

# PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



VOL. XXVII NO. 82 April - June 2017



**Synod  
Higher  
Secondary  
School**

**Past  
&  
Present**

**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.**

**Editor:**  
Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte

**Members of the Editorial Board:**  
Dr. Lalngakthuami  
Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalruata  
Rev. Dr. Lawmsanga  
Rev. Dr. H. Lalrinthanga  
Rev. K. Lalchuanawma  
Mr. Lalsiamkima

**Manager:**  
Rev. Andrew H. Laltilianiana

**Postal Address of the Editor:**  
Aizawl Theological College,  
Post Box No.167, Aizawl  
796 001, Mizoram, India.

**Email:** atcmizoram@gmail.com

**Subscription Rates:**  
Annual - Rs.100.00  
Single Copy - Rs. 25.00

**To subscribe, please contact**  
The Manager,  
Presbyterian Review,  
Aizawl Theological College,  
Post Box No.167, Aizawl  
796 001, Mizoram, India.  
Mobile No: 9436757661

## CONTENT

<b>Editorial</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>News Around Mizoram Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MPC Synod Executive Committee (June 6–8, 2017)</b>	<b>9</b>

### COVER STORY



## SYNOD HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL PAST & PRESENT

12

### REPORTS



## DELHI MISSION FIELD

23

### SERMON



## DISCIPLESHIP

32

### IN MEMORIUM

38





## EDUCATION MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Imparting right knowledge through formal education has been one of the most important components of the ministry of the Church. This has also been the case in the ministry of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church

(MPC) both at home and in the mission fields.

In fact, all the primary school education under the banner of 'Mission Schools' in the Mizoram State (which then was Mizo District under the Assam State) had been in the hands of the Church. Education imparted through Mission Schools used to have great impact on the moral and ethical lives of the people in general and of the children in particular.

It was in 1954 that all the Mission Schools were handed over to the State Government except the P.C. Girls' School (and now, with the Synod Higher Secondary School which was established in 1962) in North Mizoram. Since then, it was felt that this change has resulted with the lost of the Church's moral and ethical influence upon the people to great extent. Then the need was felt for the Church to run Schools of her own once again to impart right knowledge and regain her influence upon the lives of the people.

With the blessings, supervision and grant-in-aid received from the MPC, many Church based schools have come up at the local and pastorate levels. By 2017, there are 136 Presbyterian English Schools with 28,188 students, 1,469 teachers and 112 non-teaching staff. It is expected that there will be substantial increase and development of Mission Schools in the near future.

At this juncture, the MPC needs to strengthen her commitment to education mission. Imparting right education and to develop moral and ethical influence upon the people have become more important in the midst of the fast growing materialism fueled by globalization today.



April – June, 2017



### ***Tripura Provisional Synod:***

Tripura Mission Field, one of the mission fields of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church was upgraded to Provisional Synod by the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) on April 2, 2017 at Naogang Presbyterian Church by Rev. Laldawngliana, Moderator of PCI.

Presently, the Provisional Synod of Tripura has 4 presbyteries and 16 pastorates.

***ATC Graduation cum Farewell Service:*** Aizawl Theological College owned by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church celebrated the annual Dedication cum Farewell service on April 11, 2017. The service was presided by the Principal Rev. Prof. C. Lalhlira and Rev. Lazuithanga, Synod Moderator a message to the outgoing students. 52 students graduated this year, viz., D. Th - 4, M. Th - 20, BD - 24 and DCPC - 4.

***MTC Graduation Day:*** Missionary Training College celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day on April 12, 2017 at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Centre. The graduation service was presided by Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima, Principal and



April – June, 2017

Lalzuithanga, Synod Moderator gave the graduation address. Missionary Training College began its humble journey from 1978 as Missionary Training Department and was elevated to the status of a college in 2010. Missionary Training College has several courses for in-service missionaries and offers a Bachelor of Missiology (B.Miss) course affiliated under the Senate of Serampore College. This year 15 students graduated in the B.Miss course.

***Nursing Graduation Day:*** Synod Hospital celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Nursing Graduation Day on April 20, 2017 at the Synod Hospital Chapel. Synod Moderator Rev. Lalzuithanga was the chief guest where he delivered God's message and gave away the certificates to the outgoing students. Dr. L.H Thanga Singson, Director of the Synod Hospital gave a welcome address and Mrs Lalrintluangi, Principal of Nursing School gave the annual school reports.

***Web Offset Machine:*** Rev. P.C Pachhunga, Executive Secretary i/c Presscom dedicated the newly installed Web Offset machine on April 26, 2017. The meeting was presided over by Elder R. Lalmalsawma, General Manager, Presscom and the Press Manager Mr. Lalhruaitluanga gave the technical report. The uniqueness of this offset machine is that it can produced four folds in one print.

***PBS Farewell & Dedication:*** The 39<sup>th</sup> batch of the Presbyterian Bible School (PBS) had their school farewell and dedication service on April 28, 2017 at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Centre. The service was presided by Rev Lalzuithanga, Synod Moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. The Principal of the College Rev. Lalneihvura gave the report and the Synod Secretary of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Rev. Lianhmingthanga Sailo gave away the certificates to the outgoing students. From the report of the Principal, the 39<sup>th</sup>



# 6

batch consisted of 53 students and so far 1875 students passed out from this School.

***Synod Office Annexe Building:*** The newly constructed Synod Office Annexe Building was inaugurated by the Synod Moderator Rev. Lalzuithanga on May 2, 2017. The inauguration was presided by the Senior Executive Secretary Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau and Mr. Thangliankhuma, Junior Engineer, Synod Office gave the technical report of the building. The building is presently occupied by the Synod Music Department and Synod Publicity and Information (Synfo) Department.

***Synod Pastor's Retreat:*** The Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod had their Pastors' retreat at Aizawl Theological College between May 9-12, 2017. The theme of this retreat was 'Commitment' where three papers were presented. The Synod Pastors' Retreat began from 1967 and held every year but it has been held once in two years in 1990. This year 424 Pastors and Pro Pastors attended the retreat.



April – June, 2017

***Triennial Secretarial Training:*** Mizo Sunday School Union (MSSU) conducted the 15<sup>th</sup> Triennial Secretarial Training on May 23-26, 2017 at Aizawl Theological College for all the Sunday School Secretaries of every Pastorate. The training was presided by Rev. P.C Pachhunga, Executive Secretary i/c MSSU and Rev. Lalzuithanga, Synod Moderator delivered God's message. 167 Sunday School secretaries attended this training.



***Result of PES:*** Rev Lalzuithanga, Synod Moderator gave prizes and certificates to three Presbyterian English Schools who got an excellent result in the last High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination on May 31, 2017. The service was presided over by Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Education. This year there were 360 candidates in various Presbyterian English School where 139 got first divisions, 123 second divisions and 30 third divisions. Following are the top three schools.

- 1<sup>st</sup> PES, East Lungdar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PES, Darlawn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PES, Zotlang





**Result of ATC:** Following are the results of the 24 students of ATC who graduated on April, 2017

First Class (A-)	1
Second Class (B+)	10
Second Class (B-)	11
Second Class (B-)	1

**Health Sunday and Hospital Sunday:** Mizoram Presbyterian Church celebrated Health Sunday and Hospital Sunday on the first Sunday of July every year. The forenoon service was meant for Health Sunday where topic on ‘Kidney Stone’ was studied. The night service was meant for Hospital Sunday where a selected topic on ‘Jesus – The Giver of Life’ was preached. The offering of the Hospital Sunday was consecrated for Synod Hospital Fund. Hospital Sunday started way back on 1928 and from 1981 the first Sunday of July was reserved for this service.

**Death of Mrs. Joan Llyod:** Mrs. Joan Llyod w/o Rev. J.M. Llyod (94) passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2017. The funeral service was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 at the Prestatyn Nant Hall, Wales. Rev. Dr. H. Sangkhuma, Mizo Missionary in Wales attended the funeral service on behalf of the Mizoram Synod.





## SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(June 6–8, 2017)

### 1. *Importance of the Church*

The Synod 2016:1 passed that the “Importance of the Church” should be taught and SEC 267:6 assigned some person to prepare guidelines and Upa Lalramthanga, convener was asked to present the proposal by the Moderator. After careful deliberation and necessary correction were made it was suggested that the OM should accept the guidelines on behalf of the SEC. The proposal was printed in the form of leaflet to be distributed to every household

### 2. *Rest House at the Synod Hospital:*

As suggested by SEC 267:14 the proposal for the construction of a Rest House for the patient attendants at Synod Hospital prepared by the Hospital Board was presented by Synod Secretary as follows:

- 1) The housing should be able to accommodate up to 30 people.
- 2) The area between the Synod Pandal House and Grace Home can be used for Rest House or the old CASA building can be renovated.
- 3) Semi Pucca Building should be constructed.
- 4) The interior design and accommodation charge is to be addressed by the committee during the building process.

The above proposal was accepted and the Synod Trust Committee has entrusted to implement the project.



**3. *Limited Private Practice:***

SEC 267:25 authorized the Hospital Board to prepare a proposal on limited private practice for doctors at the Synod Hospital. After much deliberation, the proposal was accepted to be used with immediate effect.

**4. *NEICC Pulpit exchange programme***

As forwarded by OM 6:10 Rev. R. Lalnunzira, Secretary NEICC, submitted a request for the use of pulpit of various local churches as part of the pulpit exchange programme on the NEICC Day of Prayer on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The SEC appreciated the proposal but entrusted each local church committee for final decisions.

**5. *500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation:***

Rev. G.S. Lyttan, Administrative Secretary of PCI General Assembly send an invitation for 50 representatives to attend the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation which will be held between October 27-29, 2017 at the Mawkhar Presbyterian Church KJP Synod Sepngi. After few deliberations, OM was entrusted to make necessary arrangement and the finance committee to take care of the financial expenses.

**6. *Formation of Pay Commission:***

As per the Synod Pay Commission Report, 2013/8 stating that ‘Synod Pay Commission Report is to be utilized for five (5) years’. Therefore OM 8:8 has informed the SEC that a new Pay Commission has to be formed. The formation of a new Synod Pay Commission was agreed upon and it was forwarded to the Synod.



**7. *Translation of the PCI Constitution:***

OM asked the permission of the SEC for translation of the PCI Constitution 8<sup>th</sup> Revised Edition, 2016 in English. The SEC agreed the request and entrusted OM to implement this by appointing necessary translators for the project.

**8. *Re-issue of Baptisma and Wedding Certificates:***

Rev. B. Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Archives reported that certain Pastors have re-issued Baptism and Wedding Certificates without correcting the official records of the church. Due to these circumstances there have been cases of certificates which do not match the official records of the church therefore creating a series of errors in the archives' document. Thus, the committee resolved the concerned persons are to collect their re-issued certificates at the church they were baptized or the church where they are currently affiliated to. Local churches are further notified to have proper records regarding Baptism, Birth, Wedding, etc. for future references and record keeping.

**9. *Revision of Wages of Daily and Contract workers:***

Rev. Lianhmingthanga Sailo, Secretary (Sr.) presented the rate of daily wages of daily and contract workers (SEC 267:36). After few deliberations the revision was accepted.





## SYNOD HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

### PAST AND PRESENT

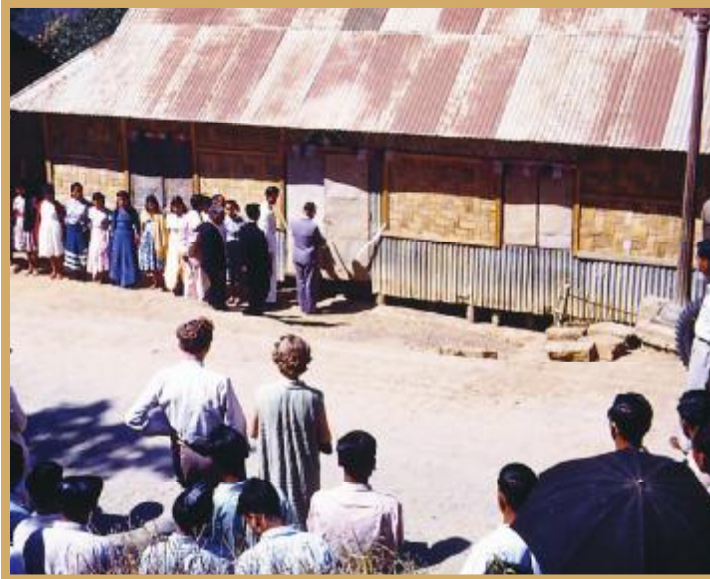
*Lalvena Hnamte, Principal*

**History:** The Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod in its annual session in February 1962 resolved to open a Christian High School. The School, located at Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl, was started on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1962 bearing a name “Presbyterian Church Synod High School” (1962-1966) inaugurated by Late Shri B.C. Roy, the then Deputy Commissioner of Mizo District; under the Headmastership of Rev. Lalngurauva Ralte. The name of the School was changed to Mizo Synod High School in 1966, and was again christened as Synod Higher Secondary School in 1996, following the upgradation of the school to a Higher Secondary School in the same year.

At the very outset, the Headmaster was assisted with a pitiful member of two other teachers- Lalthlengliana, B.A (now a retired missionary and a church elder at Mission Veng Presbyterian Church) and C. Pachhunga, Visharat (RIP) with one Peon-cum-Chowkider Mr. Hranginthanga.



April – June, 2017



“*Pro – Christi Et Ecclesia*” has been the school motto since its beginning. It is derived from Latin meaning “For Christ and the Church”.

The school was officially recognized by the Department of Education, merely a year after it was opened; and in January 1966, the school underwent a breakthrough when it received a full recognition from the Assam Board of School Education

When the school was upgraded to a Higher Secondary School in 1996, Class XI with Science stream was started off with a number of 70 students, Arts stream was introduced with an initial admission of 121 students in class XI in 1999. At present, the intake capacity in the Secondary section is 400 plus and higher section has reached more than 700 students. Altogether, more than 1,100 students with 65 staff comprise an educational family of Synod Higher Secondary School.



# 14

From the very beginning, the governing body ‘Synod Education Board’ is constituted for a term of 3 years wherein the Principal of the school is the Secretary. The Ex-Officio members are: (1) The Moderator, (2) Synod Secretary (Sr.), (3) Executive Secretary i/c Edn etc (4) Finance Officer, (5) Headmistress of P.C. Girls’ School, (6) Moderator Elect, and (7) Synod Secretary (Jr.).

**Financing:** During the first ten years of its establishment, all financial requirements were singlehandedly borne by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church. Partial relieve came when the school received recurring grant-in-aid from the Gov’t. during the years 1972-1975, and later during 1976-1985, it was put under Adhoc grant-in-aid category. Further in 1985, the school was brought under deficit category of grant-in-aid and this was a remarkable milestone in the field of financial management of this school.

**Academic Record:** In academic area, the school has acquired good results over the past years. In examinations under MBSE the school has produced a number of top ten position holders in HSLC, HSSLC (Science) and HSSLC (Arts). Beside this, many candidates have secured highest mark in different subjects.



April – June, 2017

**Staff:** The institution is headed by a principal being assisted by a vice principal. Unlike Gov't. institutions, the principal looks after both Secondary and Higher Secondary School sections together. There are 32 lecturers teaching in the Higher section, whereas 19 teachers are teaching in the High School section. In addition, there are 12 non-teaching staff working in the school office. Altogether, there are 65 staff working in this school at present

**Spiritual Guidance:** As a school based on ideals of Christianity, each day begins with a short, but lively devotion, at the Assembly hall. This service is conducted in English from Monday to Thursday while Friday service is conducted in Mizo. Besides the morning devotions, sermons class is carried out in the last two periods of every last Friday of the month. Gospel Crusade for students and Retreat for Faculties are also organized every Academic year. The staff evening prayer also forms an important part, which is held every Thursday after class.

A Devotion Sub-Committee is set up by the school which is in charge of making schedules and programmes for morning devotion and devotion related programmes throughout the year. Under this body, a "Prayer Cell" is also set up with a view to strengthen the spiritual life of students and to enable each to be worthy witness for Christ. It was initiated by the School Staff Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1997 and it has been



April – June, 2017



continuing till now. Prayer Meetings are held every Tuesday after classes with the guidance of five elected leaders among the members.

Moral Education is included as a compulsory subject in both the secondary and higher section syllabi, as a means to impart good guidance in life for the students and to strengthen their faith and belief in God. Two theological graduates are engaged to teach moral subject. According to feed-back, the contribution of moral education makes the school a distinguished institution that many parents claimed to have been attracted by this subject. Academic growth is supplemented by spiritual and moral development by means of moral education.

**Building Infrastructure:** A number of buildings have been built serving several purposes as below:

- 1) *New Building* : The new building houses the school office, the Principal's room, three science laboratories, CCA room and 5 class rooms for Classes XI and XII Science Stream Students.
- 2) *Main Building*: This is the oldest standing building in the campus and it houses four teacher's rooms and nine class rooms for Classes IX and X. It was constructed during 1971-75 at the cost of Rs. 1,61,104.82





Adjacent to this building is a smaller building which houses one class room and one teacher's room, the Vice-Principal's room and the Computer Room.

- 3) *Arts Building*: This building has four classrooms for classes XI and XII Art Stream students. There is also the Archives room and NSS office.
- 4) *Assembly Hall*: The school has a large hall which is used for different programmes such as, morning devotion, co-curricular programmes, exams, indoor sports, etc., but with the increase in the number of students, it has become a problem to seat all the students together for which a new building with a bigger Assembly Hall is under construction in front of the main building. The Assembly Hall was constructed in 1986 at the cost of Rs, 2,50,000.
- 5) *Library and Canteen*: The school has a library and a canteen both of which the students can visit during their lunch break and other free times.
- 6) *Laboratories*: There are three well equipped separate laboratories for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- 7) *Hostels*: There is a separate hostel for both boys and girls, with a capacity of 78 seats and 85 seats respectively. Synod Ramthar Hostel is also situated near the campus, and is run by the Synod Ramthar Board which accommodates our students only.
- 8) *Staff Quarters*: The school has one Principal's Quarters, One Chowkider's Quarters, Two Staff Quarters and Wardens' Quarters for the Boys and the Girls Hostel.
- 9) *Others*: The school also has a Teachers' Lounge which functions as Teachers' Recreation Room cum sickbay for students. There is also one counselling cum NCC Air Wing Room.



**Library:** The School Library started functioning right from the inception of the school in 1962. Every year, a good number of books are purchased depending on the amount of funds available, and although priority is given to the textual based books, journals and periodicals have been subscribed for the users.

At present, there are about 3000 registered books in the Library, and the school is the first in the State to introduce Library Automation amongst schools. A software called SOUL 2.0 version (Software for University Libraries) is used to fully computerize the Library and is maintained by a qualified librarian daily-worker.

**Information Technology:** Presently, the school computer room is well equipped with 30 modern computers along with internet facilities. Digital class rooms as provided by the NIC are installed in two classrooms of Class X and one class room of Class IX and have greatly aided in teaching. In the higher section, five class rooms (*Science Stream*) have been equipped with Digital Classrooms by Teachnext for which a quarterly fee is paid by the school.

**Incentive Awards:** To inculcate the spirit of academic competition among the students, the following incentives are constituted by the School.

1. Topper Award in HSLC and HSSLC.
2. Top Ten Award in HSLC and HSSLC.
3. Subject Topper Award in HSLC and HSSLC (except in Science).
4. SHSS Topper Award: Awarded to SHSS student, who gets the highest mark in HSLC & HSSLC Examinations.



5. Lalthawmmawia Memorial Award: Awarded to a student who gets the highest mark in HSLC Examination.

6. Proficiency Award: Awarded to the top ten position holders in Promotional Examinations.

**Co-curricular Activities:** The School has the following clubs and units:

- i) *Scout and Guide:* The School's first troop was established way back in 1969. The current troops have been re-established since September. As a regular activity, Meetings are held every Wednesday after school, where trainings and skill developments are carried out.
- ii) *National Service Scheme (NSS):* The School NSS Unit has Regular Activities and Special Programmes such as: Blood Donation, Tree Plantation and Various Awareness Campaigns and a NSS Calendar is maintained. The school has an NSS site at Damdiai, Maubuang which is visited at frequent intervals. Special National and International Days are observed at the school. Special Camping are held annually wherein villages are adopted to carry out several NSS projects.



April – June, 2017

Currently, the school has 5 NSS units where 100 volunteers each are guided by a Program Officer, totaling in the appointment of 5 Program Officers. The Program officers and volunteers both have attended trainings and other activities in other states.

- iii) *National Cadet Corps (NCC)*: The invitation to institute an Air NCC unit in Synod Higher Secondary School was realized on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 with the recruitment of 25 students in the Junior Division. During their higher classes, students can obtain their NCC B and C certificates, and so far, two students have been enrolled in the Indian Navy and one in the Assam Rifles. At the 2017 Republic Day celebration in Delhi, three students were selected for a parade.

The recruits fall-in once every week, they are trained to parade and are theoretically taught the different parts of aircrafts and guns. These activities have inculcated motivation as well as discipline in the cadets. Camps are attended at Dimapur, Silchar, Guwahati, Shillong and Jodhpur. And within the city, camps are held at Zokhawsang and Tanhril.

- iv) *Eco Club*:

The school formed the Eco Club in 2004, the same year as was initiated by the National Green Corps. Apart from the regular education received from school, the Eco Club tries to educate the students on ways to preserve and protect the environment thus making the world a better place. It also practice and imparts the importance of learning through the students. It is also an important instrument to develop an interest in Science amongst the students.



**Committees and Other Bodies:** To ensure smooth functioning in different spheres, the school has the following bodies:

*i) Welfare Committee:*

It was established on November 14, 1998. A sum of Rs 50 is contributed by each student per year. A condolence fund of Rs 5000 to students who lost their parents and a sum of Rs. 20,000 for the death of a student

*ii) COSCOM:*

The Clean our School Committee (COSCOM), formed on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 ensures cleanliness of the school campus and led the school to win several awards in Cleanliness competitions organized by the Local Administration Department (LAD).

Under COSCOM, Cleanliness Week is observed every year, where mass cleaning of the school is done by staff and students of the school. Mass Cleanings are organized in the afternoon or for the whole day from time to time if needs arise. ‘Captain Book’ are issued by COSCOM which is maintained by the Class Captain and Assistant Captain which records the class performance and cleanliness, through which ‘classes of the week’ are selected.

**The Planter:** The official newspaper of the school named ‘The Planter’ was first released on February 5, 1982. From 1993 onwards, the management is being carried out by the Staff Meeting. Presently, as many as 1200 copies are circulated at regular intervals with an official Editorial Board.





**Study Tour:** The Synod Education Board granted permission for Students' Excursions since 1996. In order to create a healthy competitive spirit among the students, the opportunity to travel in these tours are mainly reserved for Class IX and Class XI students who secured Top Ten positions in the school term exams.

**Alumni Association:** The School Alumni Association was formed in 2011 and is run by an Executive Committee elected by the general body meeting. It comprises of six office bearers for an office of two successive years. Apart from other duties and responsibilities, the association organizes an annual felicitation programme for students of the school with good results in the HSLC and HSSLC Examinations.



April – June, 2017



# DELHI MISSION FIELD

*Rev Lalrosiama, Field Secretary*

**D**elhi Mission Field has been named after the national capital Delhi. Delhi Mission Field was opened in 1988 and we can say that it's a dream come true for the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod. The present Field Secretary is Rev. R. Lalrosiama and he has been serving as a Field Secretary since January 2016. As per the resolution of the annual Synod meeting of 2006, Delhi Mission Field had been divided into two pastorates namely South Delhi Pastorate and North Delhi Pastorate. The annual Synod meeting of 2015 created another pastorate known as Dehradun Pastorate. Currently, there are three pastorates under Delhi Mission field including 21 Missionaries and 15 field workers under the supervision of the said Field Secretary.



April – June, 2017

# 24

**It's Origin:** The annual Synod meeting which was held in the year 1987 passed a resolution that Delhi Mission Field should be opened as an expression of concern for the lost souls. As per the resolution of the annual Synod meeting, it is opened in the beginning of the year 1988. Rev. V.L Zaithanga had been appointed by the Synod to be the first Field Secretary. Rev. V.L Zaithanga arrived Delhi on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1988 and had been serving till 1995. In the beginning, he rented a house at Safdarjung Enclave, B-2/171. After three years, the Synod had purchased flats at Charmwood Village, Haryana on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1991. It was opened and dedicated by Rev. K. Lalzuala, the then Moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod. On 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1992 Rev. V.L Zaithanga and his family were shifted to Mission House at Charmwood Village to occupy the flats bought by the Synod.

**Area of the Field:** Though the name is specified Delhi Mission Field, it covers a very vast area of land such as Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Due to its vast area, it is hard to describe the culture of the people as multi culture flourish. The area where we are working include some big castes like Punjabi, Himachali, Bihari, Nepali, Garhwali, Kashmiri, Kumaoni, other small tribes and even Dalits. As it covers a vast area of land, it is a formidable task for the Mizoram Synod to evangelize such large groups of people. We need to move forward with prayers and gifts.

**Field Headquarters:** When Delhi Mission Field was established in 1988, there was an ongoing problem with regards to field headquarters till 2014. Field Headquarters had been shifted to many places due to some inconveniences. This problem is mainly caused by lack of permanent land in Delhi.

As it is mentioned above, flats were bought by the Synod at Charmwood Village and were occupied by the Field Secretary.



April – June, 2017



Many problems arose with regards to official documents and other needful things as the field headquarters had been stationed outside Delhi. Due to this reason, there was a strong proposal that the field headquarters be shifted from Charmwood Village, Haryana to New Delhi. As



per the recommendations of Ramthar Commission, it was shifted to M.96-Greater Kailash-I New Delhi.

In 2002, in accordance with the resolution of the Synod meeting, it was again moved from M.96-Greater Kailash-I New Delhi to Charmwood Village. As some still admire the proposal to shift the headquarters from Charmwood to New Delhi over again, by the end of 2007, in accordance with the recommendation of Ramthar Enthatu Commission, it was moved from Charmwood to Lajpat Nagar-III, New Delhi all over again. However, Synod House in Charmwood village is still utilized by the Field for Missionary quarters.

In 2015, in accordance with the resolution of the Synod Meeting, a very nice and excellent building was purchased at Kalkaji Extension, near Aapna Park. At the moment, it is being used for the Field Office, Field Secretary quarters, and OA quarters and also for Synod Transit Accommodation.

**Pastorate under Delhi Mission Field:** Delhi Mission Field was divided into two pastorates by the Synod Annual Meeting of 2006. Such as North Delhi Pastorate and South Delhi Pastorate. During those days, even South Delhi Pastorate alone extended up to the whole Uttarakhand state. North Delhi



# 26

Pastorate covers North Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. As the district was very vast and as it extended up to Himalayan region, the Synod felt it necessary to create a new Pastorate. The 2015 Synod meeting carved out Dehradun Pastorate from North Delhi Pastorate, and the new Pastorate i.e. Dehradun Pastorate embrace the entire Uttarakhand state.

**Field Secretaries and Pastors:** Eight Field Secretaries are serving since the commencement of Delhi Mission Field. Rev. V.L. Zaithanga was the first Field Secretary appointed by the Synod. The followings are the Field secretaries and their terms appointed by the Synod.

Rev. V.L. Zaithanga	1988-1995 (8 years)
Rev. R. Lianbuanga	1996-1998 (3 years)
Rev. C. Lalsangliana	1999-2001 (3 years)
Rev. R. Lalthanmawia	2002-2006 (3 years)
Rev. Vanlalbela	2005-2006 (2 years)
Rev. Lalchhuanmawia	2007-2009 (3 years)
Rev. Vanlalmanpuia	2010-2015 (6 years)
Rev. R. Lalrosiama	2016- till date

When Delhi Mission Field was opened, there was no area Pastor under Delhi Mission Field and all the field staffs were under the direct supervision of the Field Secretary. During 1988 to 1997, the entire Uttar Pradesh was under Delhi Mission Field; Rev. Vanlalrova Khiangte was posted as area Pastor at Tameri, Uttar Pradesh from 1998 to 1999. During 2000 to 2006, there were no area Pastors again. The Synod Meeting of 2006 bifurcated Delhi Mission Field into two pastorates viz. South Delhi Pastorate and North Delhi Pastorate. The two Pastorates created by the Synod started to function at the beginning of 2007. As time goes by, Delhi Mission Field witness lots of developments, there was a rapid growth in terms of membership by the grace of God. The



April – June, 2017

annual Synod meeting which was held in 2015 felt the necessity to form a new Pastorate and created Dehradun Pastorate. We shall highlight the Pastors' name, their terms and their areas.

Tamehri, U.P: (1) Rev. Vanlalrova Khiangte  
1998 -1999

South Delhi Pastorate: (1) Rev. Lalchawimawia  
2007 - 2010

(2) Rev. Vanlalsawma  
2011 - 2015

(3) Rev. P.C. Rohlira  
2016 -

North Delhi Pastorate: (1) Rev. Laltharzuala  
2007 – 2011

(2) Rev. Rev P.C Pachhunga  
2012 – 2015

(3) Rev. R. Lalthlengliana  
2016 – till date

Dehradun Pastorate (1) Rev. Malsawmdawngliana  
2016 - till date

**Ministries undertaken by the field:** The Working Committee considered many times how ministry will be done in Delhi Mission Field. The Working Committee which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1997 resolved like this, “the Synod Mission Board will be functioning only as Coordinator and financial supporter and the native workers will be functioning as self-employees. The Committee will select a place where field workers are to be posted and they will serve there as Pastors/Evangelists and we will lend a helping hand whenever it is necessary. The Synod Mission Board will carry on giving financial support until and unless they can support them themselves”.



# 28

The Field working committee which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1999, basing on the resolution no. 9 of BEC, resolved, “apart from the already existing Presbyterian Churches, no other Presbyterian Churches will be planted, other para churches and denominations will be cooperated as far as possible”. Basing on this resolution, evangelism work was carried out till 2006.

However, the Synod has changed its policy and in 2006 Synod Annual meeting, it was resolved that, “Presbyterian Churches should be planted in Delhi Mission Field, not only in rural areas but also in Delhi”. Basing on the resolution of the annual Synod meeting which was held in 2006, evangelism had been doing since 2007 in accordance with the resolution of the Synod meeting. Presbyterian Churches are planted till today.

Let us describe some ministries undertaken by Delhi Mission Field in brief. These methods are utilized by the Mission Field to evangelize the native people.



April – June, 2017



**1. Non-formal school:** Non-Formal School is one of the key ministries undertaken by Delhi Mission Field. It is one of the key ingredients to have meaningful ministry in North India. Currently, there are Non-Formal Schools in Delhi Mission Field. There is an attempt to open Non Formal School wherever we have posted missionary. Besides this, giving free tuition to the children who are in need is also one of the effective ministries we undertake. This method is utilized by the Mission Field to evangelize not only the children but also to reach out their parents.

**2. Craft centre:** At the moment, there are two Craft Centers which are functioning viz. Dayalbagh and Ludhiana. It is very beneficial to uplift the poor economic condition of our fellowship members. It is also very useful means to preach the Gospel. All of the students in our crafts centre are requested to pursue Bible Correspondence Course offered by the Mission Field and those who have completed the course were awarded Certificates and the Holy Bibles

**3. Bible correspondence course:** The course is meant to help the newly converts to have a better understanding of the Bible and its teachings. It is designed especially for the Craft students and the new believers. After we came to know that it is very worthwhile to offer such course. We also try to convince our fellowship members to pursue Bible Correspondence Course to improve their bible knowledge.



# 30

**4. Medical ministry:** This ministry is run by one missionary nurse and one field worker nurse. One medical centre is in Dayalbagh and the other one is in Ludhiana City. Free Medical Camp has been conducted every year by the field with the help of some dedicated doctors and nurses in Delhi. We can say that it is a good job carried out by the field in order to help the needy. It also helps us in many ways to reach out the unreached.

**5. Bible and bible tract distribution:** Bible and Bible tract distribution work is organized whenever it is convenient. This ministry is still going on though we face many problems from the people of other faith. We are preparing to provide more Bibles and Bible Tracts to those who are in need.

**6. Crusade and home crusade:** Home Crusade and Crusade are organized by our workers in various fellowships in and outside Delhi. Prayer meeting and house church are conducted to evangelize the native people.

**7. Film ministry:** This ministry is very effective and useful for all the Para Churches in India. Even Delhi Field makes use of Jesus film to preach the Gospel. This ministry is effective especially in rural areas and slum areas in Delhi. It seems that film ministry will be effective and we always try our best to employ this method.

**8. Varsik sammelan:** In accordance with the resolution of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Working Committee, the first Varsik Sammelan was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 for the first time. It is held every year and the attendants are also increasing year by year. It is also very useful means to guide our new believers and our fellowship members in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

**9. Networking ministry:** Networking ministry is one of the key ingredients to have effective ministry. Some people who



April – June, 2017

do not belong to Presbyterian Church but have missionary zeal are supported according to their needs by Delhi Mission Field financially. This ministry is very beneficial to reach out the unreached and evangelize the people. This ministry is very successful. After we have given financial support for many years, they preferred to amalgamate with the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod ultimately.

**Partnership with other mission organization:** Partnership with other mission organization is always stressed since the beginning of Delhi Mission Field. Delhi Mission Field has accommodated most of the missionary nurses which the Synod Mission Board had sent to partners with other mission organizations since the establishment of Delhi Mission Field. The followings are the mission organizations which Delhi Mission Field had cooperated since the beginning of the Field.

1. Interserve India
2. Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA)
3. Church of North India
4. CONCERN
5. Church Mission Society
6. Methodist Church.
7. Seva Bharat
8. Delhi Mizo Inkhawm
9. World Vision.

**Conclusion:** It hard to put in writing the history of Delhi Mission Filed and its activities in detail. However, from the above points, we can know the condition of Delhi Mission Field. It is clear that there are many things to achieve in Delhi Mission Filed to win over the hearts of non-Christians. It is clear that we have responsibilities as members of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod. We must know that we need to pray without ceasing in order to win the hearts and souls of the people of other faith.





# DISCIPLESHIP

(College Retreat Sermon on 22-23rd June, 2017)

*Rev Dr Lalhmangaiha*

**Meaning of Discipleship:** The word 'disciple' is derived from the word 'discere' which means 'a scholar' or 'an apprentice'. The Latin derivative 'discipulus' conveys the idea of a 'learner', and its Greek counterpart 'methetes' brings out the meaning as 'to learn'. The Hebrew form 'limmud' also subscribes to a similar idea. The Oxford Dictionary defines 'discipleship' as one who believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus Christ. Prof. John Baillie also describes it as 'learning Jesus Christ' which is quite appropriate for Christians as we follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Hans Kung expounds that 'discipleship' is for servanthood and not to master. It is a call, not to rule, but to serve. It is not a free option on the part of the disciple, but a sovereign call by the Master with whom the initiative lies and remains (On Being Christian, p.280). So, 'discipleship' means giving one's first loyalty to Christ which involves wholehearted devotion, all-out loyalty and complete self-denial.

In the 'Acts of the Apostles' we see that those who believed in Jesus Christ were known as disciples. They followed Jesus Christ leaving all behind. The large body which readily accepted Jesus as Teacher also was considered as disciples. Hence, discipleship demands belief, accepting Jesus, following and fellowship. It involves the disciplining of the whole faculty of personality according to the pattern and purpose of the Master.

Many people often look upon Christianity as an escape from hell and a guarantee of heaven, and feel that they have



April – June, 2017



every right to enjoy the best that this life has to offer. Unlike his contemporary Rabbis, Jesus invited people to him and not to the Torah. Jesus' call to the disciples was very categorical: "Follow me". Jesus is not looking for men and women who will give their spare times. Rather he seeks for those who will give Him their first place in their lives. He wants those who are prepared to follow the path of self-renunciation which he trod before them. The words of Jesus are clear enough, and there is scarcely any room for misunderstanding if we accept them at face value. Nothing less than unconditional surrender to Jesus could ever be a fitting response to his sacrifice at Calvary. So, discipleship involves commitment, a pledge to do the will of God.

### **Three steps to follow Jesus**

The first step to follow Jesus through our commitment is to hear the word. Unless we hear the word or call, there is no room for response. A general call is to receive salvation. It is a call to everybody. We have to response to that call. Next step is to receive the word. In John 1:11-12 we read: "...and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him...." Here the word 'receive' means to accept him as He is. They received him not as Messiah, but as a mere man of Nazareth, the son of Joseph and Mary. We have to receive the word of God as divine and authoritative, and with pure hearts and humility. The third step is to do the word. Doing is, of course, the hardest part.



April – June, 2017

# 34

James says, “Be doer of the word and not hearers only...” Our faith should be demonstrated in our day to day life. Faith in action is the sign of true discipleship.

## **Answering God’s call**

We see in the Bible that God called different peoples for specific purposes. Men like Samuel, Abraham and others responded the call of God positively except the prophet Jonah. God said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you” (Gen 12:1-2). With such an uncertainty, he obeyed God’s command and left his father’s house and gone. Even to the extent of sacrificing his only son Isaac, Abram readily and unquestioningly obeyed the will of God. Surely he demonstrated the life of a true disciple.

On the contrary, disobedience to the will of God invites suffering which is reflected in the life of a reluctant prophet Jonah. God called Jonah to go and preach to the city of Nineveh. Being a nationalist he refused and tried to run away. He was rebellious against God and opted for death rather than submitting to God. Similarly, Judas Iscariot opted for suicide. Disobedience to the will of God always brings sufferings and tribulations.

## **Terms of Discipleship**

(1) A Supreme love for Jesus Christ: Jesus tells us the terms of discipleship or cost of discipleship in Lk.14:26, which says,



April – June, 2017

“If any man comes to me and does not hate his own father... he cannot be my disciple”. This means, not to have animosity or ill-will in our hearts towards our relatives, but it does mean that our love to Christ should be so great that all other loves are hatred by comparison. In other words, our love of Christ should transcend all other loves. We should love Jesus more than we love our dear ones. Our love to Jesus should be a supreme love. Many converts in our country have experienced oppositions, persecutions and even removal from their own family and relatives because of their faith in Jesus.

(2) Denial of self: The most difficult clause in this passage is the words, “yes, and even his own life” (Lk 14:26); “If any man comes after me, let him deny himself...” (Matt. 16:24). As a matter of fact, self-love is one of the stubbornness hindrances to discipleship. True discipleship demands laying down of our very lives for the cause of Christ (see Matt. 16:24). Denial of self means such complete submission to the Lordship of Christ that self has no rights or authority at all. “Take up his cross” talks about a willingness and readiness to suffer like the agony of a man upon a cross if the situation demands. Discipleship means strict adherence to Christ and his injunctions until death.

(3) Following Jesus: Jesus concludes the demanding statement with the word, “If any man... and follow me” (Matt.16:24). This means in every moment of life to say ‘no’ to self, and to ‘enthroned’ God. It is a total submission to Jesus Christ. A disciple has no freedom to move here and there by his own will. We have to remember that the dimension of discipleship must touch individual and corporate, internal and external, the intrapersonal or interpersonal.

(4) Proof of discipleship: A proof of true discipleship is stated in Jon 13:35, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”. This is the love that esteems other better than oneself. Our Lord Jesus imperatively commands us to love one another so as to justify discipleship to the eyes of non-believers.



# 34

(5) Continual abiding in His word: In one occasion Jesus said to the Jews, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples” (Jn 8:31). An unswerving continuance in his word is another term of discipleship. Spasmodic obedience to the Scriptures will not do.

(6) Forsaking all: Jesus said, “So, therefore, anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:33). This means an abandonment of all one’s material possessions that are not absolutely essential and that could be used in the spread of the Gospel. Since the passion of a disciple’s life is to advance the cause of Christ, he invests everything above current needs in the work of the Lord and leaves the future with God. To be a disciple one must forsake all. No matter how much we might object to such an extreme demand, or might rebel against such an impossible or unwise policy, the fact remains that this is the word of the Lord. We have to note that this is not addressed to a selected few, but to all, ‘whosoever’ in which there is no exception.

The cost of discipleship is stated in Lk. 9:57-62, “...the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head” and Lk 18:22 says, “...sell all that you have and distribute to the poor...” In counting the cost, one has to study diligently the two parables found in Lk 14:28-33, where Jesus wants to teach a lesson to figure out the cost before taking up the building works and the second one, according to A.M.Hunter, is ‘to sit down and reckon whether you can afford to refuse my demands’. Anyone who sets out to follow Jesus should remember Gethsemane and Golgotha.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a well known theologian, who was executed because of his openly opposition to Nazism under Hitler of Germany, wrote a famous book ‘The Cost of Discipleship’ in which his major concern is ‘cheap grace’ and ‘costly grace’, and concerning discipleship he writes, “Just as Christ is Christ only in virtue of his suffering and rejection, so the disciple is a disciple in so far as he shares his Lord’s suffering, rejection and crucifixion (p.96). And he writes, “As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death...when Christ calls man, he bids him come and die” (p.99). Crucifixion is the essence of discipleship



April – June, 2017

and suffering is the badge of discipleship. Peter, James, Polycarp and hundreds of men and women have paid the price in the past. Discipleship demands strict adherence to Christ and his commandments until death.

### **Hindrances**

Anyone who sets out to follow Christ can be sure that many escape routes will loom up before him. The hearts of Christians have been invaded and have victimized to compromise and conform to the worldly standard. If we think globally, we can identify many issues and problems Christians are facing. To mention only few, we can point out Globalization, global warming, religious fanaticism, Mass Media (Internet), lack of unity, immorality, alcoholism, substance abuse and so on.

Let me highlight in few lines as space does not permit us to go into detail. One of the effects of globalization is that it has brought debt crisis and a country like India is one of the victims of debt burden which affects the economic life of the nation. Globalization is often seen as neo-colonialism. The crisis arises from the accelerated climate change is a challenge to the life and witness of Christians. A movement in India in support of replacing Indian flag (tricolor) by 'Manusmriti' (Code of Manu), banning of cow slaughter and attack on minority rights etc, are on the rise which are the product of religious fanaticism. Across Asia the invasion of satellite television along with mobile phones has produced as much dismay as excitement. It is the most profit-maker at the expense of the people. Due to its bad effects some countries have banned satellite dishes. Drug abuse and alcoholism have contributed to the rise of violence, killings, and many other social evils.

Let us remind ourselves that "our adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour" (I Pet 5:8), and "the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (I Jn 2:17). In conscious of the fact that we, Christians, are the citizens of heaven, and for a limited time, of earth, it is a time to exhibit the true nature of discipleship in words and deeds. AMEN.



April – June, 2017

**REV. TLANGLAWMA**  
(1937-2017)



**R**ev Tlanglawma was born on October 11, 1937 in Parvatui Village. He was the only son among the siblings of Mr. Vansuaka and Mrs. Rothuami.

It was on May 12, 1964 he married to Thansiami of Zarkawt, Aizawl and were blessed with four children. His wife passed away in April 8, 2015.

**His life and Ministry:** Mr. Vansuaka father of Rev. Tlanglawma died when Rev Tlanglawma was only three years. He was raised by his mother alone and had gone through various problems and hardship in the family. His mother decided to move to Rulpuihlim village where his uncle lived, and he had his schooling from this village. In 1957 after several years of staying at Rulpuihlim he moved to Aizawl with his mother. He joined the Government service as peon and resided at Chhinga Veng, Aizawl.

While working under the Government he received the calling of God to serve Him. He decided to dedicate his life for full time ministry. And then it was in 1960 that he joined Aizawl Theological College for ministerial training. After completing the course the Mizoram Presbyterian Church appointed him to be Probationary Pastor and posted at Bilkhawthlir in 1962 under the pastorate of Kolasib. He attained his ordination in 1966 and the Synod appointed him as a pastor in Kawlkulh



April – June, 2017

pastorate in the same year. From there he was transferred to Thenzawl pastorate in 1980. Again he was transferred to Chaltlang pastorate in 1990 till his retirement. And he retired in 1997 from Chaltlang pastorate.

Altogether he served as a pastor for 35 years. During his tenure as a pastor he baptized 5419 persons and solemnized marriage ceremony of 519 couples under the Mizo Christian Marriage Act. He was Presbytery Moderator for 6 times at different Presbyteries. He was also a member of Synod Executive Committee, Pastoral Committee, Mission Committee, Sunday School Committee, Hospital Board, Education Board and Music Committee.

**His Later Years:** After he retired from active service in the church, he resided at Aizawl Ramthar Veng where he owned a house. He continued his ministry by actively involved in this local church. He was adviser of Mizoram Upa Pawl (Mizoram Elder Association), Ramthar Veng Unit. Rev. Tlanglawma started complaining his health since 1988. He was diagnosed as diabetes and was given proper treatment. It was in 2008 that he suffered from lung problem and was hospitalized in Birla Hospital, Kolkata. After he was given treatment he was quite alright but the diabetes was increasing and was hospitalized for a number of times. On April 6, 2017, it was found out that he suffered from Acute Lukemia and admitted in the Intensive Care Unit at Synod Hospital, Durtlang. His sickness was so severe that he died on April 29, 2017. He ended his earthly journey for his heavenly home in glory. He was survived by three children, 8 grand children and 1 great grandchild. His funeral service was conducted on April 30, 2017 at his residence at 12:00 Noon and in the church at 1:30 PM.



To,

---

---

---

---

**Editorial Board Members of the Presbyterian Review  
Editorial Board 2017 – 2018**



*(L-R): Rev. Prof. Vanlalnghaka Ralte, Rev. Andrew H. Lalitlaniana  
Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalruata, Rev. Prof. Lawmsanga,  
Rev. Lalenkawla, Rev. Dr. H. Lalrinthanga, Prof. Lalnghakthuami*

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

**Published by Mr. R. Lalmalsawma at Aizawl, Mizoram  
on behalf of Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod,  
and printed at the Synod Press, Aizawl - 796 001, Mizoram**