



Covenant connect

A BIMONTHLY BULLETIN OF COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH DIMAPUR
JULY- AUGUST // ISSUE #8

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Sunday Service** 10:00 am
- Youth Express:** Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday School:** Sunday 10:00 am
- Board Meeting** once a month
- Women's Fellowship** 2nd Saturday of the month
- Prayer Meeting:** Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast** 2nd Saturday of the month
- Holy Communion** bi-monthly
- Crossover Fellowship:** once a month
- Nagamese Fellowship:** Alternate Sundays at 4:00 pm

VISION

- To glorify God and advance His Kingdom.
- To strive to bring men and women to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- To build a vibrant and worshipping community.
- To share and propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ here and beyond.

MISSION

- To make disciples of all nations beginning within our community in and around us.
- To be Christ centered in our worship, preaching, teaching, fellowship and all Christian related ministry.
- To reach the unreached within the community and beyond.

- We are made in God's image, and God is a worker.
- Work allows us to fulfil the law of loving our neighbours as ourselves.
- Work gives us a scope to change and make a positive impact.

Overall, the sermon encouraged the listeners to view their work as a vital part of Christian life, an opportunity to serve God and others, and to strive for excellence in their endeavours.

We are grateful to have witnessed our prayers being answered, with Mr.ChizuknokLongkumer, a member from the Crossover team, sharing the Word of God from Romans 5:3-8, focusing on Christian struggles and the importance of sharing each other's burdens.

We look forward to our upcoming Youth Camp to be held from October 11-14, with the theme: "Abide, Grow and Bear Fruit" (John 15:1-8) which is going to be held at the Kingdom Holistic Ministry, Jalukie Town. We request the Church's prayers for our speaker, Dr.Bonik Chandra Brahma (IFS), and his wife, as well as our resource speakers, Ms. Kim Leivon, Mrs. Zuthunglo and Rev. Dr. Mongzeung Mpom.

Please note that we encourage the youths to sign up for the camp before the 29th of September, with a registration fee of Rs. 200 per head. We pray that all our plans align with God's will as we execute them.

A Sharing by Mr.Sentiso Jamir:

The Youth Express has always been a place of spiritual growth and healing for me. It is a source of support and a platform to grow in my spiritual life and in many other aspects. Of the many experiences I have had from being away from home was the need for support in my spiritual life and the Youth Express has been pivotal in my faith journey. When I am away, I have always been encouraged by the Youth Pastor and my friends who often check up on me and pray for my various needs, which has always been a source of encouragement for me. Whenever I am home for my holidays, I always look forward to have fellowship with the Youth Express family because of the bond we have in Christ.

As a family of the CBCD Youth Express, wherever we are, let us strive to build a family of people not looking for people of perfection but to look for people eager to learn and meditate on the Word. Let us seek to stay connected and teach each other the truth and hold them steadfast.



Glimpses from the Youth Express fellowship

YOUTH EXPRESS REPORT

Yearly Theme: "Come and you will see" – John 1:39

As our youths returned from their summer break, we resumed our fellowship, giving thanks to God for the blessed time they had with their families. We are delighted to see a growing number of young people eager to join our fellowship and being enthusiastic about listening to God's Word. We praise God for these precious souls and pray for dedication and seriousness in our ministry.

Our practice of giving opportunities to individuals and hostels to lead the fellowship has fostered zeal and responsible service. The month of July was a special month for our fellowship, marked by a meaningful *Youth Sunday* on the 7th of July. We were challenged by a thought-provoking skit on unemployment presented by our youths, encouraging them to engage in odd jobs and avoid idleness. The speaker, Dr. Samuel Wati blessed the congregation with a powerful message. Below is a brief summary of the sermon:

The Biblical Context of Work (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

The sermon explores the concept of work in the Bible, contrasting it with the Greek's cultural view of work as a curse. It highlights that work is a God-given aspect of human life, essential for fulfilling God's purpose and loving one's neighbours. The sermon also emphasizes the importance of diligence and responsibility in one's work, citing examples from the lives of Apostle Paul and Jesus Christ.

Some key points from the sermon include:

- Work is a command from God, not just a necessity for survival.
- The biblical view of work is that it is a blessing, not a curse.
- Work is an essential aspect of human life, given to us before the fall of man.

CROSSOVER FELLOWSHIP REPORT

We praise God for the strong bonds formed during our Retreat in July, where the members became more comfortable with each other and expressed a shared desire to grow in their faith. One of our key objectives was to mentor and support younger youths, and we are thrilled to see progress in this area.

To further this goal, we are involving more Crossover team members in the Youth Express services, encouraging them to share, attend, and get to know the youths. We believe, this will help build familiarity and pave the way for further growth.

We have started our Bible study on the 18th of August, which was led by Ms. Bendangrenla Anar. She provided an insightful background on the chosen Bible passage. The study focussed on Matthew 14:22-33—“Trust in Jesus. A brief overview of the study is as follows:

In the preceding events, Jesus models the importance of prayer and seeking God’s presence. The intense action between Peter and Jesus, of walking on water manifests the meaning of trust and remaining in the presence of God amidst the storm, even when you fall.

Our prayer is that God will ignite in us a heart and zeal to grow deeper in His Word.

We meet once a month for this fellowship. Anyone interested in joining, please do let us know so we can add you to our WhatsApp group and keep you updated on upcoming events.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

One of the major events organized for Sunday School Children in the church which was highly anticipated was the **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**. This program was held at El-Shaddai Academy from July 25th to 28th. VBS provides a platform to teach about Jesus at a deeper level. Focusing on age appropriate approaches and creativity, children are encouraged to engage with scripture teachings. VBS also fosters community bonds with teachers and friends, learning the importance of fellowship with co-believers and find support in it. Below is a brief highlight of the VBS.

- The theme for VBS 2024 was **“The Sovereign Lord”** meaning **“God is In-Charge”** and **“God is Powerful.”**
- There were about 154 registered children, 9 Sunday school Teachers, 12 volunteers, 4 support staff members, 1 VBS Sunday speaker and 2 counsellors & facilitators. A total of 181 members were engaged in the program.
- The children were divided into 4 groups based on the different names of God:
 - (1) Elohim, (2) El-Shaddai, (3) El-Elyonand (4) Adonai
- Each morning we started the day with the **“Teachers & Volunteers Prayer”** at 7:30 am. Pastor Yabang, Ms. Emilo and Mrs. Zuthunglo led in brief morning devotionals followed by taking up invocation prayer respectively for the opening Assembly of **“Sing & Praise”** sessions. These sessions included corporate worship and learning new songs.
- **“Bible Adventures”** included detailed Bible stories while **“Sticky Scriptures”** was a time for memorizing the scripture verses. These Bible lessons were then reinforced through video at the **“Video Station”** where facilitators interacted with children based on the videos

to instil a deeper understanding of God’s Word. We are encouraged to learn that many children are developing more interest to listen to God’s Word by asking questions and seeking prayer.

- There were rewarding moments where we were able to lead children individually to Christ, talk to them and pray for them at the **“Prayer Station.”**
- Recreational **“Gamesessions”** were also organized at the end of each day for fun and fellowship. We concluded the third day of VBS with Love-Feast, which was about sharing tiffin with friends as well as with an interesting round of **“Treasure-Hunt”**.
- VBS Sunday, the closing day was a combined worship at the devotional service at CBCD. Each class from VBS was given an opportunity to present special items like songs, memory verse recitation, choreography and musical drama. We were also blessed to have Mrs. Ono Kevichusa share from her encouraging personal life testimonies about how we can trust in our Heavenly Father, who is the Sovereign Lord, who can and will always be with us in the midst of our difficulties.



Beginner SAPLINGS



Junior SPARKS



Primary WALKERS



Intermediate BIBLE EXPLORERS



Teens FAITHFUL BIBLE INVESTIGATORS



Sunday School Teachers

GLIMPSES OF THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2024



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT

On 27th of July, the extreme summer heat did not stop the ladies from coming together for fellowship where we sang songs together, shared various prayer concerns and thanksgiving among the members and prayed together. Mrs. Khonzani shared a very powerful and encouraging testimony of God's faithfulness to her family and in return, her family's commitment to serve God at every opportunity. Our speaker for the day was Mrs. Rongsenla, who spoke on the topic "Jesus the Problem Solver". She brought out stories from various Bible passages and encouraged the group to reach out to people who are in need as Jesus Himself did when He was on earth. It was a time of great blessing. On the 24th of August, for a change, the women's fellowship planned the day to be a fun and chilled out evening with a movie & potluck dinner fellowship. The ladies gathered at Mrs. Arenla's residence and as usual, we had a great time of catching up with each other followed by watching a movie called "God's Compass". The movie was about a woman (Susanne Water) who was faced with a series of crises on the night of her retirement. However, trusting God's direction, her "North", as she takes in a delinquent teenager, Eli and her connection with her revealed a miraculous blessing that brings her and her son's family through healing and a joyful confirmation that God has a plan for each of us - our "True North". Finally, we enjoyed the delicious potluck dinner. We felt blessed and grateful to God for the wonderful time.



Snapshots of the Women's fellowship held on 27th July



Women's Group Movie and Potluck Dinner Fellowship held on 24th August

MEN'S GROUP REPORT

For the Men's Prayer Breakfast fellowship of CBCD, the month of July started with a discussion on the topic 'Brahma is Real' on the 13th of July, an excerpt of which is as follows:

Brahman, according to philosophical Hinduism is considered the ultimate reality of the universe. It is the creative principle which lies realised in the whole world. According to the vedas it is the cosmic principle. It manifested itself from the beginning as the creator of the universe, including everything, including his/its own everything, the collective totality, as it were. It is the chief intelligence of the whole universe and is gender neutral. The most cherished dream of modern science is to come up with 'The Theory of Everything' which will describe the workings of the universe at the most fundamental level and thus encompasses our entire understanding of nature. Some of the best theories of science like string theory, chaos theory, swarm intelligence, all seem to indicate a force that guides the whole universe in a coordinated, de-centralised way. Some call it the supra consciousness, that there is a force permeating the whole universe and which is vibrating. This force can be accessed in various ways by everyone.

But in the Bible we can see that this force is none other than the devil himself. 2 Corinthians 4:4, says that he (satan) is the god of this world, who blinds the mind of those who do not believe in Jesus Christ. Secular science and worldly religion may come up with many explanations but Hebrew 11:3 says „Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear“. In conclusion we know that Brahman is real but is not the truth. John 14:6 says: "Jesus saith unto Him, I Am the way, The truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me." On the 27th of July, our 3rd Futsal Match was played at Sovima Futsal ground, when it was a great time of fellowship through sports and we were so encouraged to see so many of our families join us and cheer for us as we displayed some very uninspiring footballing skills.

On the 10th of August, we had a discussion on 'Once Saved Always Saved' at the conference hall of Dimapur Rengma Baptist Church, Khermahal. The conclusion of the discussion was that we are saved by God's grace alone and not by works, when we accept Jesus Christ into our lives, and that salvation is in three tense

1. We have been saved from the penalty of sin (Justification).
2. We are being saved from the power of sin (Sanctification).
3. We shall be saved from the presence of sin (Glorification).

The process of sanctification begins from the day we accept Christ and we as disciples of Christ should be growing constantly in maturity but many a time, we backslide and fall but our salvation is not lost unless there is apostasy, where we willfully abandon our belief in Christ. When we constantly sin then we can lose the joy of salvation in our lives but God always gives us an opportunity to come back to Him. Romans 11:6 says, 'And if by Grace, then is it no more works: otherwise Grace is no more Grace: But if it be of works, then is it no more Grace; otherwise work is no more Grace'. The men of CBCD have been leading the worship every 4th Sunday of the month and we also got the opportunity to participate in the 'Extravagant Love series 7' organised by 'The Church at Powai' on 25th August 2024 where we presented the song „Wonderful grace of Jesus' The month of August concluded with a Bible study and prayer on the 31st at the Church. There are many more interesting topics to be discussed as well as events being planned so the men of CBCD are requested to join us in the coming days.



Discussion on 'Once Saved Always Saved' held at the conference hall of Dimapur Rengma Baptist Church, Khermahal on August 10th



3rd Futsal Match played at Sovima Futsal ground on 27th July

SERMON SNIPPETS:

Sermon 1: Battling depression and anxiety (1 King 19:1-21) By: Pastor Yabang Longkumer

When we look at 1 Kings 18 and 19 we see Elijah at his highest and at his lowest. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah confronts King Ahab boldly with God's judgment for Israel's involvement in idolatry. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah challenges the prophets of the false god, Baal, to a contest to see who was truly God, but in chapter 19 we see Elijah running away and trying to save himself when Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. He argues with the Lord and tries to defend himself but finally obeys the Lord and yields himself and is restored to service.

In this chapter, we see how Elijah demonstrates anxieties and Depression in moments of distress. Let's look at some of them.

The effect of Fear (19:1-3)

Queen Jezebel was after Elijah's life, and Ahab did nothing about it but rather allowed her to do it. 1 Kings 19:3 says, "He was afraid and arose and ran for his life...". Anxieties and Depression can be caused by many factors and fear is one of them." In a moment of fear, Elijah forgot all that God had done for him the previous three years. For Elijah it was Queen Jezebel, what about you?

The effect of Failure (Verse 4-5)

Elijah prayed, but what was his prayer all about, "I've had enough!" it wasn't a prayer of thanksgiving, or his confidenc-

es in the Lord. Rather we see a complaining prayer and, often we see ourselves in his shoes, prayers full of complains over the things we couldn't achieve rather than being grateful. This mighty man of prayer starts to pray that he might die. In fact, Elijah was one of the few men in the Bible to never die! Then he gave his reason: "I'm no better than my fathers." (verse 4)

When we have anxieties or go through depression, we tend to think negatively. Many times, one of the reasons we battle with anxieties is because we focus only on our failures and not on the blessings received from God.

God tends to our need (19:6–8)

"The angel of the Lord," an Old Testament title for the second person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The angel had prepared a meal of fresh bread and water. God set Elijah on a 40-day trip to Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai. God allowed the prophet time to recover from his spiritual depression. No matter what our journey will be, we need God's strength to reach the goal.

Get fresh perspectives (19:9–14)

We are anxious about everything that obviously leads us to fear and hopelessness. Verse 10: "I only am left" makes it look as though he was indispensable to God's work. He was looking at life through the lens of uselessness. Discouraging times make God's servants feel more isolated and alone than they are.

A lesson to be learned is that, like many, Elijah probably only looked for God in dramatic manifestations. God sometimes appears in such ways, but He often appears in less dramatic ways. It is very important to get perspectives. People who are always anxious or struggling with depression have a distorted view of God, life, self.

Get to work (19:15–21):

God was calling Elijah to stop weeping over the past and running away from the present. There are times when we think that everything depends on us in how we do things, but the truth of the matter is that everything depends on God. God told Elijah to get up and return to his way, his life, and get to work again. Sometimes, the best way to come out of depression is to get our focus onto a new purpose, a new responsibility and get to work.

Sermon 2: Looking Unto Jesus

By: Mr. Yangertoshi Longkumer

Times are becoming unpredictable and everything around us are changing at a very fast pace. This brings us to the questions - Where am I going? Is there any security in this world we live in? When will be the time for me to leave this world? There are no answers to these questions within us. The word of God in Hebrews 12:2 tells us to fix our eyes unto Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. There is no other way except to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. Also, Psalms 34:5 says, „Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. Therefore, we can see God only through our mediator Jesus Christ.

Jesus' life on Earth:

The books of the Old Testament predicted about the virgin birth and the coming of Jesus Christ. Christ's birth was witnessed by the shepherds who came and worshipped him. The wise men came with their gifts and worshipped the King of Kings. But Jesus's life on earth was full of sufferings but His patience being unmeasurable. Because of His sufferings, we will get comfort from all our trials and temptations. While on earth, as Jesus was about to begin His ministry, He fasted for 40 days and was tempted. He overcame Satan by quoting the Word of God. He invites everyone who is hungry and thirsty to come unto Him. During His life on earth, Jesus had to combat with the forces of darkness but he overcame them all. He is the good shepherd, the true vine, the door and the light of the world.

Suffering of Jesus Christ and death:

The suffering of Christ can be summarized as follows: The greater His grief, the greater our joy; the deeper His dishonour, the brighter His glories. He took all our shame and our sins. Come sinners and experience the love of Christ at Calvary's. It was at Calvary where sinners can experience the love of Christ. Among the crosses, the middle cross was reserved for the greatest criminal, they nailed Him to the cross and He gave His life for us. He died as a friend of sinners and paid for our sins. Therefore, He invites all sinners to come and accept Him as our Lord and saviour.

Christ resurrection:

Death could not hold Him down. On the third day, He rose from the grave. Christ has risen from death and became the first fruit of them that slept. He is the living among the dead. His resurrection was testified by women and all the disciples and believers saw Him and believed. He even ate broiled fish and a piece of honey comb to prove that He was not a ghost but the risen Lord.

Ascension of Christ:

After His resurrection from death, He took His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and as He was talking to them, suddenly, He was taken up and the cloud received Him. He ascended to heaven with His matchless triumph into the celestial city. The angels proclaimed that Jesus, will return in a manner like Him going up to heaven. The Word of God says, He is at the right hand of God, forever interceding for us. He is pleading for us and God cannot refuse Him as He has fulfilled His plan of salvation. He has bought us with His precious blood. "Look unto me and be saved, all the ends of the earth," said Christ, "for I am God, and beside me there is no one else." Looking unto Jesus, we will have perfect peace, true unity, spiritual stability and effectiveness in spreading the gospel of peace.

Sermon 3: The Believer's security in God's Everlasting Love

By: Dr. S.K. Leivon

Text – Romans 8:31-39

The book of Romans was addressed to the community of believers in Rome with the main theme of – 'All men are sinners but all can be made righteous in the sight of God through faith in Jesus Christ

for salvation.

Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus".

The word "Church" refers to the believers who are the "called out" people, who had been born in the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ and become inseparable from the love of God which is unconditional and everlasting.

The salvation of the believer rests secure in the strength and power of the wonderful love of God and not on the feelings.

The cross proves the love of God and the empty tomb the power of God. The finished work of the cross offers the believer the forgiveness of sins of the past, present and the future. In Christ the believer is saved from the past sins, is being saved at present from the power of sin and will be saved from the presence of sin in eternity. Paul said, "I am convinced." "I am persuaded, nothing in all the universe can separate the people of God from the love of God."

Romans 8:35-39 says, "35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What could threaten the believer of separation from the love of God? The ten things mentioned here may be noted, 4 in pairs:-

1. Death or Life: Death has been conquered. Death is powerless and death is not the dead end for the believer. Neither any situations in life or broken relationships can separate us from the love of God.

John 11:25-26 - "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Jeremiah 31:3 - "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

2. Angels or Demons (principalities): Can the angels or the demons separate us from the love of God? The angels won't and the demons can't. Colossians 2:14-15 says Christ has defeated Satan and has disarmed the spiritual rulers and shamed them publicly by his victory over them by His death on the cross.

3. Present or Future (things present or things to come): The realm of time, the past, present or the future has no power to separate the elect from the love of God, even beyond the grave. Paul answers that question in Philippians 1:23 when he says, "I desire to depart and be with Christ."

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

4. Any Spiritual Powers: Jesus is greater than all the spiritual powers of the universe, the dark world. Witchcraft, which includes Wicca, paganism, folk magic and other New Age traditions, is one of the fastest-growing spiritual paths in America (NBC news 2022). Paganism seems slowly making a comeback in our society.

Parents and children alike need to be established in the faith of Jesus Christ, our shield and defender! "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, and lord, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."- Matthew 28:18-20.

5. Height or Depth: Psalm 139:7-10. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the farside of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." The realm of space cannot separate the child of God from the love of God.

6. Nor Anything Else: There is nothing that is or ever could be, nothing you could dream or imagine, that could separate a believer in Jesus from God's eternal love.

1 John 5:12 says, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

John 10:28-29 says "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."



UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. CBCD Conference, 20th-22nd Sept 2024
2. Youth Camp, 11th-14th Oct 2024

CONTACT US

Pastor Yabang Longkumer: 8731825400
Mrs. Kewj [Assoc. Pastor, Youth]: 8730986923
Mrs. Zuthunglo [Assoc. Pastor, Christian Education]: 8732000688
Mr. Peshia [Church Staff]: 8837401352

 covenantbc.dimapur@gmail.com

 covenantbc.dimapur@gmail.com

 Covenant Baptist Church, Dimapur, Nagaland
Mission Movement Compound
316 Fellowship Colony, Dimapur - 797112:
Nagaland