

# PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



**VOL. XXVII January - March 2017 No. 81**



**Missionary  
Training  
College**

**A light  
to the world**

**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***THE CHURCH'S MISSION TODAY**

The church is in the world with a purpose, that is, to carry out God's mission of healing in Christ. As the body of Christ, the church has to be faithfully and sincerely engaged in this mission. The church has drawn its inspiration for mission from the ministry of Jesus Christ and the instruction that Jesus gave to his disciples to make disciples of all nations. The mission of the church proved to be both challenging and demanding. This mission is heartening as it goes along with the promise of divine presence till the end (Mt 28:19-20).



The church is accountable to equip God's people and to give adequate training for mission. Following the pattern adopted by Jesus, the church has established institutions that are meant for training people who are going to engage in God's mission. These institutions provide theological, missiological and ministerial training to equip people of God for the divine mission. However, these training centres need constant re-evaluation and up-grading in terms of infrastructure, staff and curriculum, and revise their mission statements to address the need of the world today and be sensitive to the signs of the time.

The world we live today has witnessed mass displacement of people due to ethnic tensions, conflict of communities and wars; and these have caused migration issues to be pertinent global agenda today. Various forms of oppression, exploitation and discrimination on grounds of race, gender and social standings have remained a heavy burden for millions of people around the globe. The upsurge of violence, poverty, religious fundamentalism, HIV-Aids, drug addiction and alcoholism has become more threatening to the global communities than ever before.

The church, as the agent of God's redemptive mission in Christ has to squarely address the burning issues of today to heal the wounds and the ugly faces of the world inflicted by the ever haunting evil, and stand firmly for the values of the Gospel, such as peace, justice, equality and love.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ghosh'.





**1. Pastor/Pro Pastor Induction:** As per the resolution of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod (MPCS) Meeting of 2016, 71 Pastors and 23 Probationary Pastors were inducted at different pastorates in and around Mizoram on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

**2. Synod Hospital:** The 43<sup>rd</sup> Oath Taking & Lamp Lighting Ceremony was held at Synod Hospital Chapel on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017. Mrs R. Lalchhanhimi, Nursing Superintendent presided over the Oath Taking & Lamp Lighting and the Synod Moderator Rev. Lalzuithanga who was invited as the Chief Guest delivered a message.



**3. MPF:** The 31<sup>st</sup> Mizoram People Forum (MPF) Governing Board Meeting was held at Synod Committee Room No.1 on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. The meeting was presided over by the President Rev Lalzuithanga, Moderator, MPCS. This meeting was attended by 260 delegates. This meeting resolved to have Media Cell, training for MPF Resource persons, seminar on good governance and making Centrally Sponsor Scheme (CSS) guidelines.



**4. Synod Mission Board:** The 50 missionaries who were recruited by the Synod Mission Board after completing the Orientation Training were commissioned by the MPCS Moderator Rev. Lalzuithanga at Electric Veng Presbyterian Church on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.



**5. Campus Ministry:** 'Awareness Campaign on Tobacco' was organized by the Campus Ministry at Presbyterian Bible School (PBS), Aizawl on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017. Mr Lalremruata, Consultant, State Tobacco Control Society and Rev Lalchungnunga, Director, Campus Ministry were the two resource persons. Tobacco Quitters of Mizoram President Upa Saimawia and PBS Principle Rev Lalneihvura also participated in the awareness campaign.





**6. MSSU:** During the months of January and February, Mizo Sunday School Union teachers' training was held in the following pastorates and local church: Chanmari West Pastorate, Lunglei Chanmari Pastorate, Zaito Pastorate and Dinthar Vengthlang Church.

**7. FG&CC:** Like the previous years, the Family Guidance and Counseling Centre (FG&CC) of the MPCS organized 'Christian Family Seminar' during 18-19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017 at Khawzawl for three selected Pastorates namely, Khawzawl Vengthar Pastorate, Khawzawl Venglai Pastorate, Khawzawl Dinthar Pastorate and Chawngtlai Pastorate.

**8. KTP:** Kristian Thalai Pawl, the youth wing of the MPCS hold their 7<sup>th</sup> KTP Biennial Business Meeting at Bawngkawn Presbyterian Church during 3-5<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Rev Lalramliana Pachau, Senior Executive Secretary of the MPCS released the booklet of 2017-2018 entitled 'Pressing on Towards the Goal' and the Synod Moderator Rev Lalzuithanga also released a film organized by Khatla Branch KTP. The Meeting also accepted 'Jesus Christ: The Need of the World' as the theme for the year 2018-2019 and the budget of Rs 59,68,000 for the year 2017-2018.





**9. SL&PB:** The Synod Literature and Publication Board organised 'Literature Seminar' on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Centre, Aizawl. The Seminar was divided into two sessions where Rev. Dr. C. Chawngmgingliana, Editor SL&PB presented a paper on the topic 'The Importance of Literature and Writing Books' in the first session and Elder Prof R.L Thanmawia presented a paper on the topic 'Church Language and Linguistics' in the second session. The meeting was attended by 350 people.

**10. Revival Speakers Retreat:** A residential retreat was organized for Speakers at the Synod Conference Centre during 15-17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 where 65 Synod Revival Speakers attended the retreat. The Synod Revival Department also organized 'Operation Nehemia' in which the speakers were given the task of preaching in the street at night.

**11. Seminar on Calvinism:** Calvin Study Centre of the Aizawl Theological College organized seminar on Calvinism on the topic 'Church and Politics' at Vaivaikawn Presbyterian Church on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Papers were presented by Rev. Vanlalrova Kiangte in the first session and Rev. R. Vanlaltluanga in the second session.



**MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SYNOD  
MISSION FIELD HEADQUARTERS**

1. **Arunachal & Assam East Mission Field**  
Khasan, Jugli Village  
B.P.O. Kuttum, via Miao  
Kharsang - 792 122  
Changlang District  
Arunachal Pradesh
2. **Arunachal West Mission Field C-2 Sector**  
Itanagar - 791 111  
Post Box No. 139  
W. Arunachal Pradesh
3. **Arunachal North Mission Field**  
Opp. St. Xavier International School  
Bogdo, Tin –Ali  
P.O. Aalo – 791001  
West Siang District  
Arunachal Pradesh
4. **Assam Mission Field**  
Mizo Church Compound  
Near Nicholas High School & CASA  
K.C. Road, Satrbari, Guwahati -8  
Assam - 781008
5. **Barak Area Mission Field**  
Mission Compound  
Church Road, Silchar - 788044
6. **Delhi Mission Field**  
L-64, Ground Floor  
Laspat Nagar 1, H-Block-71  
Delhi - 110024
7. **Jharkhand Mission Field**  
Opposite Radha Madhawa Mandir  
By Pass Road, Near Gandhi Maidan  
Gilan Para, Dumka - 814 101  
Jharkhand, Bihar
8. **Karbi Anglong Mission Field**  
Mission Compound  
P.O. Diphu - 782 460  
Karbi Anglong, Assam
9. **Kolkata Mission Field**  
Mizoram Synod House, First Floor  
Shrachi Centre, Kolkata - 700 016
10. **Lucknow Mission Field**  
Lucknow Publishing House  
Bangalow No. 2  
37 Cantonment Road  
Lucknow - 226001
11. **Nepal Mission Field**  
G.P.O. Box No. 8975  
E.P.C. 810  
Khatmandu, Nepal
12. **Odisha Mission Field**  
Flat No.204, Bock 'B'  
Kokilla Garden, Phase II  
Khariput -751 020  
Bhubaneswar
13. **Patna Mission Field**  
c/o V.K. Trivadi  
Opp. A.N. College, Gate II  
Boring Road, Patliputra  
Patna - 13, Bihar





**14. Siliguri Mission Field**

333/1, Patel Road  
P.O. Pradhan Nagar  
Siliguri - 734 403,  
W.Bengal

**15. Tripura Mission Field**

Mizoram Synod House  
Shymali Bazar  
P.O. Kunjaban - 799006

**16. Home Mission North**

SMB Headquarters Office  
Synod Office,

**17. Home Mission South**

Synod Office,  
Chanmary  
Lunglei - 796 701

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE 264<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 267<sup>th</sup> session of the Synod Executive Committee sat during 21<sup>st</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 at the J.M. Lloyd Hall, Synod Office. Most agendas were follow-up of the 2016 Synod resolution in which the SEC was entrusted to take necessary actions. Some important resolutions were as follows:

1. The OM was entrusted to implement the proposed draft for church union in Mizoram.
2. The OM was entrusted to look into the prospect of merging the centers for drugs rehabilitation program (K. Ward, Grace Home and Rescue Home).
3. As per the application of the Sr. Auxiliary Secretary of the Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary to nominate one Bible translator from our minister, the OM nominated the name of Revd Chuathuama which was approved by the SEC.
4. The SEC approved the proposal of the Theological Education Board to depute Dr. Lalrindiki Ralte, Associate Professor of the Aizawl Theological College as the Dean of SCEPTRE and she will assume her post from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.
5. The Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Sunday School Association (AISSA) and the Mizoram Synod regarding the service of Rev. Dr. Hmingthansanga rendered to AISSA was accepted.



6. The application of Mizoram Theological Association to organize an interdenominational Unity Carol Service during November 2017 was accepted in principle and the OM was entrusted to take up the matter.

7. The revised manual of the Family Guidance and Counselling Centre was accepted.

8. Mrs. K. Lalliantluangi, Lily Veng, Aizawl was elected as the Chairman while Mrs. H. Lalpianthangi, Synod Office was appointed as the General Secretary of the Central PWF (Kohhran Hmeichhe Inkhawmpui Lian).

9. As proposed by the Synfo Committee, a state-wide singing competition – which was an annual feature since 2014 - will be organized again and Rs. 7,00,000/- was allocated for expenditure.

10. It was agreed that proposal to revise the Synod Financial Rules be put forward to the Synod meeting.

11. Establishment of High Dependency Unit at the Synod Hospital was agreed in principle.

12. The revised manual of the Women Centre was accepted.

The following Boards and Committees are entrusted to make proposals as a follow-up to the 2016 Synod resolutions:

1. The OM - regarding state-wide media awareness seminar, digital media ministry by the Synod, mission work in Myanmar, wages of daily and contract workers, and construction of church building inside the campus of UTC, Bangalore.
2. Hospital Board - regarding establishment of a rest house in the vicinity of Synod Hospital and Limited private Practice of Doctors serving in the Synod Hospital.
3. Synod Service Board - regarding revision of the Synod Service Rules.
4. Research and Evaluation Wing - regarding the implementation of Youth Empowerment Programme.
5. Synod Trust Committee - regarding proper utilization of CASA Building in the Synod Hospital Compound.
6. Synfo Committee - regarding revision of Synfo manual.





## MISSIONARY TRAINING COLLEGE

**M**issionary Training College (MTC) is a centre for mission studies and missionary training under the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. It is a premier college of the Senate of Serampore College (University) offering Bachelor of Missiology (B.Miss.) degree course.

### HISTORY

In 1977, the Synod meeting of Mizoram Presbyterian Church resolved to set up Missionary Training Department under Aizawl Theological College (ATC) and this was implemented in 1978. In 1995 ATC was shifted to Durtlang from Mission Vengthlang locality and Missionary Training Department continued to become part of ATC. However, in 1996, Missionary Training Department was separated from Aizawl Theological College to come under the direct control of the Synod Mission Board. The name was eventually changed to Missionary Training Centre and moved back to its old campus in Mission Vengthlang that had been occupied by Christian Multipurpose Training Centre (now Synod Multipurpose Training Centre). For many years, the Centre trained many



missionaries from different mission fields. It also trained pre-service missionaries as missionary recruits. As the demand increased to have a higher standard training course, in 2007, the Synod resolved to upgrade the centre to a full-fledged college offering the degree of Bachelor of Missiology. The resolution of the Synod was implemented when the Missionary Training College was finally inaugurated on the 4th June, 2010.

The curriculum for B.Miss. course was initially framed by theologians appointed by the Synod Mission Board of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. The work of building and organizing the course content was done and finalized by the

faculty of Missionary Training College in 2010. Rev. Dr. Ravi Tiwari, the then Registrar of the Senate, who visited Missionary Training College in 2011, had a keen interest in the existence of such syllabus even before the official launch of B.Miss. course. He then took the copy home, and basing on this syllabus the present B.Miss. Syllabus of the Senate of Serampore College was finalized. After three years of provisional affiliation, MTC was granted full affiliation to the Senate of Serampore College (University) at the Senate meeting and Convocation held at Dimapur in 2017. MTC has now become the first and only college/institution offering Bachelor of Missiology to have been granted full affiliation to the Senate.



*MTC Students donning Mizo traditional dress*



*Visitors with Faculty members of MTC*



*Mission Seminar organized by MTC*





*Students led outdoor worship service in their practical work*



*Reaching the unreached with the Gospel message*





*Library of the MTC*



*Students playing Sepak-tak-raw*





*MTC Faculty with Senate of Serampore College Officials*

## VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision of Missionary Training College is to fulfill the great commission of Christ in the spiritual, socio-economic, political, cultural and religious context of the contemporary world. This involves recruiting committed men and women to become more effective missionaries and mission leaders in order to play a significant role in contemporary missionary enterprises and social transformation by responding to the calling of God.

The College takes a sincere effort to inculcate its motto 'Fiat Lux' (Let there be light) into the minds of the students as a guiding principle. The College also seeks to create a good environment for mutual co-operation between the mission

fields and the sending churches or bodies and between mission bodies. It also tries to develop maturity in the understanding of the Bible and Christian faith. Another important concern of the College is to impart a proper understanding of the concept and practice of mission to the students/trainees.

## THE COURSES

**1. Bachelor of Missiology (B.Miss.):** Bachelor of Missiology is a three years degree course. The maximum duration for a candidate to complete all the requirements is five years from the date of registration. The Course is affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College.

**2. Short Course Missionary Training:** This is a Certificate Course of three months. At least two batches are trained every



year under this course. The Synod Mission Board select missionaries from different mission fields for this training course.

### ***3. Missionary Refresher Course:***

This course is designed to refresh the missionaries who have been working in different mission fields for more than ten years. The duration of the course is one month.

### ***4. Mission Orientation Course:***

Mission Orientation course is offered for the missionary Pastors and Field Secretaries who are newly posted to the Mission fields

by the Synod. The duration of this course is two weeks.

### ***5. Pre-Service Missionary Orientation:***

As entrusted by the Synod Mission Board, the College faculty takes up the responsibility of organizing orientation training for newly recruited missionaries. This course generally lasts for one month.

## **FACULTY**

The College has at present 13 teaching faculty members having rich mission field experiences in India and abroad.



# REPORT OF ASSAM MISSION FIELD

*Rev. H. Lalhmingawia,  
Field Secretary*

**1. Introduction:** Assam and its commercial capital Guwahati form the gateway to the northeastern states. It covers the area of 78,438 kilometres (30,285 sq mile). It has an unique locational advantage of being situated close to south east Asian countries. The etymology of Assam often comes up as a topic

of debate. Though the exact etymology of Assam is not clear, and a number of theories came up to address the issue, the academic consensus is that the name is associated with the Ahom kingdom, which was established in the year 1228 and ruled it for nearly 600 years.

The people of Assam inhabit a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, and multi-religious society. The Vaisnava revival of the middle age brought to the attention, the great Vaisnavite saint Srimanta Sankardeva (1449-1568), who developed Eka-Sarana-Namadharma (a faith of allegiance to one God) which was a part of the neo-Vaisnavite movement of India. And this became a popular religious organization in Assam.



Assamese culture is often known as hybrid culture. It is characterized by symbolism, festivals, traditional crafts and paintings. According to 2011 census, the population of Assam is 3,11,69,272 in which 40% are immigrants. Assamese is the most widely spoken language of Assam and is spoken by more than one crore people.

**2. Christianity in Assam:** Bible was first brought to Assam by Portuguese Jesuit missionary Fr. Cacella and Bro. Cabral. They were the first missionary to set foot in Assam on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1626. This is reckoned as the beginning of Christianity in Assam. Among the rising churches like, Baptist church, Lutheran church, Church of North India, Roman Catholic church, Pentecostal church and various independent churches, Baptist church is known as the biggest and well organised church in Assam. Many of them are involved in mission works. The current Christian population of the state is 11,65,867 (2011 census).

According to the 2001 census, the major religions in Assam are,

Hinduism	(65%),
Islam	(31%),
Christianity	(4%),
others	(<1%).



Assam Mission Field Quarters, Satribari, Guwahati



**3. The beginning of Mizoram Presbyterian Church in Assam:** After a systematic study of the land, Mizoram Presbyterian Church started mission work in Assam since 2008. The Assam Mission Field was established in the year 2008 on March 12 with only 274 church members, 2 ordained ministers (the Field Secretary and one Pastor) and 40 other missionaries and workers. After 8 years there is much to report but current report of this Field in 2017 is summarised as follows.

The field headquarters is in Satribari, Guwahati. Mission Workers are stationed in 30 different places between Digboi in Upper Assam and Pathsala in Lower Assam. Since the time of establishment, mission to towns and cities is started targeting middle class people of Assamese. The Church's growth rate is not so high, but quite balanced in certain aspects.

The present statistics of Assam Mission Field is shown below.

*Workers*

1) Ordained Ministers	4
2) Missionaries & other workers	113
3) Pastorate	3
4) Church/Fellowship	30
5) Church Members	1044
6) Communicant Members	720
7) School (Primary-High school)	1
8) Students	372



Officials at the 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration of St. Paul School, Bhairabkunda

**4. Activities and practices in Assam Mission Field:** Direct and indirect evangelism is practised in the field. Planting of three-self church is the main goal of the mission. Some ministerial activities are summarised as follows:

a) *Conference/Meeting:* The three pastorates hold Annual Pastorate Conference in their respective pastorates in the month of March & April. Annual Joint Pastorate Meet is held in the month of September.

b) *Mission School:* There is one High School at Bhairabkunda, Udalguri District - St. Paul School with 372 students, 26 teachers and 3 other staffs. Gospel week is conducted every year mainly to preach Gospel to the students. Class X students are taken for study tour in nearby states and areas.

St. Paul School celebrated silver jubilee on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017. Silver jubilee celebration tablet was unveiled by the present field secretary of Assam Mission Field which was followed by ringing of jubilee bell for 25 times. The programme was enriched by speech, singing, dances and other remarkable items from special invitees and students.



c) *Literature Ministry:* Assamese language learning books are published. Sacrament and other necessary books are translated into Assamese. Gospel tracts in Assamese, Hindi and English are prepared and printed, where contact numbers of missionaries are printed at the back side. Translation of worship manual is half done. Adult and Non Formal education are being conducted in Bharabkunda area.

d) *Medical Ministry:* There are four Staff Nurses who visit and treat the sick in their respective areas free of cost, medicine is sold at lower cost. Also medical Free Clinics are conducted in various places with voluntary doctors in which all medicines are distributed free of cost.

e) *Direct Evangelism:* There are 66 workers who go out each day counselling, preaching, helping, praying and distributing Gospel tracts to people. The evangelists in each pastorate go out in groups to reach out in particular selected areas whenever it is convenient and as the circumstances demand.



Gospel Campaign (Premor Bani) is hosted every year in hired popular parks/places where the Gospel is preached, testimonies shared and singers and cultural dancers from locals and outside are invited to perform.

Masih Puja Function is hosted every year in the St. Paul School compound (Bhairabkunda) during durga puja holidays for all Christians of that area. This programme is coloured with sermon, singing - solos, choirs - cultural dances and contemporary Gospel film show, etc.



*f) Media Ministry:* With the acceptance of the Synod Mission Board, Assam Mission Field started media ministry since 2014. There is one humble recording studio where film dubbing is done. The first dubbing film 'The Bible: Episode I' is dedicated in 2016, and dubbing



AMF studio (Media ministry)



of the film 'Risen' is to be finalized soon. Touching testimonies of our members are recorded and put out in *you tube*, hoping that many people will get the Gospel in their own respective places. Sermons are recorded and given to local TV channel for broadcast. Preparation of the field documentary is half done.



Sermon recording for telecast

*g) Preparation of new missionaries:* Field orientation is conducted every year to prepare newly-recruited missionaries for their assignments. Assamese language is taught in Roman script, and significant topics are discussed during the orientation. Another session for learning Assamese language in its own script is conducted in the middle of July; and language exam is usually conducted every year in the second Friday of November.

**5. Master Plan:** In 2010, the Field Working Committee 25:7 (dated 11.6.2010) prepared Master Plan for Assam Mission Field in which the unforeseen growth and development of the field is anticipated. According to master plan, the field has to be divided into two, Upper Assam Field and Lower Assam Field in 2025 . In 2050, the said two fields will merge and form one Synod with the help of the Mizoram Synod Mission Board (SMB). By 2060 the SMB will leave the field and the Assam Presbyterian Church Synod will stand by itself.



6. Conclusion: Looking back at the humble beginning we thank the Lord for such a tremendous progress. Each year the church is being added by new believers. In 2017 January to April 21 people have come to Christ. It is our vision that the Kingdom of God come in all Assam.



## 47<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF THE MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP, 2017 (KOHHRAN HMEICHHE INKHAWMPUI LIAN)

*Mrs. Lalpianthanga, General Secretary*

The 47<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Mizoram Presbyterian Women Fellowship, 2017 was held at Leisekawt Field, Serchhip during 10-12 March, 2017. The occasion was graced by the presence of the leaders of the MPC Synod, delegates from the Central Kristian Thalai Pawl, LIKBKHP, members of ATTWI, Pastors and Pro-Pastors, Church elders, Chairman Elect and delegates from different pastorates within and outside Mizoram. The delegates from Arunachal Mission Field and Tripura Mission Field also graced the Inkhawmpui Lian with their presence. Last but not the least, we were also blessed by the presence of 5 lovely lady delegates who came all the way from Taiwan in gracious response to our humble invitation. We were very fortunate to have in our midst Mrs. Sapvengi Zaidarhzauva, w/o Rev. Zaidarhzauva to translate their speeches.



*The 47th General Meeting of the Mizoram  
Presbyterian Women Fellowship, 2017*

Theme : 'Prepare to meet thy God' Amos 4:12

Speaker: Upa C. Ngurthantluanga

*Office Bearers*

Chairman : Mrs. Rinchawii  
 Vice Chairman : Mrs. K. Vanlallawmi  
 Gen. Secretary : Mrs. H. Lalpianthangi  
 Asst. Secretary : Mrs. Sailuti  
 Treasurer : Mrs. Maria Lalchhanhimi  
 Fin. Secretary : Mrs. Rallianthangi

*Ex-Officio*

1. Rev. Lalzuthanga,  
Synod Moderator
2. Upa H. Ronghaka,  
Synod Secretary (Sr.)
3. Rev. P.C. Pachhunga,  
Exe. Secy., i/c Women
4. Mrs. Lalfakmawii,  
Coordinator
5. Mrs. C. Lalhmailhimi,  
Ex-Chairman



**RESOLUTIONS**

(a) The wordings of the prayer points of Tuesday night Women worship Service have slightly been altered.

(b) Resolved that babies in the Synod Hmangaihna In (Orphanage) be kept till they attain the age of 6, which is the usual practice till date.

(c) Resolved that a State level cleanliness campaign

be carried out. The programme will be focused on healthy eating habits, cleaning of houses and surroundings, personal hygiene, etc.

(d) Decided that the offerings on one Tuesday night Women Worship Service be dedicated to the following:

- Grace Home
- Synod Hospital Charity Fund
- Synod Hospital Eye Unit (for purchasing non-contact tonometer machine)
- John Williams Hospital, Lunglei

(e) Decided that the Guidance Book, the "Kohhran Hmeichhe Inkaihhraina Bu 2012" be revised and an application to this effect be submitted to the Synod Executive Committee.

(f) Resolved that a State level, "Day of Prayer" be observed on a particular day in 2017, with the main prayer point focused on the Mizoram State.

(g) Steps be taken to impart teaching of self-defence against the onslaught of teachings and practices of other religions.

(h) Resolved that steps be taken to organize a state level Family Financial Management Campaign to educate women in this regard.

(i) Resolved that steps be taken on a state level basis to impart legal awareness to young people between 10-18 years.

We received greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the General Meeting from the following sisters –

1. Mrs. T. Neihnguri, Secretary, PCI, Kolkatta Church
2. Mrs. C. Lalmangaihi, Ex-Chairman, Inkhawmpui Lian
3. Mrs. Christine Hodgins, President, Mission Rally, Association in the East Presbyterian Church of Wales
4. Mrs. Zomuani, NCCI Campus, Nagpur



**Statistics of the Mizoram  
Presbyterian Church Families  
January-December, 2016  
(Reports from 196 Pastorates)**

- (a) No. of Churches – 818  
 (b) No. of Branch Churches – 88  
 Total – 906  
 (c) No. of Presbyterian Families – 1,02,947  
 (d) No. of Presbyterian Families living with members belonging to other denominations – 1,07,445  
 (e) No. of Families having Family devotions daily – 68,937 (64.16%)  
 (f) No. of Families giving, “Handful of rice” on a regular basis – 1,05,733 (98.41%)  
 (g) Pastorate with the highest percentage of sub nos. (e) and (f) – Phainuam Pastorate  
 (h) Total no. of Presbyterian women members – 1,72,655  
 (i) The Pastorate with the highest no. of women members – Ramhlun North Pastorate (2873 members)  
 (j) The Pastorate with the lowest no. of women members – Bangalore (38 members)  
 (k) Total number of Missionaries sponsored by women is 2294.5

**Treasurer Report  
for the period of  
March, 2016 - Feb. 2017**

1. Total amount received from various Pastorates  
= Rs. 19,83,645.00
2. Synod Grant  
= Rs. 28,59,000.00

**Budget Estimate for  
2017-2018  
Inkhawmpui Lian**

1. Central Budget  
Rs. 13,00,000.00
2. Women Centre  
Rs. 20,00,000.00
3. Total:  
Rs. 33,00,000.00





### *Upcoming Programs*

#### **Business Meeting, 2018**

Venue : Tuikual

Presbyterian Church

Dt : 9-11th March, 2018

#### **Inkhawmpui Lian 2019**

Venue : Kolasib

Dt : 8-10 March, 2019

(Kolasib Diakkawn, Kolasib  
Venglai and Kolasib Hmar  
Veng will be the joint host  
of the General Meeting)

#### **Newly elected Office Bearers of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Women Central Committee, 2017-2019**

Chairman : Mrs. K. Lalliantluangi  
Vice Chairman : Mrs. Lalnuntluangi  
Gen. Secretary : Mrs. H. Lalpianthangi  
Asst. Secretary : Mrs. Lalmuanzuali  
Treasurer : Mrs. Lalrinpuui  
Fin. Secretary : Mrs. Lalbiakhluni



## IN MEMORIAM

REV. DR. LALSAWMA (1930-2017)



Rev. Dr. Lalsawma passed away peacefully on February 9, 2017 at Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl. Lalsawma was born on June 28, 1930 at Sailam to Rev. Langlura and Darneihkungi. His father was an ordained minister of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. As a pastor family, the entire family members were devoted Christians. His elder brother, Rev. Zokima served as a Pastor at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Burma until his retirement, while his two younger brothers are also Church Elders.

Rev. Dr. Lalsawma married Lalnuntluangi, Mission Veng on March 7, 1961, solemnized by Pastor Thanga at Mission Veng Church. They are blessed with six children (four sons, two daughters), and eleven grand children. Lalsawma completed his Lower Primary in 1942, and Middle Anglo Vernacular School from Sialhawk in 1947. He completed his Matriculation in 1952 and went to Cherra Theological College the same year to pursue Licentiate in Theology (L.Th), and completed in 1955. He was a graduate of Serampore College, Serampore and earned the Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1958. In 1968, he earned Master of Theology (M.Th) degree, becoming the first M.Th degree holder among the Mizos. was also conferred with the Doctor of Divinity (*Honoris Causa*) honorary degree by the Senate of Serampore College (University) in 2002.



In 1955, Lalsawma was appointed by the Assembly as a Probationary Pastor at Durtlang pastorate. After serving for a year, on July 1956 he went to study Bachelor of Divinity at Serampore College. After his completion, on June 1958, the Special Synod at Durtlang appointed him to continue serving as a Probationary Pastor at Biate pastorate. He, along with four others, was ordained at the Special Synod held at Mission Veng on June 28, 1959. He continued serving at Biate pastorate till May 1961.

He held several posts during his service. In 1964-1978, he served as a Registrar and Acting Principal in Aizawl Theological College. During this period in 1966-1967 he was a Synod Secretary. He also held the post of Moderator in 1968 and 1987. He also served as Presbyterian Church of India Assembly Secretary and Moderator in 1965-1968 and 1972-1974 respectively. During his service, he was placed in three different pastorates, viz., Durtlang, Biate and Mission Veng.

He wrote several articles and was the author of many books in English as well as the local language. Apart from his service to the Church, his contributions towards the society are also immense. He was in the reconciliation efforts between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF) on two occasions. In the wake of the MNF uprising in March 1966, the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod Pastors for peace talks with MNF in 1969 and Lalsawma was one of the two who contacted the MNF leaders. In 1982, he was again a member of the three-man delegation who held talks with MNF which, ultimately, led to the Mizo Accord 1986. As he had always advocated peace and harmony, he, therefore, became the main string in the reconciliation between Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF) and the State Government of Mizoram. The Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour in 2005 for his contributions to the society.

We deeply mourned his death, a loss for many, but we praise God for giving us such a great spiritual leader, gifted teacher and profound theologian. We trust that God will strengthen and comfort his in their bereavement.



To,

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## MTC Praise '15

If undelivered, please return to:  
The Manager,  
Presbyterian Review  
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Durtlang, Aizawl - 796001, India

[www.mizoramsynod.org](http://www.mizoramsynod.org)

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