

PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW



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**Synod
Higher
Secondary
School**

**Past
&
Present**

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Editorial:

The Decisions-Making Church

The life and witness of the church have been determined to great extent by the decisions which the church made at various levels of its administrative set up or what we called church courts in the ecclesiastical circle. In spite of the fact that there are various forms of church structures and organizations, the objectives of these varied forms of church functionaries have focused primarily on good governance and vivification of the church's life which encompass all forms of church's activities, ministry and mission.

Even though we find some traits of similarity in the administrative set-up of different denominational churches there are uniqueness found in every single denomination. Here, one notes that the characteristic feature of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church (MPC) is that it is both centralized and democratic in nature. There is more of lay participation in its ministry and mission, For instance, in the MPC annual Synod meetings, which is the highest decision making body of the church, the proportion of the lay and ordain delegates used to be about 4:1. These features are believed to augment the church's strength and vitality.

At any rate, the church has to be always careful in making decisions. We have to remember that the church deals with the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of human life. That is to say, the decisions within the church have to be holistic in its perspective and outlook. Above all, these decisions should always be guided by the Gospel values and divine inspiration. Therefore, the decisions-making church is bound to constantly affirm in the line of the early church, saying, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15:28).

SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTE

The meeting of the Synod Executive Committee was held at J. M. Lloyd Hall, Synod Office, Aizawl during November 7-9, 2017. In this meeting 130 members were present from different Presbyteries. The following are some of the resolutions made by the SEC:

1. The Committee approved a proposal to install Air Conditioner at J. M. Lloyd, Hall.
2. A permission was given to translate the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church of India in Oriya dialect. This has to forwarded to the PCI General Assembly Committee.
3. The Committee also approved to continue Revival Campaign within Mizoram in connection to the MLA Election, 2018.
4. It was agreed to name the Oriental High School Devotion Hall, Silchar as 'Zairema Hall'.
5. The Committee resolved to open two new Counseling Centers at Lunglei and Mamit respectively.
6. It was accepted the budget estimate of Rs 2,00,000,000 for the construction of church building at the Mission Compound, Silchar.
7. The proposal to prepare budget for the construction of church buildings at different metropolitan cities in India was accepted. The Finance Committee is entrusted to prepare budget for 2018-2019 financial year.

8. It was resolved to extent the partnership agreement with Zou Synod for one more year.
9. The proposal to revise the Presbyterian School Manual was approved and the School Education Board was entrusted to submit the revised Manual to the SEC.
10. The Proposal “to the guidelines of Kohhran Pavalai Pawl” from ten Presbyteries was accepted and the Revival Committee is entrusted to revise the guideleines and submit to the SEC.
11. The Mizo translation of the PCI Constitution 8th Revised Edition 2016 was approved and the SL&PB is entrusted to the same.
12. The Synod Administrative Set-Up & Management was approved with immediate effect.
13. The Pay Anamoly Committee, consisting of six members was formed and the Senior Executive Secretary will be the Convener.
14. It was agreed to mark February 20 in the Synod Calendar as it was the beginning of the Mizo Sunday School.
15. The OM is entrusted to look into the matter of the partnership with CSI and CNI to create more meaningful and effective relationship.

NEWS AROUND MIZORAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor's Wife Retreat: The 39th Retreat of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Pastor's wives was held on 12th Oct, 2017 at Pi Zaii Hall, Synod Conference Hall. The programme was organized in two sessions. In the first session Rev.Dr.Lalchungnunga spoke on the topic 'Importance of Pastor's wife in the Present Scenario' and in the second session Dr.Martin Chawngsailova spoke on the topic 'Health and its Concerns'. 149 Pastor's wives attended this retreat.

Mashi Sangati Convention: The 30th Mashi Sangati Convention was held at Khatla Presbyterian Church during 20-22nd Oct, 2017. The convention theme 'Christian Life' was delivered by Rev.Lalfakawma Chhangte. Pro pastor Zosangzuala conducted Bible Study in this convention and Rev.R. Lalthangvunga celebrated the Holy Communion in the Sunday Afternoon worship service. The convention came to an end on Sunday night where Rev.B.Sangthanga, Executive Secretary i/c Mashi Sangati, chaired the worship service and Rev.K.Lalthlanpuia, Director of Mashi Sangati delivered a sermon.

World Sunday School Day: The annual World Sunday School Day was observed by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church on the first Sunday of November. The World Sunday School Day was first proposed by Dr George.W.Bailey, the Church elder of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. The Mizoram Presbyterian Church also observed this World Sunday School Day from 1944 onwards and from 1949 they observed this day with a

specific topic to study by both the adult and children sections. The topics studied for the World Sunday School Day were:

Adult: Church Heresies and their Origins

Children: Life and Works of Adoniram Judson

500 years Reformation: Aizawl Theological College organized a programme to mark the 500 years of Protestant Reformation on 31st Oct, 2017 at Chanmari Presbyterian Church. In this programme, Rev.Prof.C.Lalhira, Principal of Aizawl Theological College chaired the programme and Rev.Dr.H. Vanlalauva, Former Principal of Aizawl Theological College and Former Moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod gave a keynote address on the topic ‘The Legacy of Reformation and Its Impact on Worldwide Christianity’. ATC faculty and students, Pastors and Elders of different denominations participated in this celebration.

Aizawl Theological College Day: Aizawl Theological College Day celebrated its 52nd Day on 17th Nov, 2017. The function was chaired by Rev.Lalzuithanga, Moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Synod and Rev.Prof.Sunil Caleb, Principal of Bishop’s College, Kolkota delivered a message on the College Day theme ‘Challenges in Christian Ministry’.

Aizawl Theological College was started in the year 1907 and presently there are 189 students with 4 courses namely: Bachelor of Divinity (BD), Master of Theology



(M.Th), Doctor of Theology (D.Th) and Diploma in Clinical Pastoral Counselling (DCPC).

Synod Meeting 2017: The highest decision making body of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the Synod Meeting of 2017 was held during 5-10th Dec, 2017 at Bungkawn Presbyterian Church. Apart from having business meeting for 4 days, Rev Lalbiaknia, Pastor incharge of Chaltlang Pastorate preached on the Synod 2017 theme 'Church-The Family of God'. In this Synod meeting 10 agenda of Nomination Committee, 16 agenda of Pastoral Committee and 59 General agenda were passed. The next Synod meeting will be held at Electric Veng Presbyterian Church under the modertorship of Rev.R.Lalhmingthanga.

SYNOD MEETING 2017

Rev Lalchhandama



Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod (MPC) meeting was held at Bungkawn Presbyterian Church during 5th December to 10th December 2017. It was the 94th MPC Synod meeting where 2129 delegates from various parts of Mizoram, India and abroad attended. Besides these, 6 delegates from other denominations within Mizoram and 9 delegates from sister synods also attended the MPC Synod 2017.

The theme of the Synod Meeting was “Church: A Family of God” (Eph 2:19) was delivered by Rev. R. Lalbiaknia.

The office bearers of the 94th MPC Synod Meeting were:

Moderator: Rev. F. Lalrinnunga

Secretaries: Rev. Lianhmingthanga Sailo (Sr)

Upa. R. Dengzikpuia (Jr)

Finance officers: Rev. P.C. Pachhunga

Rev. H. Remthanga

Statistician: Upa. Dr. H. Vanlalhluna

Sr. Exe Secretary: Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau

Executive Secretary: Rev. B. Sangthanga

Programmes were as follows

November 29, 2017: Synod executive committee

November 30, 2017: SEC Budget session

December 1, 2017: Synod pastoral committee (Interview of the Pro Pastor candidates)

December 4, 2017: Synod pastoral committee (Pastors transfer and posting)

December 5, 2017: Synod nomination committee

December 6- 9, 2017: Synod business sessions

December 10, 2017: Morning worship service (Ordination service)

December 10, 2017: Afternoon worship service (The Lord's Supper)

December 10, 2017: Night worship service (Valedictory Service)

Nomination Concern: The Synod Nomination Committee resolved to hold the next Synod Meeting between 28th November to 9th December 2018 at Electric Veng Presbyterian Church to be hosted by Electric Veng Pastorate. The theme will be "Thy kingdom come" (Mt 6:10) to be delivered by Rev Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte. In the next Synod meeting the office bearers will be as follows:

Moderator: Rev. R. Lalhmingthanga

Secretaries: Upa. R. Dengzikpuia (Senior)

Rev. R. Vanlalnghaka (Junior)

Statistician: Rev. R. Lalhntluanga

Finance officers: Rev. P.C .Pachhunga

Rev. H. Remthanga

Executive secretaries: Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau

: Rev. B. Sangthanga

Nomination committee also appointed delegates to various sister synod meetings, auditors to different synod departments and also the date/time for different boards meeting was also approved.

Pastoral Concern: Currently there are 66 probationary pastors under Mizoram Synod and it was reported that all of them cleared their exams and there are 4 Pastors to receive superannuation pension in the year 2018 January. And also there will be 10 pastors to go for superannuation pension at 2019 January. It was resolved that 25 pastors will be ordained in this Synod meeting. The meeting also approved 13 Pastors to pursue higher studies and 8 Pastors will complete their higher studies in a year to come.



The Pastoral committee put up “Faithfulness to God and the church” (Rev 2:10) as the theme for pastoral ministry for 2018 and this was accepted by the meeting. It was resolved that in the next synod meeting , 10 new probationary pastors to be newly appointed and the synod was fortunate to open 6 new pastorates within Mizoram and 4 new Pastorates in the mission fields. The 6 new Pastorates



within Mizoram included 2 pastorates to be looked after by Masihi Sangati.

The Synod meeting approved 82 pastors transfer of terms whose terms were over and some were appointed to resume their current ministries.

General Concern: There were 57 general agenda to be taken up in this Synod meeting of which 44 were put up by various presbyteries while 13 agenda were put up by different Synod departments and committees. Some of the important decision made in the meeting were:

1. To promote awareness regarding Christian persecutions in India
2. To fight against the spreading of HIV/AIDS
3. To enhance ministry to the children through cartoon
4. To prohibit use of tobacco products for fulltime Synod employees

5. To have same colour of clerical shirt for ordained pastors
6. To prepare new Synod Secretary report form
7. To follow new rules for electing Synod Executive Secretaries
8. To establishment a secular college
9. To circulate Synod minute to all church elders
10. To organise mass prayer in all local churches with a common theme
11. To form new pay commission
12. To promote Manipur Area for full fledge Synod
13. To revise Synod Mission Board service manual
14. To open Nursing College at Synod Hospital
15. To revise of Synod Service Rules
16. To revise rules for medical reimbursement
17. The budget estimate for 2018-2019 is Rs 270,01,81,000

Reports from the Statistician and different departments like Finance, Mizo Sunday School Union, Synod Mission Board, Theological Education Board, Education Board, Synod Literature and Publication Board, Communication, Hospital, Worship, Pension Board, Social Front, Trust Committee, Service Board, Women and Youth Departments were given.

Things To Remember:

1. There are 49 presbyteries under Mizoram Synod
2. There are 288 Pastorates with 1097 local churches
3. Total members of MPC Synod is 5,94,457
4. The MPC Synod has 560 Ministers (Pastors) and 5159 church elders
5. There are 934 full time workers under Pastoral Ministry including those who work in various offices, Theological College, Hospitals, schools etc.
6. There are 2663 missionaries working in various mission fields under the MPC Synod Mission Board.

ARUNCHAL EAST MISSION FIELD

Rev.H.D. Ramngaihawma,

1. Genesis: Mizoram Presbyterian Church mission in eastern Arunachal Pradesh is a mission among the people of Tangsa who lives mainly in Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh. The origin of the mission could be traced back to late 1980s when some Christians from Tangsa Baptist Church Association started to have interest in the administration of Mizoram Presbyterian Church. As a result on 4th March 1988, under the leadership of Mr. Ranjung Jugli, the Tangsa Presbyterian Mission was formed without any external instigation or interference.

During those days, Siang Presbyterian church was already established in the west side of Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Evangelical Board, a mission society from Mizoram looked after Mr. Zathuama Chawngthu, who worked as a missionary in Along. Even though, Mr. Zathuama came to Changlang and Tirap Districts at the time of its inception, the Presbyterian Church here in Arunachal east was established without any external support. It was a search for further development and equality among the church members that gave birth to Presbyterian Church.

The newly formed Tangsa Presbyterian Mission (TPM) sought help from the then Zoram Pawn Mizo Kohhran (ZPMK), which assisted them by sponsoring a number of workers financially. The TPM later approached the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod for financial help and the Synod Mission Board Meeting on 23-24 May 1990 resolved to take Arunachal as her Mission field. The Board suggested that both Siang Presbyterian church (West) and Tangsa Presbyterian (East) will come together under the umbrella of Mizoram Synod Mission Board. On 27 January 1991, the then Moderator of Mizoram Synod Rev. K. Lalzuala installed Rev. K. Lalthangmawia as the first Field Secretary and the field was named “Arunachal and Assam Mission Field”. When the west part became a separate mission field in 2001, the name was changed consequently to Arunachal and Assam Mission Field East (AAMFE).



2. Ministry

2.1. **The land and the people:** Arunachal Pradesh is truly rich in culture and diverse in terms of people. In Changlang district alone there are major tribes like Tutsa, Tangsa, Nocte, Singpho and Chakma. From its inception till 2015, the main target of our mission was to work with the Tangsa tribes which consisted of around 16 sub tribes with each having their distinct dialects. The Tangsas are laborious and expert in handicrafts. They led simple life, to suit to the climate and terrain, they live in stilt house, which are divided into many rooms. Traditionally they practiced shifting cultivation, nowadays those in the plains area practice wet rice cultivation.



Many of them still believe in a Supreme Being who created all that exist, locally known as Rangfrah. Some Tangsas like the Tikhak have come under the influence of Theravada Buddhism and converted to Buddhism. According to 2011 census, 24.27% of the total population in Changlang district are Christians, the figure is believed to be much more now. The main focus will be shifted slowly from Changlang district to other districts of east region. With this decision new mission stations have been started in Tezu (Lohit District), Hayuliang and Hawaii (Anjaw Dist.), Namsai (Namsai Dist.), Roing (Lower Dibang Valley Dist.) from 2016 onwards.

2.2. Mission Strategy

The mission strategies here in eastern Arunachal can be simply summarized as direct and indirect method.

2.2.1. Direct Evangelism

Direct evangelism is mainly carried out through outreach programme, salvation campaign and healing crusade. Each evangelist group in each pastorate go for group outreach programme at least twice a month. Evangelists have to stay for 3 or 4 days, visiting the houses, distributing the Bible tracks and preaching the gospel and offering the prayer if the owner of the house permits them to do so. The main aim of direct evangelism is to strengthen and edify the Church members' spiritual life and equips them to be self-reliance in every sphere of life.

2.2.2. Indirect Evangelism.

Indirect evangelism like education, medical, cultural show, games and sports are to the people in the area. Some of them are discussed in details as following:

2.2.2.1. Education Ministry

Besides giving education to the students, the spiritual welfare of the students is another concern in the mission school and special focus is always given to it. All the mission schools used to organize a week long gospel campaign program in which special endeavor is given on preaching the gospel and counseling the students.

There are 1294 students out of which 670 are Christians and 624 are non-Christians. Under the AAMFE, there are two high schools – Jeruel English School at Lakla village (Estd 1991) in Tinsukia District of Assam and Tangsa Model School (Estd. 1994) at Khasan village. There are two primary schools – Bethel English School (Estd. 2002) at New Khamlang village and Presbyterian Mission

School (Estd. 2011) at Changlang town. We are proud to mention that all the mission schools of our field are well-known, highly reputed and successful in terms of educational assessment and ministry. It is certain that education ministry plays a very big role in terms of finance, human resources and ministry in the field.

2.2.2.2. **Socio-Economic Development**

Most of the Tangsa people in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh are said to be poor and illiterate. Their economic status is very low compared to other tribes in the state. Therefore, in order to uplift the economic status of the people in the Field, the mission is doing her best while there are lots of things yet to be done.



Tailoring training center was established in 2003. Students got admitted irrespective of their religious and cultural backgrounds. At the end of their training, students are given certificate with Sewing Machine. Now, there is a plan to open one more center in Tezu, the headquarters of Lohit district. Besides these, villagers are given some practical training on farming and other bread winning skills.

3. The Present and Future Hope.

At present, there are five pastorates with five pastors, one minister, 2 probationary pastors and 30 church elders. There are altogether 150 missionaries/church workers, out of which 33 are regular missionaries, 50 contract missionaries, and 65 are native workers. The number of all the church members amounted to 3851. According to the Field Master Plan, it is expected to open two more pastorates by the end of 2020. And by 2035 there will be 17 pastorates within

our field dividing all the pastorates into two presbyteries, which will be demarcated on the basis of tribe and landscape. There is a proposal that all the three mission fields in Arunachal Pradesh will join together to form the Arunachal Synod. However, decentralization of power and funds at the presbytery level will be the best option for the future Synod because of diversity in her nature, the plan further suggested.

4. Reflections

The Presbyterian mission in Arunachal in general and Changlang district in particular is not without problems and hindrances. As majority of the members have been drawn from other denominations, there have been confusion in practices and traditions. The diversity of culture and dialect bring difficulty to carry out inclusive



mission for the people of the land. As of now, literature work is confined mainly to Jugli dialect since the first educated leaders of the church belong to this community. The Jugli community comprise of less than half of the Christian population. This setback is proven by the fact that many of our members use to pronounce “Tangtaiva kechuchi”, a Jugli version of the Lord’s Prayer without understanding the meaning at all. At the same time, many of the church members sing from “Kristian Shai Likdap”, a recommended song book, without really understanding the words of the hymns.

In the midst of this bewilderment, the Master Plan however suggested that all the big sub-tribes will be provided with Bible in their own dialects. Making Tangsa alphabet is also still one of the most

challenging plans to be accomplished. We hope and pray that God will strengthen the Church to fulfil its strategies.

Indigenization has always been a challenge to the mission works in Arunachal Pradesh. Making stronger relationship with the people p stronger, earning more public trust, loving the people and establishing indigenized form of Presbyterian Church in Arunachal remain the prime task that the mission has to work harder.

5. Conclusion

In spite of all these shortcomings, the Presbyterian mission in eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh is slowly growing and establishing God's kingdom. During 2017, we have 188 new believers, the highest rate for the last ten years. And we are very happy that our field is being granted Presbytery status by the last Mizoram Presbyterian Synod Meeting of 2017. To conclude, we thank God for trusting His church to continue His work of mission here in this land, and for making us a part of that endeavor.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Rev. Lalenkawla

Introduction:

Sunday School is one of the best and oldest known institution of Christian education among the people in Mizoram. Mizoram Presbyterian Church gives her utmost efforts towards the Sunday School ministry especially for the children. Among its various activities, focus will be given on Children Sunday School Conference in this review.

Brief History of Children Sunday School Conference

Different Pastorates under Mizoram Presbyterian Church used to organize Pastorate Children Sunday School Conference every year. Tracing its history, this conference came into exist as a result of the enthusiasm and ardent interest of the Missionaries who came to Mizoram and therefore the first conference was held in 1931 at Aizawl Tlangnuam Church. Sunday School conference became an annual feature of almost all the pastorates from that year.

One unique aspect about this conference is that it was not directly organised by the Mizo Sunday School Union (MSSU) rather all the necessary arrangements were at the hands of the Pastorate Sunday School Committee. As such, there was no common feature/syllabus to follow.

It depended upon the decision of the committee and as a result the programme of the conference was also



different from one pastorate to another. Its date and time was also fixed according to the convenience of the pastorate. But later on, the MSSU realized and recognized its important for the development of Sunday School ministry as a whole. Therefore, it tried to find out some uniformity with regard to the time and date of this conference by incorporating it into the MSSU syllabus.

Since its inception, all the Children Sunday School departments (from Beginner to Senior department) used to have conference together without group or age division. But, recently Senior Department Meet/Conference was introduced seperatedly in various pastorates.

Therefore, under the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, there are two conferences namely the Children Sunday School Conference and Senior Department Conference which will be highlighted as follows:

Children Sunday School Conference: According to the MSSU syllabus, Children Sunday School Conference (from Beginner to Sacrament Department) was held annually at the second Sunday of



September. The pastorate committee was responsible to make arrangement regarding the programme including the place, items and assigning various in charges for the conference. In most

of the pastorates, competition such as reciting together bible verses, singing, catechism etc were conducted in which local churches under the pastorate compete with one another. Prizes were also distributed and it was borne by the pastorate committee. Special items such as solo, group singing, recitation, dancing etc were also performed by the children.

Senior Department Conference/Meet: As Senior Department students were mostly adolescence, a separate conference or meet was introduced. It was held annually at the third Sunday of September. Like the Children Sunday School conference, all the programmes were arranged by the Pastorate Sunday School Committee. But the type or system of conference was different from Children Sunday School Conference. Many of the pastorates observed the



conference as a fellowship or a meet where speaker was invited to address the conference. Competition like Bible Quiz was conducted in some place.

Reflection: From the foregoing review of the brief history of Children Sunday School conference, one would observe the importance and significance of this conference. First, the zeal and passion of the Missionaries should not be forgotten as they were the one who initiated this important ministry. Second, as per the objectives of the MSSU, this conference imparts the knowledge of the word of God to the children. Therefore, it will not be an exaggeration to say that Children Sunday School conference became one of the most important agent for the development of Sunday School ministry as a whole. Third, it is also an important instrument to expose the talent and potential of the children. Fourth, it also taught us the right way of how to worship God just like a small children worshiped God wholeheartedly. To conclude, Children Sunday School conference made significant contribution as it developed and nurtured children in every possible way. The church should also acknowledge its ministry more and more as the children are the future leaders of our church.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev Lalpianga (1932 – 2017)

Rev. Lalpianga the second eldest among 8 children was born to Zatawna and Hrangchungi on July 6, 1932 at Puallawi. In 1945, he completed his Primary School from Sailulak and his Middle School from Sialhawk Middle



School in 1949. In 1951 he pursued higher education at Imphal, Manipur as a self-sponsored student. However, due to financial constraints he could not complete his matriculation. In 1955 he worked as a teacher at Teikhang Middle School and continued his studies. Finally, in 1959 he could complete his matriculation. In 1960 he entered Govt. service as a LDC and was promoted to UDC. While in Govt. service, he attended the night College and completed his B.A. in 1965. He left his govt. service and worked under the Synod in Teachers' Training. However, due to the political turmoil, the Teachers' Training programme was closed in 1967 and he continued to work under the Synod as an Accountant in the Synod Office.

Although he was a lay employee of the Synod, he had a deep desire for full-time ordained ministry. At the first opportunity, he applied to study theology and pursued B.D. studies at UTC, Bangalore. He successfully completed his theological education in 1971 and began to work at Aizawl Theological College as a teacher.

In 1972, he was appointed as Pro. Pastor and posted at Champhai Pastorate. In 1974, he was elected as Mission Board Asst. Secretary. However, the SEC appointed him as Assembly Officer to be posted at Silchar. On April 24, 1974 he joined as Assembly Officer. During this period he also served as Mission Board Asst. Secretary and Pro. Pastor of Durtlang Pastorate. In 1974 he was ordained as Pastor and he continued his responsibility as Assembly Officer till February 1986.

He held different ministries in the Church such as – Presbytery Moderator, Mission Board Secretary, Synod Statistician, Synod Secretary, Synod Moderator, Assembly Secretary, Assembly Moderator. During 1993-1994, he served as Pastor of Mission Veng Pastorate and retired in 1995.

During his service, he solemnized 98 couples in holy matrimony and baptized 552 persons.

On October 15, 1965, he was married to Lalthahmingthangi of Mualpheng and they were blessed with 3 children (2 sons and 1 daughter); 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Even after retirement he continued to serve as Pastor of English Congregation and lecturer at the Missionary Training College.

He was suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure and from 2010 onwards his health began to decline. His health continued to decline and in 2016, he barely managed to attend the Presbytery and Synod Sessions. He was hospitalized on Aug 3, 2017 at Synod Hospital. His condition continued to deteriorate and on Aug 13, 2017 (6:55 A.M.) he left for his heavenly abode.

On the same day at 1:00 P.M. his funeral service was held at Republic Veng Presbyterian Church which was conducted by Rev. Lalramliana Pachau, the current Senior Executive Secretary and Ex. Moderator. The Church bade a tearful farewell to a faithful minister of the Lord.

Rev C. Lianhmingthanga (1946 – 2017)

Rev. C. Lianhmingthanga was born on Nov. 4, 1946 at Champhai, to Elder Vanlallawma and Vanrumi. He was the 4th born among 11 children. His childhood was spent at Champhai.



Rev. C. Lianhmingthanga pursued his education while working. He was the founding Headmaster of Bungkawn M/S and after this he worked in the Economics & Statistics Dept. He completed his B.A. in 1974. Since he had a deep desire to serve the Lord, he left the Govt. service and studied B.D. at Serampore College during 1978-1981. He successfully completed his studies and in fact he got the 1st prize in Religion and Greek subjects.

In 1981 he was appointed as Pro. Pastor by the Synod and was posted at Kohima Pastorate during 1982-83. In 1984 he was transferred to Dawrpui Vengthar Pastorate and in the same year he received ordination.

During 1985-1990 he was posted at Hnahlan Pastorate. During 1991-1994 while looking after Lunglei Chanmari Pastorate, he was the Field Secretary (A/S). During 1995-1997, he held the responsibility of Synod Revival Co-ordinator (Director). From 1998-2002, he was the Administrative Secretary at Lunglei. During the period of 2004-2006, he was the Director of Synod

Multipurpose Training Centre (SMTC) and during this same period (2004-2005) he was the Synod Secretary.

He retired in 2007 and during his ministerial period, he solemnized 136 couples in holy matrimony and baptized 1453 persons. He married Lalrinpuui of Aizawl Bungkawn in 1977 and they were blessed with 4 children (3 sons and 1 daughter). One of his sons was appointed as Pro. Pastor in the last Synod Session.

Rev. C. Lianhmingthanga was a gifted preacher and he was appointed as a speaker on several occasions. At the time of his demise, he was SEC Member representing Aizawl Chhinhthlang Presbytery and he was also the BSI President of Aizawl South III.

Just before his retirement he was diagnosed with diabetes and in 2009 he suffered heart attack. As per the advice of doctors he carefully underwent treatment. However, in 2015, he suffered a second heart attack and was treated at Aizawl Hospital. He soon recovered and had no further complaints regarding his health. He also fulfilled all responsibilities given to him by the Church. On October 31, 2017, he also attended the celebration of 500 Years of Reformation organized by Aizawl Theological College, at Chanmari Presbyterian Church.

On that very night at around 10:30 pm he complained of breathing problems. He was immediately taken to Aizawl Hospital. In spite of the best efforts of the doctors he left for his eternal home on Nov. 1, 2017 (12:25 A.M.). The same day, his funeral was held at Mission Vengthlang Presbyterian Church by

the Moderator Rev. Lazuithanga. The Church unwillingly bade a tearful adieu to a faithful servant of the Lord.

Rev Sikulfala (1944 – 2017)

Rev. Sikulfala the eldest son of Elder Lalruanga and Lalrinpuii was born on July 12, 1944 at Pukzing. He was the eldest of 7 children and spent his entire childhood at Pukzing. He studied up to Class III at Pukzing Lower P/S and Class IV at Phuldungsei M.E. School. He finished Class IX from St. John H/S, Kolasib.



In the June 1963 issue of *Kristian Tlangau (Christian Herald)* he read that admission was open at Aizawl Theological College for those who had completed Class VIII. From that time onwards, he was filled with a longing to study theology and serve the Lord. His parents as well as the Pastor, Thanfianga tried to convince him to undergo theological studies after matriculation, however they were unsuccessful. Ultimately, he applied for theological studies and from among 35 applicants, 7 were selected and Rev. Sikulfala was one of the selected candidates.

After he had completed G. Th. In 1967, he was appointed as Pro. Pastor under the supervision of Pastor Thanfianga, he worked at Bilkhawthlir PPV. In 1970, the Synod Session ordained him as Pastor. During 1981-1985, he studied B. Th. at ATC and

Cherra Theological College. He also completed his B.D. (Extend) in 1990.

He married Lungtiawii of Kolasib Hmarveng in 1968 and they were blessed with 4 children (1 son and 3 daughters).

During his ministry he served in the following places:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1) Lengpui | : | 1971-1977 |
| 2) Phuaibuang | : | 1978-1981 |
| 3) Champhai Vengthlang | : | 1985-1991 |
| 4) N. Vanlaiphai | : | 1992-1996 |
| 5) SL & PB | : | 1996-1997 |
| 6) Thingdawl | : | 1998-2004 |

He retired in 2005 and settled at Kolasib Venglai. During his ministerial service, he solemnized 441 couples in holy matrimony and baptized 4437 persons.

Rev. Sikulfala was a friendly and broad-minded person. He was straight-forward in expressing his opinions and was always ready to ask for forgiveness if he was at fault. He never shirked from his duties and was often assigned to be the speaker at Campaigns/Campings. He had also served as the President of BSI, Kolasib Branch and was involved in various activities for the betterment of society.

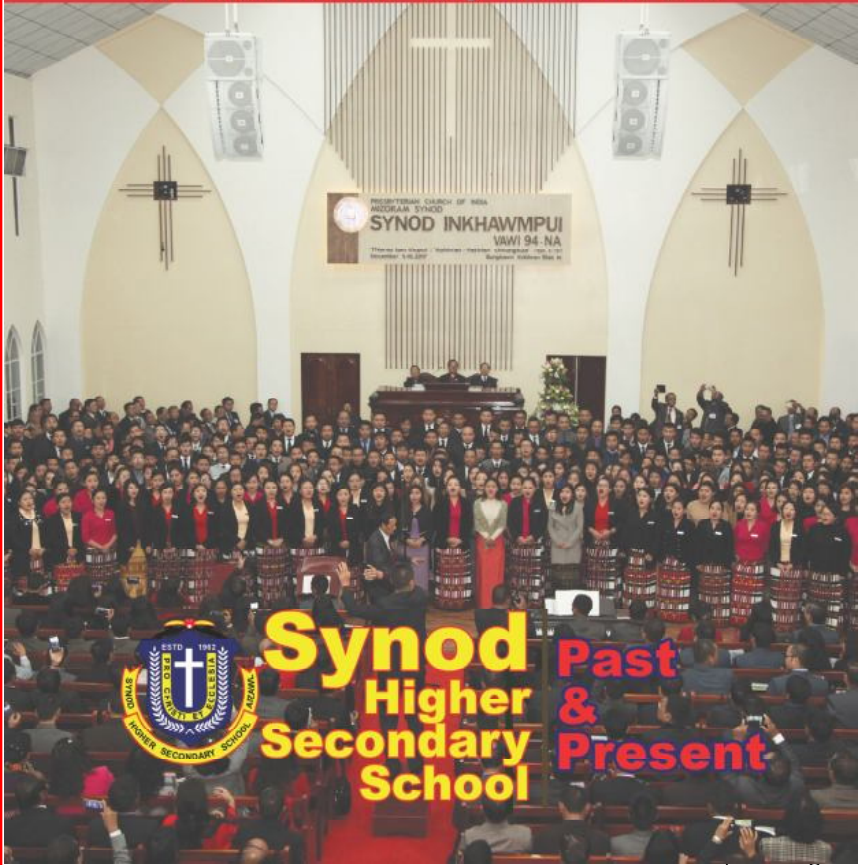
He had kidney problems and underwent treatment at Vellore. His liver was also affected and his health declined. He was undergoing dialysis and his health also deteriorated and on Nov. 29, 2017 (3:10 A.M.) at Aizawl Civil Hospital, he breathed his last and left for his eternal home.

As SEC Meeting was going on, the Moderator was unable to conduct the funeral service held the same day at Kolasib Venglai Presbyterian Church. Rev. H. Lalrinmawia, Ex Moderator conducted the service and the church bade farewell to another faithful servant of the Lord.

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**Synod
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School**

**Past
&
Present**