

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



VOL. XXVI October - December 2016 No. 80



**MIZO
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
UNION**

**Imparting
the right knowledge
of God and true faith**

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.

Contents

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*Editorial***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR TODAY**

One of the most important ministries of the church is to inculcate Christian faith, principles and values to its members. This has been done through Sunday Schools, Worship Services, Fellowship (Women, Youth and Children) Groups, Vacation Bible Schools, Campings, Retreats and Special Training Courses for both adults and children. These church programmes serve as important aspects of Christian education in which the primary method followed is that the teachers-preachers or resource persons instruct religious lessons from the text books that are prepared for a particular age group or expound instructions out of their own expertise and insights. These programmes certainly are important ministry of the church as they help to safeguard Christian values, beliefs and traditions, and they bring about cohesion within the church members.



However, the traditional Christian education programmes often neglect the basic idea of 'education,' that is, 'to develop and bring out the full potential of the individual.' The programmes have often been dominated by the status quo of instructor-teacher giving readymade information to the learners that often ended up with a one-way communication. There are more to be done in Christian education for today. The teacher should try to bring out the full potential--the creativity, talents and skill of the learners which would be used for learning and owning the lessons taught to them. The things learned then will not remain at the conceptual or memory level but become part of the learners' life experience.

Moreover, Christian education often tends to focus more on how one must live within the faith community. But, today, as we live in a religiously pluralistic context overwhelmed by globalization, materialism and post-modernity, Christian education also should aim at equipping the learners to know as to how Christians should relate with the wider world around them and with people of other faiths. That is, Christian education for today should try to help the persons grow in the pattern of Jesus Christ and help them to become genuine witnesses of the Gospel values to the multifaceted world

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. G. H.' or similar, written in a cursive style.



1. ATC Day Celebration: Aizawl Theological College celebrated its College Day on the 18th Nov. 2017. The celebration was taken place at the Centenary Building Quadrangle. Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, Moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod, led the function. Rev. Dr. Sundara Raj, Principal of the Allahabad Bible Seminary gave the College Day address. ATC male voice and Synod Choir graced the celebration with melodious special numbers.

2. Goodwill Visit: Representatives of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa in the persons of Rev. George Marchinkowski, Rev. LungileMpetsheni, Rev BoitumeloGorbone, and Rev Christopher Judelsohn visited various Mizoram Presbyterian Synod as a goodwill visit. During their stay in Mizoram (Nov 23- Dec. 1, 2016), they met the Moderator and the Officers of the Mizoram Synod. They also visited offices and institutions as well as some local churches in Aizawl city.

3. Campus Ministry: Campus Ministry launched Awareness Campaign & Career Guidance for teachers and students in different parts of Mizoram in the month of November. The team led by Rev. Lalchungnunga, Director of Campus Ministry stressed the necessity of commitment and determination in education. The campaign also addressed the importance of education and moral reform at various levels.

4. Farewell cum Dedication Service: Presbyterian Bible School observed farewell cum dedication service on the 25th November 2016. The programme was held at Synod Conference Centre. Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary, graced the programme as he dedicated the 38th batch of graduating students.

5. Synod Meeting 2017: The highest decision making body of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, known as Synod Meeting was convened during December 6-11, 2016, at Durtlang Church. Rev. Lalzuithanga was the Moderator. Rev. Chuauthuama, a retired minister delivered the theme of the Synod – ‘Unity of the Church.’ The Synod was its 93rd meeting; 2107 delegates participated in the deliberation.



RESOLUTIONS OF THE 264TH SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 264th session of the Synod Executive Committee sat during 9th - 11th November 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 agenda were referred to the OM to be presented in the next session of the SEC. Some of the resolutions were as follows:

1. Since Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, the present member of the PCI Executive Committee is the Moderator-elect of the PCI, Rev. K. Lalrinmawia was appointed to be the member of the PCI Executive Committee for the ongoing term.

2. Rev. Lallianmawia Pachuau, i/c Madanrtng Pastorale was appointed to be the member of the UCC Governing Board for the year 2017-2020.

3. As per the findings of the OM, it was resolved that giving financial assistance to church's members having four children and more involves many practical problems and cannot be implemented. The matter will be forwarded to the Synod Meeting

4. As per the findings of the OM, matters relating to Medical Reimbursement Bill need revision, it was resolved that the matter will be forwarded to the Synod Meeting.

5. The proposal made by the OM regarding compensations for widows of deceased Pro-pastors and in-service Ministers was accepted.

6. Elder R. Lalmalsawma was selected to be the General Manager of PRESCOM till his retirement in 2018.

7. It was resolved that subsequent election of the Chairman of the Central PWF and the Leader of the PYF will be done by the SEC through secret ballot.

8. Proposals made by the Synod Service Board for recruiting the Superintendent of Women Centre, regularization of nine contract workers, creation of six post for specialist doctors in the Synod Hospital and one post for Laboratory Assistant in the Synod Higher secondary School was approved.

9. It was resolved that Manual of Worship of the PCI be made available in Assamese and Bru dialects.



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SYNOD SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



1. BRIEF HISTORY: The first ever Sunday School in Mizoram was started by the Welsh pioneer missionary, Rev. D.E. Jones in 1898. He was reported to be an ardent learner, and gave priority to learning and education. Soon after he arrived, on February 15, 1898 (Tuesday), he started a school at the verandah of his house at Hriang mual, Mission Veng. This school would run throughout the week, and on Sundays would serve as a Sunday School. So it was that the first Sunday School was held on February 20, 1898 in Mizoram.

During the first few years, the Sunday School served as a multipurpose institution where not only Bible lessons but also Mizo alphabets and certain hymns were taught as well. With the growth of Christianity among the Mizos, there was also a tremendous increase in the growth of local churches which led to an almost magical rise in the number of Sunday Schools.

As the Sunday School movement in Mizoram became bigger, it became affiliated to the Indian Sunday School Union (ISSU) in 1917. By 1923, they were able to hold separate classes for adults and children. In 1935, the Sunday School ministry was given the name 'Lushai Sunday School Union' (LSSU), as Mizoram was still known as the Lushai Hills district in those days. When it was renamed Mizoram District in 1954, the name of the Sunday School ministry was accordingly changed to Mizo Sunday School Union (MSSU) in 1955. Since 1984, the MSSU has been affiliated with the All India Sunday School Association (AISSA).

Objectives of the Sunday School:

- (1) To guide and help learners to have the right knowledge of God and true faith
- (2) To teach the words of God (Bible)
- (3) To teach Christian doctrine
- (4) To teach how to worship God
- (5) To prepare learners to become faithful Church members and good citizens
- (6) To teach how to live and act as Christians



2. GRADED SUNDAY SCHOOL:

In 1925, Rev. Atkins, who was the General Secretary of the ISSU visited Mizoram, and convinced the church leaders and the missionaries of the importance of having a graded Sunday School. When Miss Katie Hughes, who was a Welsh missionary, went home for furlough, she studied how British graded lessons were prepared, and when she came back to Mizoram in 1930, she prepared Sunday School text books in Mizo in the light of the British system. In 1931, a conference for the Sunday School teachers was organised, and in that conference it was decided that henceforth they would follow the British Graded Sunday School system.

In 1934, children were divided into two departments: those below 9 years of age and those above. However, this division was found to be inadequate, and in 1936 three more departments - Primary, Junior and Intermediate were started. Beginner department was added in 1942, Senior department in 1954 and Sacrament department in 2003. Graded Sunday School is now part and parcel of the Presbyterian Church in Mizoram.

Lessons and syllabi are thus prepared according to the respective ages of the learners. The Sunday School is thus divided into 7 departments -

- (1) Beginner (4-5 yrs) formed in 1942
- (2) Primary (6-8 yrs) formed in 1936
- (3) Junior (9-11 yrs) formed in 1936
- (4) Intermediate (12-13 yrs) formed in 1936
- (5) Sacrament (14 yrs) formed in 2005
- (6) Senior (15-17 yrs) formed in 1954
- (7) Adults (18 yrs and above)

Organisational set up:

The organisational structure of the Mizo Sunday School Union may be classified into three levels.

(1) At the apex, we have the Mizo Sunday School Union Committee which is responsible for the Synod-wide Sunday School activities and the various functions of the Synod Sunday School department. There are also other committees, which are as follows:

- a) Executive Committee
- b) Examination Cell
- c) Text Book Cell
- d) Editing Cell
- e) Training Cell
- f) Child Evangelism Cell
- g) Teaching Aids & Media Cell

(2) At the district level, we have the District Sunday School Committee which is responsible for the proper and well functioning of the Sunday School within its jurisdiction.

At the core level or the local level, we have the local Sunday Schools run by the local churches



3. TEXT BOOKS: In the initial stages, the Welsh missionaries prepared text books for use in the Sunday School. In 1930, Miss Katie Hughes prepared text books following the British Graded Lessons. In 1932, permission was obtained from the ISSU to translate their text books into Mizo, and this was done for fifty years, from 1932 to 1982. Since 1983, the MSSU has been preparing its own text books, and materials from the Bible occupy a central place in our text books.

Activities : To achieve its main objectives and goals, the Sunday School Union is involved in various activities :-

- (1) Conducting an annual Sunday School examination
- (2) Selection and preparation of Text books for Sunday School departments
- (3) Giving proper training to Sunday School teachers.
- (4) Child evangelism.
- (5) Distribution of awards and medals.



**Office Staff and
Executive Secretary, i/c MSSU**

STATISTICS: MSSU has an office inside the Synod Office building in Aizawl. The head of the MSSU Office is the Executive Secretary, i/c Sunday School, etc. Besides the Executive Secretary, the office is comprised of a Co-ordinator, two Assistant Co-ordinators and two Office Assistants. The latest MSSU statistics (2016) are as follows:

1)	No of Sunday Schools	-	983
2)	No of Leaders (dept. leaders)-	-	4,540
3)	Teachers	-	46,541
4)	No of Enrollment	-	3,84,493



4. CHILD EVANGELISM:

Sunday School has become the most effective means for inculcating Christian values in our children. In 1995, the Mizoram Synod Meeting resolved that a Child Evangelism Cell should be set up under the MSSU

Committee, and it would be the duty of this Cell to organise programmes or events conducive to the development of children in the Christian way. This Cell has been functioning as such ever since.

The training curriculum at present includes these subjects:

- (1) Importance of Sunday School and the responsibilities of the teacher
- (2) Psychology
- (3) Teaching method
- (4) How to organise a good Sunday School

5. SEMINARS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES: Sunday School teachers are appointed at the local church level, usually by the local Sunday School committee. These teachers fulfill their ministry with dedication, without gaining any material profit. The MSSU department organises seminars and training programmes for these teachers by sending trained resource persons to various churches. Such programmes are organised sometimes only for the teachers in a particular church, and sometimes for all the teachers in a pastorate.

A Residential Sunday School Teacher's Training is organised for selected teachers from various pastorates as require by the Church. A Triennial Secretarial Training is also organised for the pastorate Sunday School secretaries, who are appointed by their respective pastorate standing committees for a term of three years.



Sunday School Teachers' Training

6. EXAMINATION: An examination is conducted every on the third Sunday of December. Each department has a question paper prepared from its text book for the year. Prizes and Certificates are awarded to those who secure honour marks, that is 85% and above.

7. AWARDS AND MEDALS: The Sunday School Department gives away the following awards and medals to those who have achieved or fulfilled mandatory requirements.

a) *Diploma Award* : This award is given to persons who have served as Sunday School teacher for 25 consecutive years since 1967 (No. of Awardees since 1967 is 8,330).

b) *Jubilee Award* : This award - a certificate and a Bible is given to persons who have served as Sunday School teachers for 50 consecutive years since 1985 (No. of Awardees since 1985 is 1,075).

c) *Pi Zaii Medal* : This award - a medal and a certificate - is given since 1988 to persons who have attended Sunday School without missing a single class for 10 consecutive years (No. of Awardees since 1988 is 13,923).

d) *Pi Zaii Medal Special* : This special medal, along with a certificate, is awarded since 1999 to persons who have attended Sunday School for 15 consecutive years without missing a single class (No. of Awardees since 1999 is 685).





14th Triennial Secretarial Training
May 20 - 23, 2014 @ Aizawl Theological College

(e) *Zalawra Medal* : This medal, along with a certificate, is awarded since 1988 to persons who have scored honour marks in their Sunday School exams for 5 consecutive years (No. of Awardees since 1988 is 12,882).

(f) *Zalawra Medal Special* : This special medal, with a certificate, is awarded since 1999 to those who have scored honour marks in their Sunday School exams for 10 consecutive years (No. of Awardees since 1999 is 827).

God has showered his blessings upon the ministry of the MSSU. Though there is much progress to be made, we are grateful to God for leading us thus far.

‘What we have heard and known ,
what our fathers have told us.
We will not hide them from their
children

We will tell the next generation
The praise worthy deeds of the Lord,
his power and the wonders he has
done’

Psalm – 78:3-4



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REVIEW OF SYNOD MEETING 2016

Rev. Andrew H. Laltilaniana

The 93rd Synod meeting of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church was hosted by Durtlang Pastorate between November 30 - December 11 at Durtlang Presbyterian Church. This meeting was attended by 2024 delegates in and around Mizoram among which 11 delegates were from the sister Synods, 6 delegates from BCM, LIKKBK and ECM and 5 delegates from the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. These were the Office Bearers of the 93rd Synod meeting.

Moderator	:	Rev Lalzuihangha
Secretary (Sr)	:	Upa H. Ronghaka
Secretary (Jr)	:	Rev Lianhmingthanga Sailo
Statistician	:	Rev R. Lalchangliana
Finance Officer	:	Rev P.C Pachhunga
	:	Rev H. Remthanga
Sr Executive Secretary	:	Rev Lalramliana Pachuau
Executive Secretary	:	Rev B. Sangthanga

I. NOMINATION CONCERNS

As per the resolution of the Nomination Committee, the next Synod meeting will be hosted by Bungkawn Pastorate at Bungkawn Presbyterian Church between November 29 – December 10, 2017 and following will be the Office Bearers of the coming Synod meeting.

Moderator	:	Rev F. Lalrinnunga
Secretary (Sr)	:	Rev Lianhmingthanga Sailo
Secretary (Jr)	:	Upa Dengrikhuma
Statistician	:	Upa Dr Vanlalhluna
Finance Officer	:	Rev P.C Pachhunga
	:	Rev H. Remthanga
Sr Executive Secretary	:	Rev Lalramliana Pachuau
Executive Secretary	:	Rev B. Sangthanga



Mizoram Synod Choir



The Nomination committee discussed the forth coming programme of the Synod meeting where the spiritual topic 'Church-The Family of God' will be delivered by Rev Lalbiaknia, i/c Chaltlang Pastorate. The committee also appointed delegates to various Synod/Assembly meetings. Besides this, auditors and the dates of Synod board/committee sitting was also resolved.

For the coming three years, the Synod Meeting will be hosted by the following pastorates:

2017 Synod by Bungkawn Pastorate at Bungkawn Presbyterian Church

2018 Synod by Electric Veng Pastorate at Electric Veng Presbyterian Church

2019 Synod by Mission Veng Pastorate at Mission Veng Presbyterian Church

II. PASTORAL CONCERNS

Besides three Probationary Pastors, the Pastoral committee reported that all other Probationary Pastors have cleared their exams. 18 Probationary Pastors were newly ordained in the last Synod meeting while 6 of the senior Pastors get their superannuation pension and at the same time 17 Probationary Pastors were newly recruited.

The meeting also approved 13 Pastors for higher studies and subsequently 7 Pastors will be completing their higher studies in a year to come. The Synod meeting also accepted 'Faith in God and the Church' basing on Revelation 2:10 as the Pastoral theme for the year 2017. The Synod was fortunate to open 4 new pastorates outside Mizoram. This achievement shows the zeal of God's mission by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church.



Ministers on Superannuation pension getting commendation certificate



III. GENERAL CONCERNS

In the last Synod meeting 74 general agenda were discussed under the abled leadership of the Moderator. Followings are the selected agenda discussed in the meeting:

- * To promote the dignity of the Church
- * Organizing seminar on Social Media
- * Ministry through Digital Media
- * Celebrating Beihrual centenary
- * To find place for Church activity at Kolkota
- * Officially recognising the rising day of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church

It was unfortunate to pay obituary moments to two of our Pastors in the person of Rev Vanlalfaka and Rev Chawngmgingliana in the last Synod meeting.



Delegates of the Synod Meeting





- *To promote FG&CC
- *Higher Study for Pastor
- *Badge for Pastors
- *Youth Empowerment
- *Ecumenicity of the Church

- * Limited Private Practise for Synod Doctors
- * Re-examining Synod workers MR Bill
- * Re-organising different Rehabilitation Centres
- * Re-examining Synod Service Rules

Above: Woman dancing in the worship service;
 Below: *Khuang*, the traditional drum, used to lead singing in the worship





Above: The worship service; Below: The newly ordained Ministers



IV. THINGS TO REMEMBER

- * It was the tenth time that Durtlang Presbyterian church hosts the Synod meeting.
- * It was the first time after 1985 that the Mizoram Presbyterian Church and the Baptist Church of Mizoram send their delegates again.
- * The Synod meeting experienced a separate minute recorder in the presence of the Secretary (Jr) who was unable to do his job due to health reason.
- * We could see the presence of both the Moderator and General Secretary of the Council for World Mission in the Synod meeting.
- * The budget estimate for 2017-2018 was ₹2,49,45,63,000 and it exceeded the previous budget by ₹120,26,600.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA: KOLKATA CHURCH

*Rev. C. Lalthanzâra
Pastor i/c PCI Kolkata Church,
Kolkata, West Bengal*

I. INTRODUCTION: It is always a great joy for a pastor to broadcast about the extension of the Kingdom of God anytime, anywhere and by any means. In the like manner, it is wonderful, by the clemency of God, to report the accomplishment of one of the resolutions passed by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod concerning the expansion of the tent in the metropolitan cities of India, in our context, Kolkata.

As per the record maintained by the Calcutta Mizo Welfare Association (CMWA) in 2015, there are about 907 individuals constituting 382 family members, 136 individual workers holding various jobs and about 389 students. It is believed that there are good numbers of Kolkata-resident-Mizos who do not take part in the CMWA activities in particular and among the Mizo community in general.

The strength of Mizo population as per the record of CMWA is below 1000. However, as well-known, Kolkata is the transit point of Mizos for all other metropolitan cities of India. Therefore, it is one of the most strategic cities for the Mizos as a whole. Besides, the standard of life is comparatively not as expensive as other mega cities such as Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad etc. Accessibility is also its advantage. As a result, referral hospitals are heavily approached. Therefore, it can be said, unofficially though, that (temporary) settlers in Kolkata and the visitors (including patients residing in the Mizoram Houses, other guest houses and temporary tenants due to long term medical treatment in the hospitals) are more or less equal, if not frequent visitors outnumber the settlers.

The most sensitive case one must feel is the spiritual and ecclesial upbringing of youngsters who came out of Mizoram (away from parents and Sunday Schools) for secular education as well as children of job holders in the mega cities (for our context, Kolkata). The only ecclesial set up they learn is from the 'Mizo fellowships' that do not practice, to be precise, our denominational tradition. Apart from that, the ecumenical fellowships do not and cannot undertake pastoral care as well as church court in spite of their grand functions towards gathering and nurturing the Mizos as a whole. The result is almost always negative towards understanding the nature of the church and its functions. Therefore, Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod felt the need to station pastors in the Metropolitan cities of India.



II. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PCI KOLKATA CHURCH: The Synod Conference 2014 of Mizoram Presbyterian Church appointed me to be the pastor in-charge of Kolkata. The main prospective function of the pastor, according to SEC guideline, is to extend pastoral care on the members of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, to visit and care for the patients in various hospitals in Kolkata and to help students as far as practicable.

The second committee meeting, organized by the leading members of the Presbyterian Church residing in Kolkata, held on April 24, 2014 at Calcutta Mission Field Office, appointed the following Office Bearers and ex-officio members for the church:

Chairman: Pastor. C. Lalthanzâra

Vice Chairman: Mr. Benjamina

Secretary: Rev. F. H. Liansangzuala

Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. Joseph Lalfakmawia

Treasurer: Mr. Lalzuiliana Sailo

Financial Secretary: Mr. H. Lalzirliana

Ex-Officio Members:

Rev. Zochhuanmawia, Field Secretary, Kolkata Mission Field

Rev. T. Lalhmachhuana, Manicktala Pastorate

Rev. P. C. Lalpoia, St. Nicholas Church, Kolkata Pastorate



Apart from these, Mr. R. K. Chhinga, Mr. Hmingthanauva and Mr. Lalramsanga Sailo were appointed as the church Committee Members. By 2016, slight change was made in membership. Rev. T. Lalmachhuana was replaced by Rev. C. Lalsanglura as the former went for further studies (MTh). Committee membership was also revised. Dr. Zosangzuala was appointed in place of Mr. Lalramsanga Sailo.

As per the resolution of the Synod, the pastor in-charge, Rev. C. Lalthanzâra was inducted on May 10, 2015 at St. Thomas Chapel, Bishop's College, and the same date is considered as the Rising Day of the Presbyterian Church of India, Kolkata Church.

Besides the induction service of the pastor, regular worship services have begun since May 31, 2015. Unlike Mizoram churches, not more than one service can be conducted in our context due to various reasons such as scarcity of space (rented church for few hours per Sunday), distance problem (sparse settlement of members) etc. At the beginning, the service began at 12:30 pm looking into the worship timing of the Calcutta Mizo Christian Service (CMCS, the common fellowship service of the Mizos), that is, 3:00 pm. However, the lifestyle of the church members due to various factors causes difficulty to begin early. Therefore, the Church Committee, considering the status quo of the members, postponed the time at 1:00 pm. As the Holy Spirit inspires, the church grows day by day and has never suffers from set back since the time of inception.



Memorable moments for our church come about time to time. One of such moments happened when Senior Executive Secretary of Mizoram Synod, Rev. Lazuithanga, General Secretary of Central Kristian Thalai Pawl, Upa Zonunmawia and the prestigious Mizoram Synod Choir visited us during September 20-22, 2015 in order to strengthen us in spirit. We cherished their ministry with us.

III. MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SERVICES: As would be experienced by other churches in the mega cities, registration of the church members is really dilemmatic. Most of the dynamic members of the church are also the active members of their respective home churches. Students hardly come with testimonial certificates too. Therefore, strictly speaking, active members that can be enrolled exclusively as the member of the PCI Kolkata Church are relatively less. However, the average attendance on every Sunday is about 120-150.

Since August 2, 2015 regular Sunday worship services have been held at Union Chapel, 137, Lenin Sarani, Kolkata (near GD Hospital). The first worship at Union Chapel was a Holy Communion Service in which the celebrant was Pastor C. Lalthanzâra. About 130 members attended the service on that day.

Worship Service



IV. CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL: By the grace of God, regular Children Sunday School has also begun since August 9, 2015. The same text books of Mizoram Sunday School Union for each department are being used in our Sunday Schools though they are less in number.

Palm Sunday Procession



V. KRISTIAN THALAI PAWL (YOUTH FELLOWSHIP): Kristian Ṭhalai Pawl (KṬP) as a separate and full-fledged body was not begun at the time of the church's inception, but they have been the backbone of the church right from the start. As situation demanded, the Church Committee established the KṬP, and appointed Office Bearers on September 25, 2015. By December 13, 2015, the Church Committee authorized the traditional formation of the body by means of secret ballot system of election of the Office Bearers. Thus, the following leaders were elected:

Mr. Samuel Lalbuatsaiha Ngente
 Mr. Laltlanzova Darngawn
 Mr. R. Lalhlimpaia
 Ms. Oshin Lalnunmawii
 Mr. A. Dawngliana Sailo
 Mr. Zarzoliana

At the initial stage, KṬP conducted youth prayer fellowship (Ṭawngṭai Inkhawm leh Fellowship) on every alternate Sundays. However, from the month of April, 2016 onwards, this programme is being held on every Sunday, after the regular Sunday worships. Significant projects are taken up such as pledging 'Faith Promise' offering collection, made by each eligible member. They made a substantial annual budget for both local and central KṬP bodies which they have successfully met within no time.



As part of the outreach programme, the KTP organized a mission field trip on November 11-12, 2016 to Basirhat Pastorate, Kolkata. 43 members took part in it, delivering handsome offerings in kind. God blessed the endeavour and both parties were inspired by the Holy Spirit abundantly.



Mizoram Synod Choir with Youth Fellowship (KTP) Leaders

IV. KOHHRAN HMEICHHIA (WOMEN WING): Kohhran Hmeichhia (Women Wing) was formed on December 26, 2016, having the following Office Bearers:

Chairman: Mrs. Esther Lalruatkimi
 Vice- Chairman: Mrs. Zorammuani
 Secretary: Mrs. Lalrokhumi
 Asst. Secretary: Mrs. Lalduhawmi
 Treasurer: Mrs. T. Neihnguri
 Financial Secretary: Mrs. C. Lalfamkimi

Among their various activities, Buhfaiṭham (rice offering) and Kohhran Hmeichhe Inkhawm (worship services for women) on every third Saturday of a month are noteworthy. They organized mission outreach programme on April 2, 2016 and visited Joint Pastorate Women Conference at Badu, Manicktala Pastorate, Calcutta Mission Field. Sixteen (16) members could take part in this programme.

V. THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT KOLKATA, BEING FULFILLED DAY BY DAY:

The purposes of establishing Presbyterian Church at the metropolitan cities of India are briefly mentioned above. Some of the key points being readily achieved are as follows:

1) Wider Pastoral Ministry Extended: There are various areas where church members are sparsely settled, mostly engaged in certain jobs that demand weekend services. Thus, they are not in a situation to attend regular Sunday services. In such places, a kind of systematic gathering that resembles house churches of the early Christianity, begin to rise. These meetings are spearheaded by the Pastor and the Probationary Pastor, occasionally assisted by elected local elders (*Tual Upa*). Good news is that these areas have never experienced pastoral care and special services on their behalf until the mission has been started by the PCI Kolkata Church, save Barrackpore area. A short highlight of the pastoral ministry at various centres is as follows:

a) Barrackpore Mizo Service: Absolute majority of the Barrackpore Mizo community belong to army personnel (who are mostly deployed in other places) and their families. Some families are retired army personnel who remain there due to various purposes. In fact, a mere prayer meeting had been conducted for quite sometimes, but not as systematic as it is running now. A gospel revival meeting, commonly called 'crusade' in our Mizo context, was held during October 11-12, 2016 with Rev. C. Lalthanzâra as the key speaker. The average attendance throughout the *crusade* was about 80 (eighty) while the usual attendance at other Sunday worships is generally between 25 and 50. Pastoral visit to these Barrackpore Sunday services is being held twice in a month, usually on alternate Sundays. Holy Communion Services are also held exclusively under the Pastor in-charge as celebrant.

b) Picnic Garden Meeting: Picnic Garden is one of the most populated areas for Mizos throughout Kolkata. It is a locality in the Tiljala area, extending between Bartala More and VIP area, east of the Bondel Gate. Those who gathered in these meetings are mostly private sector job holders who have practically no opportunity to attend Sunday worship services. Worship services are held on every Tuesday night at 10:00 pm, the only appropriate slot for them. Average attendance in those meetings is 15-20. Leading KTP (youth group) members, under the supervision of the Pastor and Probationary Pastor, usually accompany the meetings.





Refreshment after Service

c) Mukundapur Area Meeing: Mukundapur area is a hub of referral hospitals such as AMRI Hospital, Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences etc. Good numbers of Mizo nurses are employed in these hospitals. Due to their work shifts, regular Sunday worship services are normally inappropriate. As a result, PCI Kolkata Church, under the ministry of the pastorate, organized worship services on every Thursday at 7:00 pm, mainly for nurses in these hospitals. Despite the irregular timings of different hospitals, about 10-15 nurses usually gather together.

d) Mapuii Beauty Parlour Employees' Meeting: There are five different residential apartments provided for the employees of this renowned parlour. A worship service is regularly held on Tuesday at 12:00 noon at alternate apartments.

e) Visiting Patients: There are three Mizoram Houses in Kolkata (Ballygunge, Saltlake and New Town). Many guests in these Mizoram Houses are patients mostly from Mizoram. Apart from these three Mizoram Houses, patients in Mizoram Synod House and in various hospitals are visited as much as possible.

f) *Joka area Nurses*: Joka is a census town in Thakurpukur Mahestala and a neighbourhood in South West Kolkata. Good number of nurses resides in it. Nurses organize worship services under their own supervision on Friday night. Pastors accompany them according to their appropriate time.

2) People of God being Baptized and New Communicants: Church Court has its proper function since the inception of the PCI Kolkata Church. Accordingly, sixteen (16) people have been baptized so far, among which, one person was a Brahmin converted.

In spite of less number of families settled in and around Kolkata, eight (8) new communicant members have been enrolled since the inception of the pastorate.

VI. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BODIES:

1) Calcutta Mizo Welfare Association (CMWA): CMWA is a secular body comprising all the Mizos residing at Kolkata. There are about 1000 members enlisted this year. CMWA serves as a parent body of all the Mizos both who reside at Kolkata and all those who pass by and specially patients who are under medical treatment (that is quite frequent). PCI Kolkata Church, therefore, wants to demonstrate her utmost solidarity with it in all aspects. Thus, the church committee resolved that endowment fund, not less than ₹5,000.00 be given annually.



The Youth Ministry



2) Inter-Church Visit: Kristian Thalai Pawl, Bangalore Branch visited our church on July 23-24, 2016 in order to inspire each other. 25 delegates could attend the programme under the leadership of the Pastor-in-charge, Rev. Vanlalnunmawia Zawngte. It was a very fruitful and memorable time.

3) Attachment of Serampore College Students: Serampore College has conjoined her heart with us by sending two BD Final Year Students, Mr. Lalnunsiamia and Mr. Thangsanglura Darngawn, towards students' practical ministry for the academic year 2016-17. We hope to build ideal mutual relationship between us. We too hope that these two students would enrich us through their theological knowledge, and in turn, we too wish that they will learn ecclesiastical nature practiced by the PCI Kolkata Church.



VII. CAREER GUIDANCE SEMINAR: Our church believes that the function of the church is not only in the direction of the spiritual advancement of her members, but also in their day to day secular life as well. Therefore, the church committee resolved that career guidance seminar be conducted in order to throw light for youths a better understanding of their future career. In accordance with that, the church organized Career Guidance Seminar on November 19, 2016 at Conference Hall, Salt Lake Mizoram House, Kolkata. A very providential fact is that our resource persons, Mr. Lalsangliana, MCS, Mr. H. Lalzirliana (General Manager, Hindustan Petroleum, Kolkata) and Mr. Malsawmtluanga, IRS, are all members and leaders of PCI Kolkata Church. A good number of people were participated in that seminar.

Still better prospect is that that seminar was not the end of our project. We have invited good number of highly qualified (in terms of praxis orientation) personalities to write articles on various areas of job oriented streams. Thus, it is expected that a book on career guidance be published most probably by early 2017. We envision that the church should be an agent for moral and social transformation especially in a good way.

Offering submitted by PCI Kolkata Church during the year 2016-2017 to the Mizoram Synod amounted to ₹8,50,604.

VIII. CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT: We have said that Kolkata is the most strategic city of all Indian metropolitan cities particularly for the Mizos. Therefore, the church committee felt that it is mandatory for us to possess our own land that would accommodate the church building, Pastor Quarters, Kolkata Mission Field properties and all other necessary assets. We envision that the church building and its premises would serve a very strategic purpose from the sight of the other churches (that would inspire other churches) and the people of other faiths, and the new converts who would really need booster amidst their suffocating environment.

The immediate cause of feeling necessity to possess our own church building is our painful experience in hiring other church buildings. High monthly rentals are regularly paid (accumulation of it within decades will be substantial). In spite of that, we could never have sufficient space to install even our scanty properties. We are occasionally helpless to accommodate our Sunday Schools and Youth fellowship services due to unforeseen and unavoidable occasions. We could also never have sufficient time for waning up our services properly. We have to search for other appropriate places for almost every special programme. Therefore, the church committee resolved to begin this formidable project. Offering of the first Sunday of a month is set apart for this project.

IX. CONCLUSION: By the grace of God, our church is lively and everyone enjoys the presence of the Holy Spirit. The small beginning of various centres for worship at different time and space would definitely bring forth more matured and full-fledged set up that one day, a proper pastorate comprising a full-fledged church more than one or two will come up. Everyone who visits Kolkata is warmly welcomed to take part in our church. It is my humble request too to spread the good tiding of the establishment of our church in Kolkata. If anyone wants to join us, one can easily come to us at Union Chapel, 137, Lenin Sarani, Kolkata (near GD Hospital).



LUCKNOW MISSION FIELD REPORT

Field Secretary, Lucknow Mission Field

I. INTRODUCTION: The 1998 Synod Meeting, which was held at Mission Veng Church passed a resolution to establish Lucknow Mission Field and appointed Rev. Vanlalbela to be the Field Secretary. Since there was no official inaugural of the Field, the Field Working Committee decided that the arrival date of Rev. Vanlalbela and his family in Lucknow i.e., February 11, 1999 was the initiation of Lucknow Mission Field (FWC 100 Res.4 of 15.9.2000). A big bungalow (93'x85') built by the English Missionaries, which is over 100 years owned by Methodist Church was rented for Field Office and Field Secretary's quarter till date.



Staff of the Lucknow Mission Field



II. EVANGELISM: The Field ministry was carried out by direct and indirect evangelism. Crusade, outreach, and personal evangelism are our main purpose of direct evangelism. Tailoring, medical ministry, and Non-Formal Education are our best weapon of indirect evangelism. We used to help the local people in their paddy fields for a chance to preach gospel to them.

III. CRUSADE: Crusade is our primary source of having new believers. According to the consent of the village leaders, we organize crusade to the villagers. During our crusade, we used to have Christian Film shows. This is one of the most important instruments to attract the masses. Our sources of financial income are from Synod Budget and donation from the Mizoram churches.

IV. OUTREACH: We carried out our outreach program by visiting non-believer's village in groups. Through singing, drama shows or any other means to gathered the villagers to preach the gospel to them.

V. TAILORING: Under the Lucknow Mission Field, we have six pastorates, in each we have Tailoring Centers. Apart from the daily devotional time with them, we used to organized crusade to our tailoring students, which is very fruitful to convert them into Christian. After completion of their course, we give over to each student with certificate and one sewing machine.



Tailoring students who finished their training

VI. WORSHIP SERVICE: Among 86 fellowships, we have only 6 church buildings. Most of our fellowships are carried out at our native believer's veranda and or under the shade of a big tree. Administer of sacrament as well as variety devotional programs are conducted within our fellowships. The fellowship members bought bottles filled with water and/or oil during our worship service, we used to pray to God to use these as an instrument for healing, which they later used as medicine to cure their illness.



VII. MEETINGS: Pastorate meeting and Children's Sunday School Meetings are held annually. Though, as the church buildings are few in numbers and cannot hold large capacity, our meetings are used to hold under Tent or Pandal. During our meets, Bible memory verse recitation and hymn competition are held and prizes are distributed to all our participants.



VIII. OBSTACLES: Even though we do have some adversary, we do not face great hardship so far by the Grace of God. On dated 7.10.2015, our mission compound fencing, church building, and quarters at Ramadaikhera are vandalized by unknown, which was repaired from the donation of ₹50,000/- given by Durtlang Leitan South Church of Mizoram.

IX. CONCLUSION: About 10 years from the establishment of Lucknow Mission Field, the Field is progressing so far without much difficulty. Now, we have 6 pastorates, 86 fellowships, about 3,000 members under our Field. We do wish that our ministry have been blessed and grow fruitful by the guidance of our Almighty God.

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Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan, General Secretary of Council for World Mission (*third from left*) at the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod Meeting 2016

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