celebrated on May 27, 2016 at the PC Girls School. In the morning session, Elder Rualkhuma, Vice Chairman of the SLWF led the programme and after listening to a report from Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, Synod Moderator addressed the gathering. The afternoon session was used as a fellowship programme that was followed by a feast. The Lay members donated Rs. 77,842/- for the Synod Hospital Charity Fund. At present, there are 954 members under the Synod Lay Workers' Fellowship.

12. The 5th Synod Revival Meet: The 5th Synod Revival Meet was held during June 3-5, 2016 at the Bungkawn Church where various Revival Speakers and leaders of the Mizoram Synod preached messages. 70 Revival Speakers were selected by the Synod Revival Department for this year and they were engaged in 126 revival programs which mostly consist of Crusades, Campings and Revival Meets/Retreats.



13. Literature Campaign: Synod Literature and Publication Board (SL&PB) organized literature campaign at Serchhip during 4th-5th June 2016. Hosted by Serchhip Vengchung Pastorate, the campaign aimed at promoting Christian literature through print and electronic media. Rev. Dr. Chawngmhangliana, Editor and Secretary of the SL&PB and Rev. Thangzauva, Board Executive Committee member were the two main speakers. The speakers gave lectures on the importance of, and the need to promote Christian literature in today's context. The campaign was attended by a big number of church members and it was found very successful.

14. The 57th Graduation Day of the Presbyterian Hindi Bible School: The Presbyterian Hindi Bible School, Bawngkawn observed the 57th Graduation Day on June 9, 2016. The programme was led by Rev. K. Lalthlanpuia, Principal of the Presbyterian Hindi Bible School while Rev. K. Lalthangmawia, Board Executive Committee member distributed the certificates and Dr. Robert S. Halliday, Coordinator of the Synod Mission Board delivered a message.

15. Inauguration of new Hostel Building at P.C. Girls' School: The new Hostel Building of the P.C. Girls' School was inaugurated by the Synod Moderator, Rev. H. Lalrinmawia on June 17, 2016. After the inauguration, a short programme led by Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Education was held at the Warden's Quarters. Ms. Zaithanchhungi, Headmistress of the P.C. Girls' School gave a report while the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia addressed the gathering. The old hostel building was constructed in 1979 where only 20 students can be admitted. Construction of a new three-storey building that can accommodate around 50 students begun in May 2014 and it was completed on May 7, 2016.



16. The 192nd Lay Leaders' Training: The 192nd Lay Leaders' Training

was held at the Synod Multipurpose Training Centre (SMTC) during June 20 - 24, 2016.

The closing ceremony was led by Rev. Vansawma, Programme Director of the SMTC. Rev. Lalrinawma, the first Director of the SMTC delivered a message and



distributed certificates. 38 Elders from Aizawl Central, Aizawl Chhim, Chhimphai, Chhimchhak, Chhimthlang and Kolasib Presbyteries attended the training.

17. Mizoram People's Forum (MPF) Celebrated her Tin Jubilee:

Mizoram People's Forum, an interdenominational organization established for socio-economic and political reform of Mizoram celebrated its tenth year on the June 21, 2016 at Vanapa Hall. Led by Rev. B. Sangthanga, the Vice President (PCI), Rev. Lalrinmawia (PCI), Rev. Sanghmingthanga, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga (RC), and Rev. Dr. R. Lalbiakmawia (PCI), General Secretary of the MPF took important part in the celebration. Representatives from Central Young Mizo Association, Mizoram Upa Pawl (Senior Citizens), Election Commission of India and different political parties also joined the celebration.

18. Seminar on the Bible: A seminar on "Mizo-English Parallel Bible"

jointly organized by Aizawl Theological College and Bible Society of India, Aizawl auxiliary was held on the 21st July 2016, at Synod Conference Centre, Aizawl. Elder Thangnghilhlova, Secretary of the BSI, Aizawl Auxiliary presided the meeting. Rev. Lalfakzuala, Assistant professor of the ATC presented a paper on the theme "Is Our Bible Erroneous." Discussion in the afternoon was chaired by Rev. Prof. C. Lalhlira, Principal, ATC. As many as 180 participants, who are church leaders from various denominations attended the seminar. A lively discussion and interaction showed the success of the seminar.

19. 17th Batch of Certificate in Computer Application (CCA) Course: 17th Batch of Certificate in Computer Application (CCA) Course finished their training on June 28, 2016 at the Synod Multipurpose Training Centre (SMTC). Mr. Lalrinmawia Ralte, Minister i/c Forest, I.T etc., was the chief guest where the closing programme was led by Rev. Vansawma, Programme Director of the SMTC. The chief guest distributed certificates to the 18 graduates and addressed the gathering.

20. Mass Prayer of Thanksgiving: A Mass Prayer of Thanksgiving to commemorate the Peace Day (June 30) was held at every church's worship on June 26, 2016, Sunday Night Service on account of the Peace Accord between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front.

21. Residential Choir Conductors' Training: The 21st Residential Choir Conductors' Training which was organized by the Synod Worship Committee at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Centre, Mission Veng was concluded on July 15, 2016. The closing function was led by Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Worship and Elder F. Lalremthanga, Worship Coordinator gave an introduction. Mizoram Synod Choir and Ruthi V.L. Muanpuii, Dawrpui Vengthar presented their beautiful numbers and Piano Solo was performed by Synod Music School. Elder H. Ronghaka, Synod Secretary addressed the gathering and distributed certificates. Mr. H. Lalrinmawia, Music Instructor gave a report about the training and Mr. Lalromawia, Senior Music Instructor proposed a vote of thanks. The training commenced from July 12, 2016 and was attended by 57 members from different churches of selected Pastorates within Mizoram. During the training, music and the related subjects were studied.



22. Masihi Sangati Kendra Independence Day Food Festival: Masihi Sangati organized a food festival on the India's Independence Day, 15th August 2016. Gospel singers, choirs, dancers and honorable citizens graced the festival. Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Mission was the chief guest. Rev. Lalfakawma Chhangte delivered a message. Rev.



Pics: Gospel singers entertaining the crowd and (inset) Rev. B. Sangthanga delivering a message

K. Lalthlanpuia, Director, Masihi Sangati, offered a prayer for our nation. His Excellency Lt. Gen Nirbhay Sharma, the Governor of Mizoram graced the closing program with a speech. Masihi Sangati is a department under the Mission Board of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church that works for mission and evangelism among non-Mizos in Mizoram.

23. Praise on Audition: Synod Information and Publicity Department (Synfo) is organising a solo competition known as "Praise On" TV Show. The competition that was commenced in early August scheduled its first and second rounds in district headquarters of Mizoram – Aizawl, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchip, Kolasib and Champhai. The competition has been telecast in local TV. Judges are appointed by Synfo in each zone to make selections for another rounds. Hundreds of young men and women are competing in different zones. Top three will receive cash prizes Rs. 80,000, Rs. 40,000, and Rs. 20,000 respectively. Top ten will receive consolation prize amounts to Rs. 5,000 each. The main objective of the competition is to promote singers among the youth members of the church.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 263rd SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 263rd sessions of the Synod Executive Committee sat during 7th - 10th June 2016 at the J.M. Lloyd Hall, Synod Office. Many of the agenda were the follow-up of the previous SEC sessions as well as agenda forwarded by various committees and boards. Some of the resolutions were as follows:

1. It was agreed that a new Handbook for Synod Trust Committee (formerly Synod Property Committee) be drafted by the OM to be discussed in the subsequent session of the SEC.

2. It was decided that Mission Campaign be held to raise awareness regarding the ongoing activity of the Synod Mission Board among the Church members and the Synod Mission Board was entrusted to do the same.

3. It was agreed that Mission Veng Church compound be extended into the Synod Compound by twelve feet and the Synod Trust Committee was entrusted to look into the matter.

4. Synod Revival Committee was entrusted to revise guidelines for using Revival Camping Centre to be discussed in the subsequent session of the SEC.

In addition to the three current members, the following persons were appointed as members of the Archive Committee:

1) Elder F. Lalremsiamia, Khatla

2) Mr. Thankima, ATC

Rev. C. Rosiamia was appointed as the Executive Member of the PCI.



Pic: Elder H. Ronghaka, the Synod Secretary (Sr.) giving a report

5. Family Guidance and Counselling Centre Committee was entrusted to make guidelines for setting up FG&CC Committee in every District Capital of Mizoram where FG&CC existed and their proposal will be discussed in the subsequent session of the SEC.

6. Family Guidance and Counselling Centre that was situated in Chanmari Church Hall will be shifted to Bawngkawn and the FG&CC Committee was entrusted to look into the matter.

Manuals and guidelines proposed and finalized by various Committees and Boards were approved as follows:

1. The John William's Hospital Manual revised by the Synod Hospital Board was approved.

2. Synod Administrative Set up and Management along with Missionary Training Centre Manual was approved.

3. Proposal made by the OM regarding the proper utilization of basement in Pastor Quarters was approved.

4. Proposal made by the OM regarding compensation for widows of deceased in-service ministers and Pro-pastors was accepted.

5. Proposal made by the Social Front, regarding conservation of sources of water was accepted.

6. Various measures to check the outstanding Synod Hospital bill, proposed by the Synod Hospital Board were accepted.

7. The finalized draft of the Pastoral Ministry Manual was accepted.

8. The revised Mission Manual was accepted.

Some of the resolutions made upon the agenda forwarded by the Officers' Meeting (OM) were as follows:

1. On the question whether a cap ought to be made on the amount of the Medical Reimbursement Bill was discussed and the OM was entrusted to study the matter and present their findings to the subsequent SEC.

2. The SEC agreed that Mizoram Synod would host the 35th PCI General Assembly Campaign during December 15th -18th, 2016 where around 150 campaigners were expected to attend. The OM was entrusted to make the necessary arrangement regarding food and lodging.

3. The SEC agreed that Rs. 3,00,000/- be allocated in the new budget towards the construction of the BSI Translation Centre Building at Shillong.

4. The SEC agreed to make a new manual for Pastoral ministry in the various cities of India and the OM was entrusted to draft the manual and present it to the subsequent SEC.

A REPORT OF THE 42nd BIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA (PCI)

Venue: Mawsynram Presbyterian Church, KJP Synod Sepngi

Date: 27th April – 1st May, 2016.

Theme: *Gospel – Transforming Power*

Officers of the Assembly:

Moderator : Rev. Laldawngliana, Manipur Synod
Secretary (Sr) : Rev. Awnkhankhup, Zau Synod
Secretary (Jr) : Rev. B. B. Lamin, KJP Synod, Sepngi
Treasurer : Rev. B. Sangthanga, Mizoram Synod

PCI Statistics 2016:		Administrative Secretaries: <i>Rev. David T. Lhouvum,</i> CHT Synod <i>Rev. V.L. Luaia Hranleh,</i> Mizoram Synod <i>Rev. G. S. Lyttan,</i> KJP Synod Sepngi
Synods	- 9	
Provisional Synod	- 1	
Presbyteries	- 132	
Pastorates	- 597	
Churches	- 3210	
Branch Churches	- 1103	
Ministers	- 1030	
Pro Pastors	- 141	
Elders	- 11004	
Total Members	14,05,781	
Male	- 6,83,339	
Female	- 7,22,442	

The General Assembly of the PCI was attended by 1135 delegates including 473 delegates from Mizoram Synod, and representatives and visitors from abroad. Some of the resolutions were:

1. Tripura Provisional Synod: It was resolved to create a Provisional Synod for the Presbyteries within Tripura and its headquarters at Agartala. It was decided that the PCI Executive Committee will take up the matter.

2. Full-fledged Synod for the Meitei Presbyterian Singlup Provisional Synod: It was resolved to create a full-fledged Synod for the Meitei Presbyterian Singlup Provisional Synod. The PCI Executive Committee will decide for its inauguration.

3. Environment Sunday: It was resolved to observe Environment Sunday on the first Sunday of June every year.

4. Nomination Committee member:

It was resolved to include Presbytery Moderator Elect and Pastorate Chairman Elect for the member of the Nomination Committee which has to be written down in the PCI Constitution.

5. Appointment for PCI Executive Committee member:

It was resolved to change the existing PCI Constitution by stating that the Synod which has more than 3 lakhs members will appoint eight members for the PCI Executive members, and the Synod which has more than four lakhs can appoint one more member for representing one lakh members.

6. PCI Finance Committee member:

It was decided to increase the number of the Finance Committee member which would include the Assembly Officers, Ex-officio member which

represents the Finance Officers from each Synod, five members appointed by the General Assembly. Its term will be three years.

7. Writing the name of the Church: It was resolved that the PCI and its Synods follow the same pattern of writing the name of the Church. 'Presbyterian Church of India' will be written down first and the name of 'Synod' will follow. The Executive Committee will be responsible to take the necessary action.

8. Revision of the PCI Constitution: It was decided to have a comprehensive revision of the PCI Constitution and the Executive Committee will take up the responsibility.

9. New Administrative Secretary: The term of the present Senior Administrative Secretary is over and Rev. Rolianthanga Lalsim, Biateram Synod is newly appointed for the post of Administrative Secretary.

10. The New Printed PCI Constitution: It was resolved to re-print the 7th edition of the Constitution by incorporating the revision of the PCI Constitution. The new printed edition will be the Eighth Edition of the PCI Constitution.

The next PCI Biennial General Assembly (43rd) will be held at Fiangpui, Biateram Synod.

Officers will be as follows:

Moderator: Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, Mizoram Synod

Secretary (Sr): Rev. B. B. Lamin, KJP Synod Mihngi

Secretary (Jr): Rev. H. L. Marsing, Ri Bhoi Synod

Treasurer : Rev. H. N. Wallang, KJP Synod Mihngi

Statistician : Rev. Lalsangloma, Biateram Synod

Administrative Secretaries:

Rev. V. L. Luaia Hranleh, Mizoram Synod (Sr)

Rev. G. S. Lyttan,

KJP Synod Sepngi

Rev. Rolianthanga Lalsim, Biateram Synod.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AIZAWL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

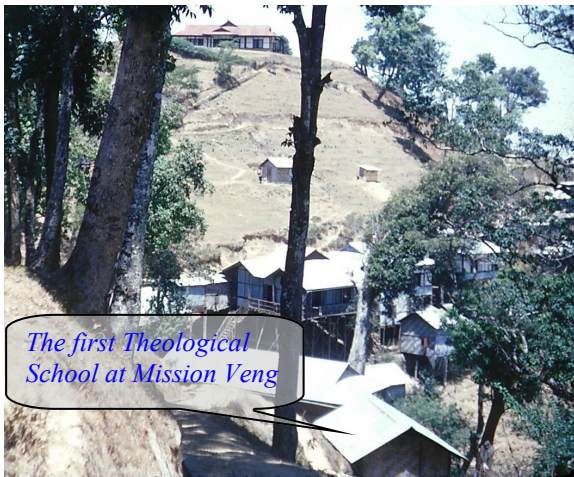
“Service to God and Humankind”

Rev. Dr. H. Lalrinthanga

Introduction: In the course of the history of Christianity, theological institutions played an important role. The inception of Christianity in a particular place has often been followed by the establishment of theological school that would become the centre for upholding Christian truth and living witness for Christ. This is the story of one such institution: Aijal Theological School, later known as the Aizawl Theological College (ATC).

Beginning of Aijal Theological School: As a result of the evangelical awakening in the later part of the 19th century and the early 20th century, various missionary societies were formed in Europe. One of them, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists Foreign Missionary Society, sent Rev. William Williams, the first missionary to the Mizo, to preached the Gospel. Williams was a Welsh missionary working at Shella, Meghalaya, and he reached Mizoram at *Kutbul Lui Chhuah* by boat on March 15, 1891. After he gave his report to the Mission Board in Wales, on his request, the Welsh Presbyterian Assembly in June 1892 agreed to adopt Mizoram as a mission field.

Rev. D. E. Jones, (whom the Mizo named Zosaphluia) arrived at Aizawl on August 31, 1897. He started the Aijal Theological School in 1907 as a humble school to train native Christians for various ministries of the church. The first five students of this school were Rosema, Dengruma, Taitea, Thangkhum and Hauchhunga. At the beginning, the course of the school was for one year and after sometime, it was extended for three years course. Within a span of 20 years 15 persons completed evangelist training and 30 lay leaders underwent lay leaders training from this school.



Development of Aijal Theological College: In 1924, the theological school was shifted from Aizawl to Durtlang at the present site of the Presbyterian Hospital. Rev. F.J. Sandy managed the administration. But Sandy unexpectedly died and Rev. E. L. Mendus moved the school back to Aizawl proper in 1927. The school was closed down in 1937 due to the Second World War. After more than one decade the school was re-opened in 1951 with the introduction of Diploma Course in Theology. In 1964 the school became a proper theological college. Rev. J.M. Lloyd became the first designated Principal and the college was located at Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl.

From L.Th to Doctoral Study Centre: In 1965, Senate of Serampore granted affiliation to the college at the level of Licentiate in Theology (L.Th.). R. Lalthanmawia, Z. T. Sangkhuma and Lalhkhana were the first three L. Th. Students. The college was then officially named “Aizawl Theological College.” When Rev. J.M. Lloyd returned to Wales he was succeeded by Rev. C. Pazawna who became the first Mizo Principal of the College. He remained in office for seventeen years. In 1971, the College was upgraded to the Bachelor of Theology level by the Senate of Serampore, replacing the L. Th. diploma course programme. In 1994, the College was shifted to its present site in Durtlang and the Senate of Serampore College allowed ATC to start the Bachelor of Divinity programme and the status of a full-fledged B.D.



New bungalow at Mission Veng which served as the Theological School from 1958-1966 and (below) J.M. Lloyd with the staff & students





The College at Mission Vengthlang and (top) the staffs and students; (below) Gospel Centenary Building at Durtlang, which is the main building in the new site



College was granted in June 1998. The B. Th. degree course was terminated in April 2002 and various departments started the Master of Theology programme. Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) was introduced from 2007 academic session. In 2013, ATC was granted the permission to become a Doctoral Study Centre, thereby becoming the first Doctoral Study Centre in North East India under the Senate of Serampore. Presently, doctoral programme is running in the department of Christian Theology, Missiology and New

Testament. Diploma in Clinical Pastoral Care (DCPC) course was also inaugurated at the beginning of this year (2016).



Library: ATC Library was started with a few books in 1965. At present, there are 64,035 books of different subjects, 192 journals were subscribed and the library holds 1185 archive materials.

All important documents were computerized. The Library is connected with internet facilities. Rare documents and other important documents were kept in the Archive. A number of research students from other colleges and universities have been using the archive materials. The Library committee is responsible to look after the library.

The old library (above); the present library and the computer room (down left), the reading room (down right) and the library building (bottom)





The new BD graduates ready for the Valedictory Service 2016; (below) visitors from Madras Christian College

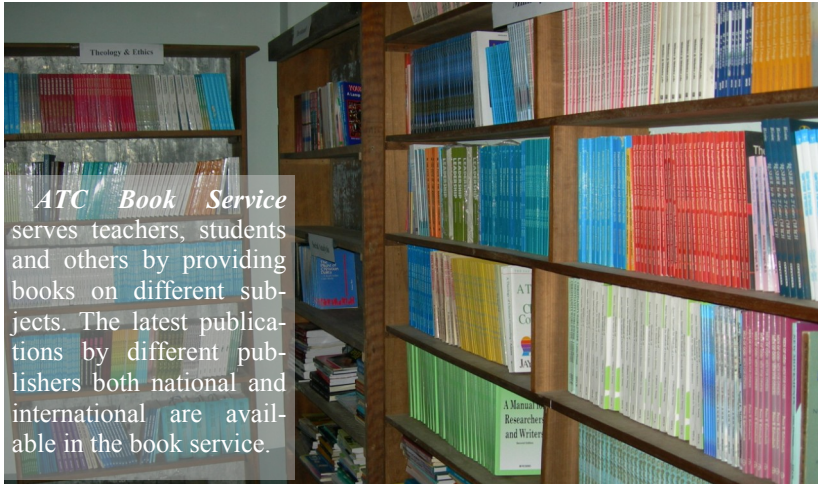
ATC is an Ecumenical College: One of the uniqueness of the ATC is its ecumenicity. Every year a number of students from different part of India and Myanmar joined the College. Students belongs to different denominations like the Presbyterian Church of India, Church of North India, Salvation Army, United Pentecostal Church, Lairam Jesus Christ Baptist Church, various Baptist Associations and others.





ATC at the Pinnacle: In 1994, the Senate of Serampore College allowed Aizawl Theological College to start the Bachelor of Divinity programme and the status of a full-fledged B.D. College was granted in June 1998. Afterward, various departments started the Master of Theology programme. Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) was introduced from 2007 academic session. ATC was also granted the permission to become a Doctoral Study Centre from 2013 and became the first Doctoral Study Centre in North East India under the Senate of Serampore. Diploma in Clinical Pastoral Care (DCPC) course was also inaugurated at the beginning of this year.





Calvin Study Centre: Calvin Study Centre (CSC) begun in ATC from 1997. It was established by the Synod Theological Education Board (TEB) with the permission of the Synod Executive Committee. The main purpose of CSC is to inform the churches about the life and teaching of John Calvin and his tradition. CSC has collected about 1116 books on Calvin's teaching. CSC used to organize Seminar on Calvinism in the District Headquarters in Mizoram. Any one interested in knowing more about Calvin's teaching may contact Director, CSC.

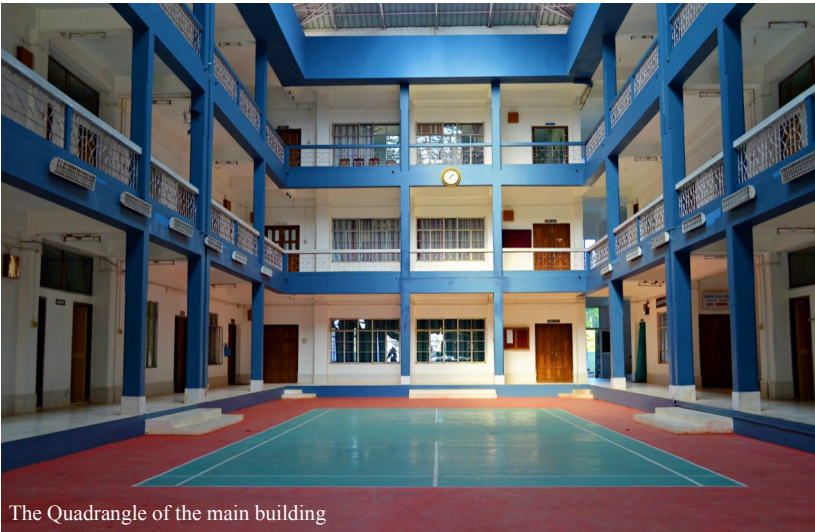
The following books were published by the Centre on Calvin's teaching:

- 1) *Calvin-a Zirtirna leh Mizo Nun*, vol. I in 2002
- 2) *Westminster Thurin leh Welsh Thurin* in 2003
- 3) *Calvin-a Zirtirna leh Mizo Nun*, vol. II in 2004
- 4) *Calvin-a zirtirna leh Mizo Nun*, vol. III in 2012



External Study Program: ATC is also a centre for two external study programs, the Bachelor of Christian Studies (BCS), and Diploma in Christian Studies (Dip. CS). They were meant to provide foundational knowledge in theology, biblical, ministry, church history, mission, religions and other related subject to the lay person. A number of lay leaders received certificates from the Senate of Serampore College through these programmes.

Mobile Theological School: One of the distinctive features of ATC is opening Mobile Theological School in different pastorates, local churches within and outside of Mizoram. The Mobile Theological School sub-committee under the leadership of the Director, prepared text books for the Old and New Testament, Religion, Church History, Christian Theology Theology and Church Ministry. All the faculty members of the ATC are being engaged in this school apart from teaching in the College.



Publication of Journals: ATC is publishing three journals. *Didakhe* (Mizo), a bi-monthly theological journal is published since 1972, with a circulation of 5,200 copies. *Mizoram Journal of Theology* (English) is published bi-annually since 1999. *Presbyterian Review* (English) is also a quarterly Magazine of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. These journals informs the churches of current theological issues and the life and work of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church particularly.



ATC encourages Co-curricular activities for an all-round development.
(top) ATC Annual Sport at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Mualpui;
(middle) Students clearing the ground after a landslide;
(below) Students assembling before work was allotted





Some scene from the Graduation cum Valedictory Program

Photo session of the new graduates and the Faculty members (top). Relatives of the new graduates enjoying refreshment (middle). The program was wind up with a feast in the Dining Hall (bottom)



Aizawl Theological College is located at a mountain top in the northern part of Aizawl, the state capital of Mizoram. Aizawl is accessible by road and air. There are several road transportation services from Churachandpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Tripura and Silchar to Aizawl and vice versa. It is presently connected by air-flights with New Delhi, Gauhati, Manipur and Kolkata.



For more information, please visit www.atc.edu.in

REPORT OF TRIPURA MISSION FIELD

*Rev. Lalengzika,
Field Secretary, Tripura Mission Field.*

Introduction: Tripura was one of the ancient princely states of India. It was ruled continuously by 184 Tripuri Kings with sovereign and independent status prior to its merger with the Indian Union in 1949. Queen Kanchanprabha Devi signed the **Tripura Merger Agreement** which was effective from October 15, 1949, after all Tripura became a part of Indian Union. Tripura was further put forward to the level of a State of India by January 26, 1972. There are many tribal groups and dialects in Tripura. However, there had always been a misunderstanding with regard to land ownership in between the Bengalis and the tribal people. In this connection, the Government of India declared President's rule in Tripura State three times during the year 1971 to 1993.

Beginning of Christianity in Tripura: The two sources of information report that some 70 Mizo Christians, who belonged to the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, migrated to the eastern part of Tripura in the beginning of 20th Century. However, the advent of New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society in the year 1938 marked a wider impact of Christianity in Tripura. In that same year 1938, the Tripura Baptist Christian Union (TBCU) was founded at Agartala. This has further led to a rapid growth of Tripura Baptist Christian Union (TBCU). Thus, the majority of Christianity has been characterized by TBCU members in Tripura. However, TBCU was then unable to take care of all its members throughout Tripura state. Some of the voices of TBCU members, who felt and identified themselves



A traditional village church

neglected by their mother church brought about the interest of Christians from other places particularly from Mizoram. The eventual circumstances were further marked by the involvement of parachurches, and finally the Mizoram Presbyterian Church (MPC) Synod in the year 1986.

On December 19, 1987, Mizo Synod and Tripura Baptist Christian Union (TBCU) made an agreement as to how the two churches will go on side by side. The Synod Mission Board (SMB), which represents Mizo Synod, after all, became so successful to spread the Gospel of Christ in Tripura Mission Field. We may assume that Tripura is one of the most successful mission fields under the Mizo Synod mission in India.

Growth of Mizoram Presbyterian Church in Tripura: Unofficially, Presbyterian Church was already formed since the year 1976. On the tenth year from then, Mizoram Presbyterian Synod Meeting in 1985 finally gave its consent to officially begin Presbyterian Church of Tripura (PCT) within Tripura State. Moreover PCT came to be unobjectionable from the NEICC rule of COMITY. June 1986 Synod Executive Committee then sent **Senior Pastor**



Rev. Thangdela to administer the whole Presbyterian Church of Tripura whose office was stationed at Noagang. Subsequently, Presbyterian Church of Tripura Inauguration Service was undertaken by Synod Moderator Rev. Robawiha at Noagang Church on July 20, 1986. In the meanwhile, Rev. S. Lalmuana and Rev. Lalchunglura were posted at Tuidu and Gontachhora Pastorate respectively. In the year 1987, the designation of the administration incharge was changed to **Administrative Officer** from

Names of the Field Secretaries

Rev. Thangdela, B.Th. BD,	1989-1992
Rev. C.M. Zalenthanga, B.Th., BD,	1993-1995
Rev. K. Lalpiangthara, B.Th., BD,	1996-2001
Rev. C. Chawngliana, B.Th., BD,	2002-2007
Rev. C. Zorammawia, B.Th. BD.,	
M.Th,	2008-2013
Rev. Lalengzika, B.A., BD., M.Th,	2014-

that of **Senior Pastor**. However, 1988 Synod conference assigned Tripura mission be under the administration of Synod **Mission Board**. And then **Administrative Officer** incharge was once again renamed the **Field Secretary**.

Synod Mission Board: Scope and Target people: The SMB indiscriminately preaches the Gospel among the different people in Tripura. But when civil war broke out in the state, conflicts, rivalries and enmities increased in between the tribals and the Bengalis. This situation affected the church members in which the tribal church members, eventually felt insecurity cope with the Bengalis. Thus, the SMB found that it's hard to go on to keep both the tribal groups and Bengalis together under one umbrella. Hence, the SMB began to cease its mission towards Bengali speaking people. As of now, the main focus people of the SMB mission are limited to tribal and ethnic groups only.

Financial Growth from April 2010-March 2015: Apart from the annual budgets coming from Mizoram Synod, the main income of Tripura Mission Field are from members' contribution. However, financial aids from Mizoram Presbyterian local churches as well as individuals keep on coming to meet the needs of the Field. We may illustrate how far the Presbyterian Church of Tripura have been increasing its financial status from the members contribution within the last 5 years:

	<i>Total Receipt</i>
2010- 2011	Rs. 41,73,175
2011- 2012	Rs. 51,43,011
2012- 2013	Rs. 56,87,508
2013- 2014	Rs. 67,35,178
2014- 2015	Rs. 84,88,173



The followings are various groups whom SMB have been working for:

- a. **Kokborok Speaking People:** Tripuri (Debbarma), Reang, Noatia (Tripuri), Koloi, Rupini, Jamatia, Uchois and Chaimals.
- b. **Halam-Kuki Group:** Molsom, Ranglong, Zo, Darlong, Kaipeng, Langkai, Bawngcher, Hrangkhawl, Morsephang, Chorai, Saihmar, Sakachep, Thangchep and Bawng.
- c. **Chakma and Mog**

- d. **Tribal groups who later came to Tripura:** Bhutia, Bhil, Garo, Khasi, Lepcha, Munda, Oraon, Santal, Meitei and Bishnuprya.
- e. **The Bengalis** who came from Bangladesh, **Nepalis** and some immigrants from various states of India.



SMB Strategy in Tripura Mission Field

7.1. Direct Evangelism: Evangelists are posted at all the Pastorates. The evangelists work under the guidance of their respective Pastors. Their main concern is to preach the gospel and make disciples. Apart from this the evangelists used to go for group outreach once in a month.

Ever since Presbyterian Church Mission started in Tripura, all the missionaries (including Pastors) are 480 in number.

Tripura Mission Field Statistics 2016

The status of Presbyterian Church of Tripura Mission Field can be illustrated from the following statistics.

1) No of Churches	:	114
2) Preaching Station	:	197
3) No of Church members	:	20829
4) No of Church elders	:	167
5) No. Of Christian families:		3494
6) Number of Mixed (Christian and Non Christian Families)	:	2624
7) Total Number of Families:		6118
8) Number of Pastorates	:	16
9) Number of Presbytery	:	4
10) Number of Pastor	:	16
11) Number of Minister	:	3

Gospel Team: Earlier, Tripura Mission Field Gospel Team, having nine members had been employed under Tripura Mission Field. However since the year 2016, the Gospel team consists of 10 evangelist members selected from different pastorates for a period of one month each. So, evangelists from the Tripura Field pastorates are selected for Gospel team members. This selection is made for a period of one month as rotation system from all the pastorates. Wherever there is a new believer the nearest pastor has to baptise him/her.



Evangelist QTRS & Church Building at Khamparpara, Agartala Pastorate and
(below) Tripura Field Original Office at Noangang, which is still preserved



7.2. Indirect Evangelism:

7.2.1. Education: Presently, Tripura Mission Field has **two Mission High School: Bethlehem English School** (at Noagang Village) and **Calvary High School** (at Tuidu Village). And **four Mission Middle Schools: Maranatha English School** (at Ambassa Town), **Elpis English School** (at Pecharthal Village), **Charisma English School** (at Karbook Village) and **Hermon English School** (at Burburia Village).



Charisma English School, Karbook

School ministry is one of the most SMB's achievements in its Mission to Tripura Mission Field. Quite a large numbers of native people are imparted education from these Mission Schools. Meanwhile, many new converts have been made after receiving the Gospel from the Mission School Teachers. Beyond this, our Mission Schools produced some well-educated professionals, Government officers, pastors, educators and so on.

7.2.2 Craft Centres: There are **four Craft Centres** at Tuingoi, Noagang, Pecharthal, and Tuidu. At these centres, we take thirty students to learn tailoring every year. At the end of the year, they finished their course of training. Consequently, the craft centre students are rewarded Certificate, and are presented one tailoring machine to each student in appreciation for their training and for their future profession. Thus, many natives came to know how to tailor; after all, they could have new skill for their own professions. Furthermore, craft centre students are taught about the Gospel. And so some of them are converted to Christianity.

7.2.3 Literature Mission: **Literature** is another vital part of our mission in Tripura Mission Field. Book translations, Sunday School Lesson, Wednesday Night Lesson, Church Hymn books, Bible and Gospel tracks etc are the main concerns under literature mission.

The present strength of Tripura Mission Schools and 2015 final results can be shown in the following tables.

<i>Name of School</i>	<i>Year of Estd.</i>	<i>Nos. of Teacher</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>Non Christians</i>	<i>Total Students</i>	<i>Appeared</i>	<i>Pass Percentage</i>
Calvary H/S, Tuidu	1976	29	694	199	893	868	87.19
Bethlehem E/S, Noagang	1977	25	626	76	702	685	88.91
Elpis E/S, Pecharthal	1993	16	50	207	257	252	94.44
Maranatha E/S, Ambassa	1995	16	84	294	378	379	88.65
Charisma E/S, Karbook	2003	16	147	203	350	395	95.18
Hermon E/S, Burburia	2012	16	88	132	220	199	97.98
Total		118	1689	1111	2800		



7.2.4 Medical and Health Mission: Tripura Mission Field also has eleven Medical Centres at Tuingoi, Noangang, Kameswar, Seisimdung, Burburia, Pecharthal, Ganganagar, Ambassa, Tuidu, Kalachhara and Ruprai. All these centres are equipped with full-time Nurse/Health workers, medicines and first aid medical instruments. Nurses and health workers also used to have home visits within their respective areas. So, medical and health mission are very helpful in SMB ministry for the progress of the local people.



Field Office Staff, Agartala

Conclusion: Mizoram Synod Annual Conference 2012 had resolved to put forward the agenda with regard to making Tripura Mission Field to the level of separate Synod in the year 2016. In response to this agenda, the PCI General Assembly 2014 agreed Tripura Mission Field would be uplifted to the level of Synod at the PCI General Assembly 2016. Consequently, the requirements to make a new Synod are under process and carried on till date. In this regard, we look forward to the final achievement be made soon in the near future. Accordingly the Tripura Mission Field has been organized and prepared to be able to meet the standard of Synod level.

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Sermon:

GOD'S PROVIDENCE*

Rev. Dr. Lalchungnunga

Text: Mt 10:29 - *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

Does God exist? This is not a relevant and necessary question for professing Christians. But does the question end there? Can there be questions which even believers ask, though often silently, like, even if God does exist, does he care? Philip Yancy deals with such questions in his book, *Disappointment with God*. Is God hidden, silent, unfair? Why does he not always explain things to my satisfaction? His conclusion: "Someone is there, I realized. Someone is watching life as it unfolds on this planet. More, Someone is there who loves me."

Our text says, Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the will of God. Mrs. Doolittle was already bed-ridden for nearly twenty years. Mr. Doolittle had to move around in a wheelchair. Yet they were always cheerful. Dr. and Mrs. Martin visited them and asked why they could always be cheerful while their physical condition was such. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was, "His eye is on the sparrow." When they went home, Dr. Martin composed that in a song: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

1. The Nature of God's Providence: Theologically, God's providence is understood as:

1) ***God's preservation of His creation:*** When God created the universe, he did not leave it alone to itself but continues to take care of it by preserving it. We know this not just by believing it but by scientific evidence. Scientists who base their argument from the Design angle tell us that God has designed the universe in such a way that life on earth is sustained. The

*(*This Sermon was delivered in the first session of the Aizawl Theological College Annual Retreat during 16th - 17th June 2016 under the theme, "The All-Sufficient God." - Editor)*

density of the atmosphere, the level of oxygen and carbon dioxide, the rotations of the moon and the earth, the distances between the planets, the distance of the earth from the sun, the nitrogen contents in the soil which is made possible by lightning and earthquakes, etc. are so designed to make life possible on the earth. They are arranged in specific proportions so that life is sustained. Simple instance is the level of the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere. God has made it to be 21% of the atmosphere, which is just good enough for life to be sustained. If the level rises to 25% fire will erupt everywhere, because oxygen is a supporter of combustion. If it falls down to 15%, human beings will suffocate (Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*, Crossway, 2004, p.98). This is just to illustrate God's providence in the preservation of his creation. This is God's preservative providence.



2) **Concurrent Providence:** It is the providence of God in working along with the secondary causal event. It is a belief that God let things happen, the cause of which apparently originates from secondary cause agents, humans or natural events. It looks as though something happens out of something, apart from God's involvement. But in reality, it is according to the will of God that it happens, his permissive will if not his directive will.

3) **Governmental Providence:** God does not leave his creation to chance or fate, nor does he originate evil but sovereignly governs everything. The philosophical argument that events are determined by fate or chance is not acceptable, because it leaves God out of the events. God rules by some means or without means or even against means, because He is supreme over everything. When He governs, He does it is to His glory. Man may not understand everything and every event, but God knows it through and through and it is to His glory that things happen.

Divine providence is very much in John Calvin's theology. In parallel to the above theological formulations, Calvin talks about **general** providence. The natural order that God has set in motion, the break of dawn, the nightfall and seasons are there set by God. There is what he calls **particular** providence through common grace, by which he means God's providence including the minutest details like the sparrow falling to the ground.

Under the particular providence come prosperity and adversity, rain and fine weather, war and peace, abundance and famine, health and disease. Calvin also speaks about **special** providence which God works out through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for the faithful believers. This will include the special blessings bestowed upon them when they trust, obey and follow God in faith. The means of receiving this providence is by faith. (H. Vanlalauva, *Doctrine of God*, ISPCK, 2006, pp.214-233).

2. Specifics of God's Providence: If the Bible and the history of the people of God are records of God's dealing with His creation, or human beings or more specifically His people, we find, in them, many specific instances of God's providence. The instances may be of different kinds, normal, abnormal, believable, unbelievable, simple, complex:

The provision of a fur coat to Adam and Eve in Genesis

In the life of Abraham, when he sacrificed his son Isaac

The life of Joseph

The birth and life of Moses, the blood marks on the doorframes, the parting of water of the Red sea, the manna and the quails in the desert, the spring of water out of the rock, etc in the book of Exodus

The serpent of bronze in the book of Numbers

In Psalms, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Elijah and Elisha's ministries
Cyrus the pagan king
In the book of Esther, the queen-
ship of Esther
In the book of Ruth, Boaz
Judges, Deborah and others
In NT, what about the donkey on whose back Jesus rode
In the life of Paul, God's preservation of his life through many perils.

God's providence is understood as:

- ***God's preservation of His creation***
- ***Concurrent Providence***
- ***Governmental Providence***

3. The Purpose of God's Providence: Calvin has said beautifully how God's providence is so precious for us. *"The first end (of providence) is to divest us of rash confidence, so as to hold us in the fear of God and then to arouse us to invoke Him. The second is to teach us to rest in God with quiet and tranquil minds and to despise with confidence and courage the perils that surround us and the hundred deaths that threaten us,"* (Institutes I 17.5 quoted by H. Vanlalauva, p. 229). When a believer whole-heartedly submits to God instead of depending upon rash self confidence, when he/she has a genuine fear of God and does not do things presumptuously, but commits himself/herself to God in everything that he/she does, the blessings of God's providence become available. What are the blessings when someone trustingly commits things to God? Solace, rest, peace, tranquility, freedom from worry and anxiety, patience, future security. It is because of God's providence that our hearts can rest assured, depending upon the rule of God who knows us, our past, present and future better than we do, that things that God allows to happen to us will certainly be for our good. The believer can rise above the circumstances and smile at the storms of life. If we fully trust in God's providence we can look beyond the clouds and be assured of the sunshine beyond. We can see and enjoy the stars in the darkest nights. We can hear the whisper of hope when things look hopeless. We can wait till the storms are past and be certain that after the storms come the calm. What a joy to know that God the provider is sufficient for us, for life, for death and for eternity. Amen.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the two issues of Presbyterian Review, viz April-June 2016 and July-September 2016 have been put together in this issue. The Editorial Board request the readers' forgiveness for this.

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I, R. Lalmalsawma, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-

Dated Aizawl the 1st November, 2016

R. LALMALSAWMA

To,

Editorial Board Members of the Presbyterian Review 2015-2016



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