

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



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Kristian Thalai Pawl: Saved to Serve

**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: **SPACE FOR YOUTH IN THE CHURCH**

In any given society at any historical context the importance of the youth cannot be overestimated. This is true even with the Christian community. Right from its inception the youth have always been the main force behind the dynamic life and witness of the Church. However, at times the role and significance of the youth have been neglected, and they would be forced to take the back seat or stand in the fringes of the Church's life and activities. Often we need to create more space for the youth in the Church.



In fact, most of the great characters in the Bible were called by God during their youthful days. In the Old Testament, distinguished figures like Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Jeremiah and many others who were called by God as young people became wonderful channels of God's steadfast love, power and justice. Even in the New Testament, young people like John the Baptist, the Twelve disciples, Paul and his companions became powerful and influential ambassadors for Christ and his Gospel. Above all, Jesus launched and accomplished his ministry of God's salvific work as a young man.

Even in the ensuing history of the Church, in the midst of strong oppositions and atrocious resistance, it is the energetic and fervent young people who brought the Gospel light to the unreached and became living symbols for the stronghold of Christian faith.

Today, as the Church faces various kinds of challenges in the forms of religious fundamentalism, globalization, materialism and free life-style fueled by the rapid advancement of information technology and the emergence of many new 'rights movements,' the Christian youth need empowerment for revitalization of the Church's life and witness. This may call for significant changes in the Church structures and traditions where the youth would be given ample space in the Church courts and administrative setup so that they may be able to participate more actively in the various decision making processes. The Church would also have to see that it makes use of the talents and resources of the youth to the maximum to vivify its life and witness even as Timothy was exhorted: "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity," (1 Tim 4:12. RSV).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Wong' followed by a stylized flourish.



**Moderator
Mizoram Presbyterian
Church Synod**

MESSAGE

The Church of God, in spite of the many adversities in our secular age, is moving forward because Christ is her secure foundation. We still have many people eager and willing to serve God on a full time basis. We have been sending out more than 2000 missionaries, and we have 16 Mission Fields (including Home Mission North and South) of which Arunachal North and Odisha Mission Fields were newly inaugurated this year. With 13 new pastorates opened this year, there are now 53 presbyteries comprising of 303 pastorates under the Mizoram Synod. This is all due to the united and ceaseless effort of the church under God's mighty guidance.

While the church members have been committed more and more to God, we must always be alert of the danger lurking just beyond us. Often some aspects of development and technical advancement resulted with things that are detrimental to our faith. Even the various policies of the government meant for development, to which the church usually give a moral support, must be scrutinized more vigilantly. The church must stand up and opposed, and keep away from, those developmental projects and policies that will pose a threat for the Christian life and holiness. Ever considering what good works God requires of us, let us prepare and stand firm in our faith.

Rev. H. Lalrinmawia

NEWS AROUND MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. Inauguration of May Bounds Hostel: May Bounds Hostel, which was meant for nursing students of Synod Hospital, Durtlang was inaugurated by the Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia on Jan. 27, 2016, 2:00 pm. The programme was led by Dr. L.H. Thanga Singson, Hospital Director and Dr. Lalbiakmawia Ngente, Architech gave a Technical Report. The programme was



dismissed with benediction by Rev. P.C. Pachhunga, Executive Secretary i/c Hospital. The newly inaugurated May Bounds Hostel was a five-storey RCC Building that can accommodate 126 students. The building construction started in 2009.

2. Commissioning of Masihi Sangati Evangelists: 18 Masihi Sangati Evangelists were commissioned on Jan. 31, 2016 at the Vaivakawn Presbyterian Church. The programme was led by Rev. K. Lalrinmawia, Synod Mission Board Secretary and Mr. Ronghaka, Mission Promoter, SMB gave an introduction and report. Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary

i/c Mission delivered a message.



3. Inauguration of Pain & Palliative Care Centre: Pain & Palliative Care Centre was inaugurated by Rev. P.C. Pachhunga, Executive Secretary, i/c. Hospital etc at the Synod Hospital Durtlang on Feb. 5, 2016. The programme was led by Dr. Lalthakima, Medical Superintendent and Rev. Ramdinmawia, Senior Chaplain of the Hospital led the devotion. Dr. Prabhakaran Nair from Pallium India, Trivandrum, who helped to set-up the centre, gave a speech. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. It focuses on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patients and their families.

4. Closing of Missionary Pre-Service Orientation and their Commissioning: Closing function of Missionary Pre-Service Orientation was held on Feb. 5, 2016 at Mission Veng Church Hall. This programme was part of the Pre-Service Orientation held during Jan.6 - Feb. 5, 2016 for the 104 new missionaries under the Synod Mission Board. Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima, Principal, Missionary Training College led the function and Rev. K. Lalrinmawia, Secretary, Synod Mission Board delivered a message. Mrs. Vanlalthawmi, Dean of Training, MTC proposed a vote of thanks.



On Feb. 7, 2016, these missionaries were commissioned at the Bawngkawn Presbyterian Church and the worship service was led by Rev. K. Lalrinmawia, Synod Mission Board Secretary. Dr. Robert S. Halliday, Coordinator, SMB gave an introduction of the missionaries and the message, along with the commissioning, was delivered by Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, the Synod Moderator. Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Mission offered a word of prayer and the service was dismissed with benediction by Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, the Senior Executive Secretary. These missionaries will serve in 19 different mission fields in various capacities like evangelists, staff nurse/health worker, craft teachers and Pastors.

5. *30th Anniversary of Hmangaihna In*: The 30th Anniversary of *Hmangaihna In* was celebrated on Feb. 19, 2016. The programme was led by Mrs. Rinchawii, Chairman of the Management Committee and Mrs. Laldawnkimi, Superintendent, gave a report and introduction. Rev. P.C. Pachhunga delivered a message.



As per the resolution of the Synod Meeting in 1980, *Hmangaihna In* was an orphanage set up inside the compound of the Synod Hospital on Feb. 15, 1986 and was managed by the Kohhran Hmeichhia. Till date, 396 children were admitted in the Home.

6. *Inauguration of New Mission Fields*: Two new mission fields, namely, Arunachal N Field and Odisha Field were inaugurated by Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Mission on March 12, 2016 and by Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, Synod Moderator on March 18, 2016 respectively.



RESOLUTIONS OF THE 261ST AND 262ND SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 261st and 262nd sessions of the Synod Executive Committee sat during 14th December, 2015 and 23rd – 25th February 2016 respectively at the J.M. Lloyd Hall, Synod Office. Most agenda, particularly those of the 261st session, were follow up of the resolutions of the 2015 Synod in which the SEC was entrusted to take necessary actions.

The 262nd session of SEC meeting was attended by Rev. D.C. Haia, Moderator, PCI General Assembly and two Administrative Secretaries of the PCI Office in connection with the Meitei Presbyterian Singlup Provisional Synod. Some important resolutions were as follows:

1. The OM was entrusted to manage the Synod Transit Accommodation at Imphal, which was vacated by the Meitei Presbyterian Singlup Provisional Synod.

2. As per the Synod 2015 resolution, the Head of Department of the Synod Hospital and one representative of the Hospital employees will be included in the PPF Board of Trustee

3. Rev. Zothansanga, i/c Luangmual Pastorate and Elder Zothanmawia, Co-ordinator, KTP were appointed as the Leader and General Secretary of the KTP respectively.

4. Rev. Lalramliana Pachau, Senior Executive Secretary was nominated as an Executive Member of the NEICC for 2016-2018.

5. Conveying the Synod decision of sending delegates to the Baptist Church of Mizoram.

6. Mr. Lalhruaitluanga, Manager, Synod Press was assigned to write the lesson for World Sunday School Day 2016.

As a follow-up to the 2015 Synod resolutions, the following sub-committees were formed to look into the following matters which will subsequently be presented to the SEC:

1. Guidelines for Church Union in Mizoram

2. Setting up of Secular College attach to the existing building of Synod Higher Secondary School.

3. Fixing rates of TA/DA, Sitting Allowance, Pastor/ Pro. Pastor House Rent and transfer expenses.

4. Synod Administrative Set up and Management along with Missionary Training Centre Manual.

5. Grant in aids for students and trainees under the various institutions of the Synod.

6. Pastoral Ministry Manual.

7. Revision of Mission Manual.

8. Measures to check the outstanding Synod Hospital bill.

9. Merging various rehabilitation centers like K. Ward, Grace Home and Rescue Home.

As a follow-up to the 2015 Synod resolutions, the followings were entrusted to make proposals to the SEC in these matters:

1. The OM, regarding compensation for widows of deceased Pro-pastors and in-service ministers, program for a state-wide mass prayer, financial assistance to church's members having four children and more, the statistics of those Pastors serving outside Mizoram, maintenance of record in various Synod Departments, the proper utilization of basement in Pastor Quarters.
2. The Social Front, regarding conservation of sources of water, eradication of tobacco consumption,
3. The Synod Service Board, regarding Ministers who voluntarily left the Synod Service, workers for the Women Centre.
4. Research and Evaluation Wing, regarding dates of commencement of newly-established churches, Youth Empowerment Programme.
5. Synod Finance Committee, regarding Synod financial control.
6. Marital Affairs Sub-Committee, regarding revision of Marital Manual.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

The newly elected Executive Secretaries of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod were in-charge of the followings:



1. Pastoral 2. Finance 3. General Administration
4. Pension and Provident Fund 5. Theological Education
6. Service Board 7. Synod Trust Committee
8. Endowment Fund 9. Synod Prison Ministry
10. Administrative Areas
11. Campus Ministry 12. Revival
13. Any other business



1. Sunday School 2. PRESCOM 3. Synod Literature and Publication Board
4. Hospital 5. Marital Matters
6. Partnership 7. Family Guidance and Counselling Centre
8. Women Fellowship 9. Synod Multipurpose Training Centre
10. Love Home (Orphanage) 11. Women's Hostel



1. Mission 2. Education 3. Synod Worship Committee
4. Archive 5. Social Front 6. Youth Fellowship
7. Presbyterian Bible School 8. Research and Evaluation Wing
9. Synod Information and Publicity

KRISTIAN THALAI PAWL: SAVED TO SERVE
(Report on the 56th KTP General Conference)

The 56th KTP General Conference was held on 3rd – 6th March 2016 at New Champhai with the theme ‘Church of God’ (Matt.16:18-19) where Rev. Vanlalbela was the appointed speaker. The welcoming of delegates and presentation of reports by the General Secretary was done on 3rd March 2016 evening service. Rev. B. Sangthanga, Synod Executive Secretary i/c KTP dedicated the booklet of KTP Annual Theme (2016-’17) and the film produced “Lungloh Tui” basing on the Annual Theme by Chhinga Veng Branch to God in prayer. Upa H. Ronghaka, Synod Secretary (Sr.), also dedicate and publicise Mizoram Synod Choir (2014 -2016) music video album, “Lal A Ni” in prayer.

The Christian Youth Fellowship/Kristian Thalai Pawl is the youth wing of the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram for the benefit of the Church in general and the youth in particular. Right from its inception, the Christian Youth Fellowship commonly known as the ‘KTP’ has been a platform to strengthen youth fellowship, sharing of leadership and pooling together of talents. It has enabled and helped its members to be closer to each other and to respect and express concern for each other. The KTP has been coordinating the youth works of different Districts and Branches and promoting closer ties to each other. As KTP is only a fellowship, it does not interfere in Church courts nor question the authority of any decisions taken by the Synod. On the other hand, it tries to be of greater service to the church as well as promoting activities among the youth.



Speaker Rev. Vanlalbela addresses the Conference



Combined Mizoram Synod-CFI Choir

On 4th March (Friday) at Champhai Vengthlang Church, Synod Moderator Rev. H. Lalrinmawia as Presiding Officer, election of CKTP Committee (2016 -2018) was held. There were 45 nominees from 46 Pastorate of Aizawl city. Armed Veng Pastorate withdrew their nominee as there were some sorts of campaign for the said nominee through the social media; the withdrawal letter was also read out during the election service. After the election, with the chairmanship of Rev. J. Lalremsiamia, Leader CKTP the business session was started.

Fraternal delegates: The General Conference was bless with the presence of fraternal delegates from Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW); Rev. Aneurin Owen (Zolawma) accompanied by CF1 Choir (18 members), 6 youths from Presbyterian Church in Taiwan Youth (PCTY), 1 member from South Asia Christian Youth Network (SACYN), 3 members from Presbyterian Youth Joint Conference, Phai Synod (Myanmar), 1 member from North East India Christian Council Youth Assembly (NEICCYA) and 1 member from Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF).



Fraternal delegates with leaders of the Mizoram Synod

Reception Reports: The numbers of registered delegates and vehicles with the Reception Sub Committee were:

1. Lodging Delegates - 18,635
2. Non-Lodging Delegates- 1,000 approx.
3. Number of vehicles
Bus - 310, Sumo - 482,
Cars - 453, Two wheeler -630,
Pick-up - 200, 407 Truck - 59,
LPK Truck - 11

Total: 2,145

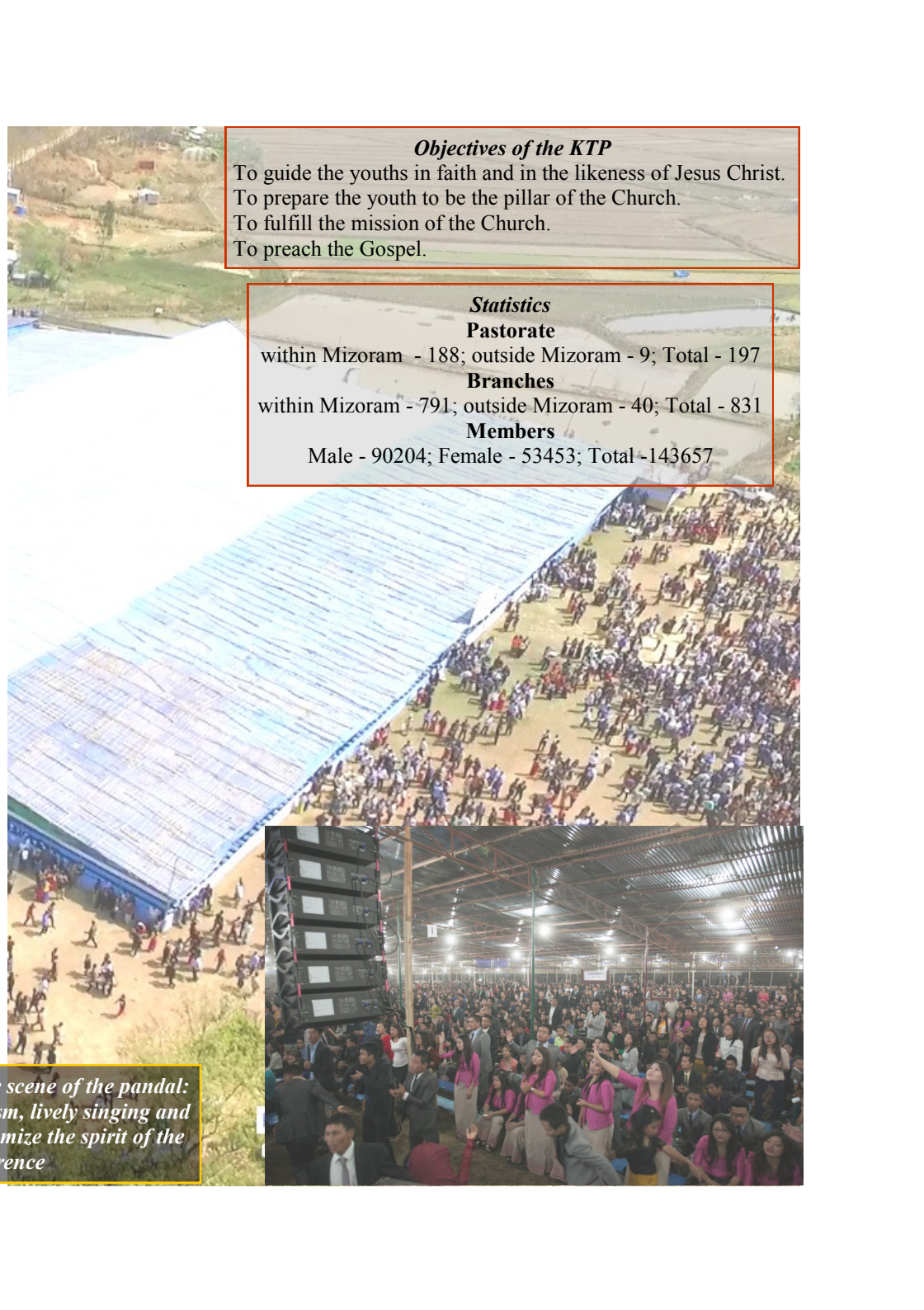
The attendance of Business session was as follows:

1. Central KTP Committee: 21
2. Delegates from Pastorate: 202
3. Delegates from Branches : 705
4. Synod Officers : 3
5. Central Women Fellowship : 2
6. Ministers/Pastors/Pro. Pastors/
Elders: 39
7. Guest : 65

Total: 1,037



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Objectives of the KTP

To guide the youths in faith and in the likeness of Jesus Christ.
To prepare the youth to be the pillar of the Church.
To fulfill the mission of the Church.
To preach the Gospel.

Statistics

Pastorate

within Mizoram - 188; outside Mizoram - 9; Total - 197

Branches

within Mizoram - 791; outside Mizoram - 40; Total - 831

Members

Male - 90204; Female - 53453; Total - 143657

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Overview of the Conference: There were 5 worship Services, where Rev. Vanlalbela deliver sermon 3 times and one time each by the Synod Moderator and CKTP Leader. Apart from the worship service Rev. P.C. Lalropuia spoke on mission and evangelism, Rev. Lalparchhuana delivered homily at Praise service, and short message from Dr. Lalliansanga (Asst.Secy), Upa K. Rorelkima (Com. member). Rev. Zothansanga, the newly appointed Leader also addresses the conference at the Fellowship Service held after Sunday Evening Worship Service.

While Business Session was in proceed at Champhai Vengthlang Church, mission oriented programme and praise service was held at the pandal. A paper was also studied on the topic 'Mentally Healthy Individual' where Dr.Lalhrekima was the resource person. Variety programme was also organised on the same day in the afternoon. Priase Service leh Fellowship programme were enlightening, which add flavour to the General conference. The sermons were lively and effective; all the person appointed to have an item fulfil their responsibility. The 57th General Conference 2018 will be hosted by West Phaileng.



KTP General Conference being organised every year was alter in the Golden Jubilee Year 2004, since then General Conference is held in alternate years with Business Session hosted by Aizawl city Area churches exclusive of which Business Session was held at Lunglei in 2013.

THE 8th MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Mrs. Lalfakmawii, Coordinator, MPWF

The Mizoram Presbyterian Women's Fellowship (MPWF) is an organ of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church (MPC), which in turn is one of the constituent Synods of the Presbyterian Church of India. The MPWF was established in 1904 in the Mission Veng Church, Aizawl. In pursuance of the resolutions of the MPC Synod Executive Committee 191:41, the MPWF General Conference and the General Business Meeting have been held every alternate years. The 8th MPWF General Business Meeting was held at Mission Vengthlang Presbyterian Church during March 11-13, 2016. As many as 455 delegates attended the Meeting from different pastorates in and outside Mizoram.

Important Resolutions:

- a) Budgets:** The MPWF budget estimate for 2016-2017 amounted to Rs. 36,00,000.00.
- b) Items for monthly prayer meetings:** The Meeting resolved to continue monthly

The Current Office Bearers of the MPWF:

Chairman : Ms. Rinchawii
(appointed by the MPC Synod)
Vice Chairman : Ms. K. Vanlallawmi
General Secretary: Ms. H. Lalpianthangi
(appointed by the MPC Synod)
Asst. Secretary : Ms. Sailuti
Treasurer : Ms. Maria Lalchhanhimi
Finance Secretary: Ms. Rallianthangi



prayer meeting with slight alteration on the prayer items. The prayer items will include: (i) prayer for children and grandchildren; (ii) prayer for every family that they may be able to have daily devotion; (iii) prayer for MPC Synod run Grace Home (Hospice for HIV/AIDS patients); (iv) prayer for overcoming the different works of evil in Mizoram; (v) prayer for Women Centre; and (iv) prayer for spiritual revivals in India and Wales.

c) Moral reforms: It was resolved that the Central MPWF Committee should make a manual for Moral Reforms.

d) Charity fund: The meeting resolved that two times, offering collections of all the local MPWF worship services would be dedicated for Synod Hospital Charity Fund. And one time, offering of all the Local MPWF services would also be dedicated for the Grace Home, a faith based Hospice for HIV/AIDS patients at the Synod Hospital.

e) The election of the Central Committee: It was resolved that the Central MPWF should find out means to reduce the number of Central MPWF committee members, and do away with the present practice of electing representatives from all the pastorates within Aizawl city.

f) One Day MPWF prayer meeting: The Meeting resolved to observe one day prayer meeting in every local PWF unit for confession/repentance of sins and for the safety of Mizoram from the natural calamities.

g) Agape journal budget: The meeting resolved to make special budget for *Agape*, an MPWF published jour-



The business sessions



nal, in the Pastorates within Aizawl city in 2016 to meet the raise in the cost of publication for the journal.

h) Hmangaihna In (Orphanage): The meeting felt that it is necessary to carefully study the proposal to increase the duration of accommodation of the babies in *Hmangaihna In* from six years to 10 years. The Central committee is assigned to study the matter and to report the same in the next General Conference.

i) Food Safety: The awareness campaign for food safety will be carried out covering the whole state of Mizoram and the Central Committee will prepare the guide book.

Public Worship Service:

In the first Public Worship service in March 11, 2016 (Friday) night, there was a welcome programme, a report of Central MPWF 2015 and the summary of the reports of all the Pastorates. And a moving message was delivered by Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, the MPC Synod Moderator. In the Saturday night worship service Rev. P.C. Pachhunga, Executive Secretary i/c MPWF delivered a challenging message. In the Sunday morning, afternoon and night services, the Speaker Rev. Lalrinmawia, Ex. Moderator



delivered inspiring and challenging messages on the MPWF General Business Meeting theme, 'The Person and Works of the Holy Spirit.'

Conclusion:

The physical and spiritual preparation of the host, Mission Vengthlang Church is praiseworthy. Their hospitality, generosity and dedication deserved great appreciation and commendation. The presence of the Holy Spirit was wonderfully experienced in the worship services, in which many people danced in praising God as the congregations cheerfully sang the songs with joy. Praise the Lord for the accomplishment of the 8th MPWF General Business Meeting with the abundant blessings of the Holy Spirit.

**CALCUTTA MISSION FIELD:
A BRIEF REPORT ON MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

*Rev. Zochhuanmawia
Field Secretary, Calcutta Mission Field*

The Synod Meeting of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, with zeal of proclaiming the Gospel resolved to open the Calcutta Mission Field (CMF) in the year 1987 and in 1988, the CMF was initiated like a tiny seed in a thick forest. In the beginning there were no members as well as workers in the city of the then Calcutta, presently Kolkata. While such being the case, the CMF received manifold blessings from God through different people and churches in Kolkata particularly from the Church of North India (CNI) Calcutta Diocese. Therefore, the CMF, by the grace of God has been growing bit by bit and increasing in members and workers as well.

At present, there are five (5) Pastorates in the CMF-Kolkata pastorate, Baruipur Pastorate, Basirhat Pastorate, Manicktala Pastorate and Bardhaman Pastorate. The Mission Field Working committee is inclined to open two more pastorates (Serampur and Kharagpur Pastorate) in the near future. The CMF is doing ministry in 11 districts out of the total 19 districts in the state of W.Bengal. Field Secretary, 5 Pastors, 39 Missionaries, 46 Field Worker Evangelists, 60 Part-time Workers are now doing their respective ministries in this Mission Field. The CMF is blessed with 60 Fellowships plus 17 Sub-Centres (Place of prayer meeting, not yet full Fellowship). The total number of members in the CMF, based on the latest (Mar. 2016) report is 3645.

Evangelism: Evangelism is the main focus behind every movement and it is where all the activities converge at one point. This is the necessary first step to be taken in order to fulfill the aspiration of Mizoram Synod Mission Board - making disciples, strengthening the believers, planting the church, self support, self Propagating and self-Governed Church. Evangelism is being undertaken in two methods: Direct and Indirect Evangelism.

Direct Evangelism: It is the method of propagating the gospel by directly approaching the people in a particular area. We have 1) Group Preaching 2) Distributing Bible Tracts 3) Gospel Campaign. This is normally organized in the Fellowships and in the street 4) Personal Evangelism – counseling 5) Seeker's Rally. A person who already knew the Gospel but not yet been baptized are called Seekers; seeker's Rally is especially meant for them 6) Film Ministry. It is one of the most important means of evangelism.



Group Prochar; Below: Non-Formal School

The message of the Gospel is conveyed through film show in different parts of the Mission Field. Besides these, when the Field Working Committee felt necessary, the Gospel Team is formed to visit and proclaim the gospel.



Indirect Evangelism: An indirect Evangelism is a mode of gospel propagation by using some means or tools so that people may pay attention to the Words of God. Even though we called it as an indirect Evangelism, the CMF considered it as an effective means of direct evangelism. These are the modes of indirect evangelism which have been using to introduce the

Good news- Non-Formal School, Spoken English Class, Adult Education, Music class, Medical Ministry and Craft training ministry. These ministries are useful to prepare the atmosphere the localities that the gospel might be freely preached.



*Top: Tailoring Graduates;
Middle: JPM Mohila Conference;
Bottom: JPM Youth Conference*



Annual Conferences

Pastorate

Pastorate Conference
Pastorate Mohila Conference
Somiti
Pastorate Youth Conference.
Pastorate Children Sunday
School Conference.

Joint Pastorate Meeting (JPM)

Joint Pastorate Meeting
Joint Pastorate Mohila Meeting
Joint Pastorate Youth Meeting.



Literature: The CMF gives so much importance to literature and publication ministry. The followings are compiled and used effectively in the Calcutta Mission Field.

Handbook and Planning: The CMF made Handbook and Planning in the year 2013. The content of this Handbook and Planning has no contradiction to Synod Mission Manual rather it helps our workers to serve the Lord in a better and more fruitful way. This book unceasingly tells us all what lies ahead of us; the destiny we made and the target we set foster our zeal for planting the church here in West Bengal.

Other Ministries:

Handful of Rice (Mustichal): This ministry is solely undertaken by Women fellowship. A number of women including other-faith (Hindu) women are also interested in this ministry. To glory of our Saviour and for the extension of His Kingdom, they contribute in cash or in kind in their respective fellowships.

Medical Ministry: A number of medical clinics are run in different places. People came to know what we preach, what we say, for whom we are working and how we want them to become.

Craft Centre: Craft centre ministry, meant for Women empowerment, is already introduced in each one of the pastorates. Ten persons are trained every year in every Pastorate. Through this mission Students/Trainees had a new life in Christ and got baptized to be His disciple.

Contribution: Members are continuously tough to contribute Kingdom of God in the Fellowship so that the church will be growing in faith and practices. While such being the case, members are also awakening in this regard as one can see the improvement in this Calcutta Mission Field.



Bengali Culture and Tradition: This book is prepared specially for the Missionaries in our Mission Field. A brief history of Bengalis and some important 'do and don't' are included in this book.

Learning Bangla Book: Knowing Bangla is the first of all necessary one to preach and to teach the gospel. Regularly, the Missionaries write their language exam while their course of exam is different depending upon

The Mohila (women) and Youth fellowship have their own guidelines and these are included in the Handbook. They elect their leaders; they do fund rising by themselves for their own affairs. They organize programmes to attract people and to strengthen members.



Pentecost Sunday at St. Nicholas Church

their seniority. This 'Learning Bangla Book' is used as the text book in our Mission field.

Church Hymnal: The Hymn book which was divided into two sections (Bangla and Hindi) has been published since a number of years ago. The latest revised edition was published in the year 2015.

Sunday school Text Book: The Working Committee felt the need of having Adult Sunday School text Book that would be prepared for our level of standards. The Committee therefore selected the topic "The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church of India" and assigned Rev. PC. Lalro-puia to write this topic which has already been published. Some works are still under process. To be honest, we are really blessed through literature and publication ministry.

Conclusion: By the grace of God alone, the Calcutta Mission Field could reach today. He abides with us. He is still our hope for tomorrow. Although the above report we read highlighted the bright side of our ministry, there are so many problems we are facing till today. We are like a child growing up beside her parent; we need support, advice and encouragement. Your prayer is the root of our success.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA: BANGALORE MIZO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Rev. Vanlalnunmawia Zawngte
Pastor i/c Bangalore Mizo Presbyterian Church*

Introduction: With lots of gratitude, I take this opportunity to pen few highlights on the rise, growth and visions of the Bangalore Mizo Presbyterian Church to be inscribed as one of the contents of the *Presbyterian Review*. Bengaluru,¹ the *Garden City* is the capital city of Karnataka state, a home of about 10 million people of whom Mizo community constitutes a negligible proportion of about 2000 people, yet making significant impact on Christian presence.

It is significant to highlight that Mizo population or **Diaspora Mizo** grew in Bengaluru in geometric proportion, in the mid 1990s about 200 people and in 2010s about 2000 people, i.e. tenfolds growth. This fast growth of Diaspora Mizo community may be ascribed to the Bengaluru city development, employment opportunities, educational facilities and accommodative sentiments of the local people. The growth of Diaspora Mizo population is likely to continue for years because of lack of infrastructure and job opportunities for our youths in our home state. This is true in other Indian metropolitan cities too. Therefore, Mizoram Synod Conference of 2007 passed a resolution that Pastors/Ministers be stationed in Indian mega cities to cater the spiritual and ecclesial needs of our Church members and Mizo community.



A fully packed Worship Service at UTC

Bangalore Mizo Church is established:² Out of necessity the Mizo Presbyterian Church was established on 6th November 2011 mostly by Mizo Presbyterian Church members. From the mid 1970s Mizo community began their regular worship service called Bangalore Mizo Christian Fellowship (BMCF). Diaspora Mizo grew in numbers, in the mean time there crept up diverse needs of spiritual nurture and church court matters for which establishment of Presbyterian Church is a necessity. Diaspora Mizo or the migrant population engaged themselves in varied professions apart from education viz. office jobs, menial jobs, hotel & restaurant chef and waiters, entertainers, spa & beauty professions, sports w/men, paying-guest, petty traders and the like. Christian Fellowship cannot administer church court related matters viz confirmation, sacraments – baptism and Holy Communion,³ discipline, and marriage ceremony, these are all what our members most urgently needed.

Out of this necessity, certain Church ministers in United Theological College and theologians and likeminded people formed Church Committee. After months of cautious move the first Church worship was held on Sunday 6th November 2011 at Tagore Hall No.3 UTC, attended by 86 members. The establishment of Mizo Church in Bangalore was reported to the Synod Executive Committee (SEC), and the matter was taken up and then endorsed to the Synod Conference 2011. The Synod Conference decided that the Church be recognised and suitable minister be posted. The 2012 February SEC session nominated Rev. Vanlalnunmawia Zawngte for Bangalore Mizo Church Pastor. With much enthusiasm the Church welcome the new pastor on 29th April 2012 Sunday worship service; in fact it was jubilation for the church because they ultimately have the Pastor that signifies Synod's approval of the Church.⁴ Since then the church has been growing in varied and significant dimensions.



A section of the Congregation members

Worship service is held on Sunday at 3:00 pm at JRC Hall, United Theological College, paying a rent of Rs, 5,000/- per service. Last Sunday of a month is dedicated for Sunday School, and the rest Sundays are for Sermon/Sacraments. Marriage service and church court matters are done here. Children Sunday School is conducted every Sunday following Mizo Sunday School Union syllabus. In order to enhance the spiritual life of the members, Church arranged crusade or camping on yearly basis, with speakers from outside source. The spiritual vigor is so to say normal, since church meeting can happen only once a week it is difficult to experience ecstatic atmosphere as always happen in Mizoram Church.



Growth: As mentioned above, attendance of the church worship began with two digit number, in no time it grew to three digit. Church attendance has now touched 200 plus on Sundays and rose to 400 plus on Christian festivities. Church statistics is maintained according to Synod rules, and members in the statistics include Church ministers and their family, permanent residents and holding migration from the parent church. Majority of attending youth members are not counted since their registry remains with their home churches. According to 31st August 2015 statistics, there are 73 full Communicant with a total of 116 member, with growth in membership nearly two-folds since 2012.

The Church submitted its tithes to the Synod beginning from 2013 financial year as follows:

2013-14 FY: Rs. 7,07,702/- by 54 Communicants @ 13,105.59/comm., rank 3rd highest under the Mizoram Synod

2014-15 FY: Rs. 11,63,218/- by 64 Communicants @ 18,175.28/comm., rank 2nd highest

2015-16 FY: Rs. 12,68,724/- by 73 Communicants @ 17,379.78 comm., rank 3rd highest

Grand Total Submitted within 3 FY amounted to Rs, 31,39,644/-

Church Committee: With the Pastor as a Chairman, ordained ministers of the PCI and Tual Upa (elected members for three year term) constitute the Church Committee. At present five ordained ministers and six Tual Upa constitute Bangalore Mizo Church, having its meetings on every second Saturday of the month.



The Church Committee Members

Women Fellowship (Kohhran Hmeichhia): Having 30 plus membership Women Fellowship was established in 2012. It has regular fellowship meeting and committee sittings on every first Saturday of a month. A handful of rice or Buhfaitham is entrusted in their care and submitted to the Synod exchequer Rs. 47,250/- in 2015-'16 Fin year. Apart from this,

contribution is collected for submission in the Central fund and giving in aid of the poor and destitute Homes. They gave away certain amount in aid of Delhi and Kolkata Mizo Church Women Fellowship.

Youth Fellowship (KTP): Enrollment of membership touches about 350 every year, the KTP is vital to the growth and life of the Bangalore Mizo Church, in fact majority of church attending members constitute the youths. Like the Women Fellowship, KTP fund rising drive is made for submission to the Central fund and for gifts, presents and alms. They made presents in aid of Kolkata and Delhi Mizo Presbyterian Church. For two years on they supported 1 missionary through Synod Mission Board. They have their Fellowship evening service after Church service is over. One of the commendable services rendered by the KTP is conducting the Church Choir. The Mizo Church Choir is one of the known Singing Choirs in Bengaluru, practically our Church choir received invitations from many quarters, they could hardly fulfil all such invitations. They presented their numbers and traditional dance Cheraw etc. in CSI mission convention at Chennai. Blood donations at local Hospitals and Vellore too.



Social Front Committee: Social Front Committee was formed to cater the needs of mainly fresh students in doing admission. This is because new comers are vulnerable to cheating and exploitation by admission agents. The committee members are entrusted with information regarding authentic and reliable institutions where the admission seekers may cautiously move ahead avoiding agents and middle-w/men. Yet one of the tragedies

is that some admission agents or HR directly go to Mizoram and North-Eastern states having their accomplices in such areas and are still doing direct admission and recruitment. Many of such victims wasted lakhs of rupees.

Vision: Bangalore Mizo Church has spectrum of visions and missions. Major concern of the church is catering the spiritual needs of the Diaspora Mizo community here in Bengaluru and South India.⁵ Apart from normal Sunday worship the church arranges home, hostel and institution visits and locating fellowship services whenever and wherever possible. Mizo students residing in Mysuru and Mandya have been given sacraments occasionally, and also visiting Vellore and Chennai for different programmes and on special request viz, blood donation and cultural programmes, even to Hyderabad for joint fellowship with Mizo community.

One of the most important missions of Bangalore Mizo Church is building strong partnership with Churches in South India especially with CSI. The Church of South India has now recognised the presence of Mizo Presbyterian Church in South India. On certain mission programme our church.

Notes

¹ *Bengaluru is a new name adopted by the State Assembly and approved by the Central Government. But our Church was registered in the Society/Trusts before it was changed and that the official name remains Bangalore Mizo Presbyterian Church.*

² *Bangalore Mizo Church is the popular name, an inclusive term as used in - Shil-long Mizo Church, Guwahati Mizo Church, Kohima Mizo Church, Tura Mizo Church, etc. The official name is 'Bangalore Mizo Presbyterian Church.'*

³ *Holy communion has now been served in various Mizo Christian Fellowship communities, but the inclusion of non-ordained members to assist celebrant minister has been objected by many of our members.*

⁴ *Jubilation because, from many quarters oppositions claimed that this is self-styled Church which the Synod would not recognize and not be given Pastor to look after it.*

⁵ *Bangalore Mizo Church's vision is not limited to Bengaluru and South India alone, Mizo community living in other big cities in India and abroad be organised under meaningful Church administration which will be counterproductive to moulding our future generation to enhance their spiritual life and ecclesial understanding. Many of our members in cities are people with extraordinary talents whose wisdom and capacities the Church would really benefit with. Apart from this the Church will also be benefited with the contributions submitted to the Synod. The hitherto untapped resources would constitute sizable percentage of Synod income in near future.*

leaders are always regarded as a must guest of importance. In this partnership endeavour single church alone can do little, strong and meaningful partnership bit can be done through Synod level. The church is eagerly looking forward to strong partnership between Mizo Synod and CSI Synod so that we may be able to get a permanent worship place in the CSI premises. The Church is recruiting leaders from Mizo local residents who would be our future leaders to make impressive Mizo Christian presence in South India.

IN MEMORIAM

REV. VANLALFAKA

(1944-2015)



Rev. Vanlalfaka, the second son of Elder Chalkhuma (L) and Vanzingi (L) was born on 10th July, 1944 at Biate village, Mizoram. He had six (6) brothers and four (4) sisters but only his 3 brothers and 3 sisters still survive today. He was married to Zahliri while he was a Probationary Pastor in Baktawng on 17th April 1968. He was blessed with a daughter and three (3) sons, namely, (1) Laltanpuia (L)

H/o Lalmuansangi, (2) Lalmuanpuia H/o Lalrinkimi, (3) Lalhruaitluangi and (4) R.Lalnunpuia H/o K. Malsawmkimi. He also had seven (7) grand children.

Education: Rev. Vanlalfaka had done his Primary and Middle level education at Tlangpui and Sialhawk village respectively and studied his secondary/ high school level at Biate village. He could not fulfill his dream of pursuing higher studies due to financial constraint of his family. Before finishing his high school at Biate village, he was selected to join Diploma in Theology at Aijal Theological College. He finished his Diploma in Theology in 1965. While working as a Probationary Pastor, he completed Serampore Matriculate in 1969. In 1975, he pursued Bachelor of Theology at Eastern Theological College, Jorhat, Assam. He again completed Bachelor of Divinity at the same college in 1979 and also studied Christian Counseling at Vellore in 1984.

Ministry: In 1965, he was inducted as a Probationary Pastor and served at Baktawng village under Thingsulthiah Pastorate. Later, he was ordained as a Pastor on 2nd June 1968 at Dawrpui Special Synod by Rev. Lalngurauva Ralte, the then Mizo Synod Moderator. He retired from active service in 2005. During his entire service of thirty nine years, he solemnized 390 marriage couples and baptized 4,367 individuals.

Rev. Vanlalfaka was usually remembered by the people of his pastorate for his modesty. He was sincerely devoted and gave top priority to his pastoral ministry. He took parts only in activities which would not hamper his Pastoral Ministry like School Managing Committee Member, Branch President and Vice President, Bible Society of India, North East India Christian Council Member, State Level CASA Committee Member, United Theological College Bangalore Council Member, Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Member, Jail Committee Member, Executive and Working Committee Member Presbyterian Church of India.

His last Days: He started having difficulties in controlling his movement in 2006. The same year he was referred to Guwahati Neurological and Research Centre, Guwahati and was diagnosed as suffering from Cerebral Ataxia. Since Cerebral Ataxia is a degenerative disease, medical science could not cure his illness. The only treatment possible was to delay the disease. Gradually, his health slowly degenerated and he could not attend Church services from 2009. He was brought to his youngest son's wedding on 13th Nov, 2012 with the help of a wheel chair and that was the last church service he attended.

A timeline of his ministry under the Mizoram Presbyterian Church is as follows:

1965-1967 : Probationary Pastor at Baktawng under Thingsulthiah Pastorate

1968-1972 : Darlawn Pastorate

1972-1975 : Studied B.Th at Eastern Theological College, Jorhat

1975-1984 : Lokicherra Pastorate (Zawlnuam)

1985-1991 : Serchhip Pastorate

1992-1996 : Champhai Vengthlang Pastorate

1997 : Mizoram Synod Moderator

1998-2000 : Executive Secretary, Mizoram Synod

2001-2003 : Senior Executive Secretary, Mizoram Synod

2004 : Principal, Presbyterian Bible School

2004-2006 : Synod Finance officer

On 4.11.2015, he was admitted to Synod Hospital, Durtlang due to high fever and was treated for sixteen days. He was discharged from the Hospital on 19.11.2015 and was looked after at his own home in Chawnpui, Aizawl. But his fever recurred on 4 Dec, 2015 and was admitted again at the Synod Hospital, Durtlang for the second time. On doctors' advice, he was lovingly looked after by his family in his own home from 12.12.2015 onwards and he peacefully breathed his last at 6:30 pm on 22nd January 2016.

His funeral service was led by Pastor Lianhmingthanga Sailo i/c Chawnpui Pastorate at home while Rev. H. Remthanga, Finance Officer, Mizoram Presbyterian Church administered the Church funeral service at Chawnpui Presbyterian Church. The church choir sang 'Halleluiah Chorus' to pay their respect to one of the most faithful and most dedicated Ministers whose entire life was devoted to serving God and his people with unfailing commitment. Hundreds of mourners paid their final tribute at the Church by singing "Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours? Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers". May the good Lord comfort and strengthen his family in their bereavement.



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