

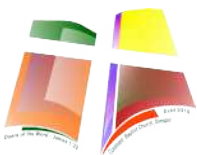
**COVENANT
BAPTIST
CHURCH
DIMAPUR**

Annual Magazine
2022-2023

“Doers of the Word” James 1:22

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EDITORIAL DESK

As the Magi sought the birth of Jesus Christ, they were guided by the star shining bright in dark of the night that would lead them to the manger. It was dark times that they were living in- King Herod was also on the lookout for the Christ, to kill Him. But the hope that was found in the birth of Jesus could not be overcome by the world. John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

As we reflect back on the year 2023, we may feel overcome with what seems to have been a dark year for many parts of the world. From the ongoing tragedy of the Russia-Ukraine war, to the fiery war going on in Manipur that has affected and displaced many of our family members and friends, to the latest war between Hamas and Israel and the multiple natural calamities that has affected our country this year, we may be tempted to pause and wonder, where is the light in this darkness?

During Advent, we often read this prophecy from Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (9:2). In a spiritual and emotional sense, the recent heaviness of these tragedies helps us understand even more deeply what it means to be people walking in darkness. And this deep darkness only magnifies what it is to gaze upon the Light of the World. Just as the Magi were led to Jesus in the dark of the night led by the miraculous star- the light of Jesus burns brighter for us in our darkest days and leads us to Him. Only in Him is there peace. Amid it all, God is mindful of us. God does care for us. The Light of the World shines in the darkness.

Dr. Kindy Newmai



Pastor's Note

"Looking back to look forward"

In the Bible the story of Lot's wife talks about her inability to let go, because she looked back despite God's warning not to and therefore she was turned into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). In retrospect, what do you think she should have done? If given a choice would you allow yourself to let go of the past or look forward to the future? Let's try and get some perspective on this. Lot's wife could not resist the urge to look back even though the Lord had provided the way forward. She couldn't let go of the city that was engulfed in sin. The promise of a new life was not enough for her. Similarly, on the other hand, the Israelites during the exodus in Genesis had the same opportunity to look forward towards the Promised Land but along the way they were tested. Some failed and others who remained faithful lived to see God's faithfulness of the Promised Land. What can we observe and learn from these stories? The Covenant Baptist Church Dimapur has been serving the Lord for thirteen years and if I were to sum up God's grace in these years in a Hymn it would be, "Great is Thy Faithfulness". As I have often mentioned in the sermons- "This is God's Church". From the time of its inception, CBCD members have been through many ups and downs, joys and struggles, moments of laughter and grief, success and failures. While serving the Lord these past years we have also learned and unlearned many lessons through our collective experiences. And without a doubt we can acknowledge that God has been faithful and continues to be faithful (Ps. 100:5). The Bible reminds us in Zech. 4:10 "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin". It is my belief that for those who trust the Lord wholeheartedly (Pro. 3:5-6), even in small beginnings God gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). So I would like to put forward a question to the Church: when we look back at our journey, have we not witnessed and experienced the faithfulness of God? Is there any room for doubt? I humbly submit that it is God's faithfulness that has led us thus far. We have good reasons to look forward but

what is equally important is to learn from the lessons we encounter in our lives that teach us and help us grow. Regardless of the challenges faith is about trusting God with where he has placed you. The irony here is that, looking back reflectively helps us to look forward as a family of God. The stories in the scriptures does just that by allowing us to evaluate and envision ourselves as believers. 1 Thess. 2:9, "For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God".

As the year is drawing to a close and as we wait for 2024, I am pretty sure we are all experiencing mixed emotions. It might be different for each person depending on situations and circumstances. However, allow me to share a few of my thoughts. I had the privilege to share an Advent message some time back on the topic "No room for Christ, Yet room for us" (Lk. 2:1-7 & Jn. 14:2). In the scripture, the greatest story told was about the birth of Jesus and how he was kept in a manger. Despite His greatness it is important to note that there was no room for Him in the inns. Likewise in our present day, our struggles often arise because we have no room for Jesus; because our hearts are occupied with greed and lust. How tragic is that! Rev. 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me". This Christmas, I don't know what your struggles are or what's in your heart. But I urge you to make room in your heart for Jesus, only then will you be able to understand the very reason God sent His Son to save us. Jn. 14:2, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"

Even though we had no room for Him, He has plenty of rooms for us and He is waiting for us and preparing a place for us. When I look back at the ministry of Jesus, the death and His resurrection, I am filled with hope as I look upon the future. Our father has a room waiting for me and I long to go to that place where God dwells and where Jesus sits today at the right hand of the Father. It is a "home" for God's children! Matt. 12:21, "In His name the nations will put their Hope".

Merry Christmas everyone. Amen.



THE *Word* is WORTH THE *work*

Mr. David Koza & Dr. Kindy Newmai

The spiritual discipline of Bible reading has been likened to a marathon rather than a sprint, a long trek up a mountain rather than a drive up to a mountain summit. In both disciplines, it is in the physical preparation, the trainings, the arduous and the slow trek uphill where character is built and joy is found at the finish line and the wonderful views at the mountain top. The psalmist wrote in Psalms 119:18, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”

Many of us skim through our Bible reading because we want the thrill of spiritual feeling without the labour of spiritual thought- no effort made to understand the actual meaning of the scriptural texts and meditating on them. In doing so, we miss out on what the Psalmist points out- we fail to open our eyes and our senses, we avoid meditating on deep thoughts and miss out on the wondrous truths found hidden in God’s law. Paul exhorts Timothy that meditation of Scripture will unveil insights into things of God by the Lord (2 Tim. 2:7)

Here are a few practical steps inspired by the works of Scott Hubbard and David Burnette on how to find joy in the Word of God through the unhurried and detailed work of in-depth Bible study.

READ DEEP AND WIDE

As you plan to read the Bible regularly, be aware of two unhelpful extremes. First, there’s a danger of racing through a one-year Bible reading plan, dipping in and

out of multiple books each day, without stopping to think carefully about the truths you’re encountering. We should take the time to study and meditate on God’s promises, his awe-inspiring attributes, and the saving work of Jesus Christ.

The second danger is to focus all your time on your favourite passages, books, and topics in the Bible. This can leave you with an impoverished view of God and the Christian life. Every Christian needs to be exposed to “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

On the Emmaus Road, when Jesus finally reveals himself to Cleopas and the other disciple, the two men say, “Did not our hearts burn within us *as he opened to us the Scriptures?*” And by *opened*, they mean this: “[Jesus] *interpreted* to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). Jesus took the men on an Old Testament tour, interpreting it’s Christ-centered meaning. In other words, He led an in-depth Bible study with them. Then, and only then, did fire kindle within. Before their hearts burned with love, their minds brightened with truth.

On the Emmaus road, what Scriptures did Jesus open to Cleopas and his friend? Luke writes, “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in *all the Scriptures* the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27). He took them to Genesis and Isaiah, Leviticus and Kings, Deuteronomy and Psalms, showing how his whole story reveals his whole glory.

Christian joy becomes more whole the more we read the Bible whole: whole chapters, whole books, whole testaments.

TAKE IT SLOW

On a mountain, there are certain views that can only be appreciated while walking slow, as opposed to driving past by car. The gushing small stream, wild flowers, the birds and small animals that you come across- these pitstops are what make the trek memorable. Similarly, if we come to the Bible looking mainly for a quick driveby-eager to complete our Bible study plan or only read the Bible when we need sentimental or emotional support, we will drive right past the beauty hidden in scripture.

STUDY THE WORD WITH INTENTION, NOT SENTIMENT

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, in a sermon on Hebrews 12:5-11, shares some strong words for those who read Scripture only in what he calls “a sentimental manner”:

“There are many people who read the Scriptures in a purely sentimental manner. They are in trouble and they do not know what to do. They say, “I will read a psalm. It is so soothing — ‘The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.’” They make it a kind of incantation and take the Psalms as another person takes a drug”.

Patience is, indeed, the virtue many of us may need most in our Bible reading. For the deepest joy, the kind “inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8), comes only to those who prayerfully and thoughtfully plod the path. They read the Bible to *know* what God says and

how He says it - in order that they might then *feel* that knowledge become worship by the power of the indwelling Spirit.

Benefits of studying and obeying the Word of God

God uses His Word to speak to us (2 Samuel 3:21), to shape our thoughts, desires, attitudes and reveal Himself to us. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

1. The glory of God is revealed through the Word of God (2 Corinth. 3:18, 4:6)
2. The Word of God gives life (John 1:1-3, 6:63,68)
3. Wise is the man who builds his life by labouring to dig on the Word of God and walking in the Word. (Matthew 7:24-27)
4. The one who correctly interprets the Word of God is an approved worker of God (2 Tim. 2:15)
5. The Word of God is the path to life, fullness of joy and pleasures of God. (Psalms 16:11)

One's affection for the Word of God measures his relationship with God (John 8:47). Our aim is to grow in our love for God and Bible study is a means to that great end. Resist then, the urge to drive through your devotions. Glory awaits those who walk.

*More about Jesus; in His Word,
Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line,
Making each faithful saying mine.*

WHERE ARE THE MEN OF GOD?

NAVIGATING THE SPIRITUAL LANDSCAPE IN SEARCH OF MEN OF GOD

Mr. Neipekreizo Kesiezie



In the vast tapestry of the contemporary Christian landscape, a question often echoes in the hearts of every believer: Where are the men of God? This question goes beyond the physical presence of individuals clothed in clerical attires but delves into the spiritual essence, the embodiment of divine virtues, of walking with the Lord on a daily basis and the pursuit of a higher calling. Based on this seemingly simple question, we explore the various dimensions of this question, seeking insights into the challenges, responsibilities, and manifestations of men of God in today's world.

Beyond the Bible, all of us have heard tales of ordinary men who, driven by unwavering faith, stood as pillars of spiritual strength and inspiration. From the apostles who walked alongside Jesus to the early church fathers who defended the Christian doctrine and belief, their legacies resonate through time. Throughout the centuries, the definition and expectations of men of God evolved, based on the complexities of changing societal norms and cultural shifts.

In the quest to locate the men of God, one cannot ignore the challenges that impede this journey. The secularization of society, moral relativism, and the

distractions of a fast-paced world pose formidable obstacles and challenges. Men of God find themselves grappling with the demands of contemporary life, juggling responsibilities within families, careers, and communities of the here and now. The dilution of spiritual values in the face of materialistic pursuits complicates the identification of those who genuinely embody the divine or aspire to do so.

The absence of men of God forces a reflection on the responsibilities that accompany this calling. Beyond leading congregations in worship, men of God are entrusted with the profound duty of being the spiritual head of the family, protecting and providing for the family and shepherding the spiritual growth of their children. This involves not only preaching the Gospel but living it authentically and keeping the teachings of Christ every day. The call to be men of prayer, compassion, and humility resonates through the scriptures, challenging individuals to be living testimonies of the transformative power of faith in every area of life.

One arena where the search for men of God is particularly poignant is within the family unit. As husbands and fathers, men of God are called to be

the spiritual leaders of their homes. The family, often described as the domestic church, becomes a crucible where faith is nurtured, virtues instilled, and the love of God is made manifest. In a world where family values are sometimes eclipsed and nowadays, to a large extent, undermined and deemed irrelevant, the presence of men of God within households is needed now more than ever, for the spiritual foundation of future generations.

The secular realm, with its diverse ideologies and worldviews, presents a challenging terrain for men of God. It is within this context that the authenticity of one's faith is tested. Men of God are called to engage with the world, offering a counter-narrative to prevailing cultural norms. Whether in the workplace, academia, or in public, their actions and words should reflect the light of Christ, transcending the secular-sacred divide and serving as beacons of hope in a world often plagued by darkness.

An essential aspect of the journey to find men of God is the role of mentorship and discipleship. Established men of God are called to invest in the spiritual formation of the next generation. This involves not only imparting doctrinal knowledge but also modelling a life of integrity, resilience, and unwavering faith. The transfer of spiritual wisdom and the nurturing of future leaders become vital components in perpetuating the legacy of men of God.

So, coming back to the question, 'Where are the men of God?', personally I've found men of God in every area of my life – at my workplace in men whom I've found extremely difficult to work with but are walking faithfully with God, amongst mischievous childhood friends who have now matured into men of God sharing a prayer every now and then, in my family, in uncles who have struggled with alcohol addiction but have selflessly helped more people than any sober man could, in uncles who are so consistent in their walk with the Lord that they haven't seemed to age one day from the time I've known them as a small boy. The question is rhetorical in the sense that it challenges and calls for men of God to rise above the cacophony of contemporary challenges, to live with unwavering faith, and to embrace the responsibilities inherent in their calling. As I write this, it has dawned on me that, most of all - I want to find a man of God within myself, to walk with God everyday with all my shortcomings and failings, continually seeking God to depend on Him more with each passing day. I want to be THAT man.

“
AS HUSBANDS
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”

Becoming a Titus 2 Woman

Ms. Kim Leivon

The book of Titus was both a personal epistle and a pastoral letter written by apostle Paul. In this epistle, Paul gave instructions to Titus on several matters, including social standards of various groups. The instructions for women were as much a part of those given, and so it is beneficial to look at the background and bigger picture before looking at what it means to be a Titus 2 woman.

Titus was a Greek, one of Paul's own converts and co-workers. Titus 1:5 tells us that Paul left Titus in charge of the churches in Crete which were founded by Paul and his co-workers. These churches needed pastoral care, and Titus was entrusted with the mission as Paul's representative to combat false doctrines, place strong and dependable pastoral leaders in charge, and impart Paul's instructions to the Christians there. After this was accomplished, Titus was to rejoin Paul in Nicopolis.

There were Jews in Crete who tried to hinder the work by teaching that Christians should observe the Jewish ceremonial laws (1:10-14). Titus was trusted by Paul to tackle this difficult matter. In addition to instructions on handling false teachers, directives were given in the following verses for various groups. It is within these verses that we find specific instructions given for the women (Titus 2:3-5).

Paul laid out the qualifications of elders and their appointment. He also gave instructions for older and younger men, for older and younger women, and instructions for slaves. Elwell and Yarbrough observe that, "Paul is concerned that all age groups of men and

women relate to each other in ways that will show the love of Christ and the truth of the gospel."¹

All believers, no matter the age or gender, have a part to play and an example to set in church and society. These instructions of social standards concerned the affairs of ordinary life. Each group of people were addressed and instructed specifically and equally. This epistle shows us that the church is made up of imperfect people. Every group of people have their own set of temptations and opportunities, but each one is urged to strive to live Godly lives.

Let us now look at the instructions given to the women. *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good (2:3).* Some translations say, 'reverent in behavior' while others say 'becometh holiness.' According to the Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown commentary, 'becometh holiness' is to "becometh women consecrated to God." Some of them were 'malicious gossips' or 'slanderers' or 'false accusers' – this was a besetting sin of some elderly women then and this is true even today.

Next, a common failing of the older women in the culture then was being "enslaved to much wine." In Crete, the women had a liability to these excesses so severely that the verb used here signifies 'bondage.' Paul knew that this had to be addressed and instructed Titus to do so accordingly. The older women were further instructed

¹ Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*, 339.

“ **TO BECOME A TITUS 2 WOMAN IS AN IMPORTANT PROCESS MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD AND DEPENDENCE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT.** ”

to encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored (2:4,5).

This was a specific charge and instruction given to the older women: to teach and encourage the young women. The young women had a God-given position of influence and assistance to their husbands and children, and so for them the instructions began with home matters. The admonishment was to love with the self-giving sacrificial love of Christ. The young women were further encouraged to have the attitudes of being discreet and chaste (sober, self-restrained), and the skills of homemaking, and were instructed to submit to their husbands.

These believers – men and women and young and old – were given instructions about faith and conduct. The basis for the instructions was one goal in particular: to keep the word of God from being maligned (2:5).

From the first few verses in the first chapter and towards the end of the epistle, Paul makes it clear that the grace of God in Christ is the incentive for Christians to live holy lives (1:1-3; 3:4-7).

The book of Titus is a useful handbook for recognizing and understanding that we have struggles and temptations as well as responsibilities and privileges, just as they did in Paul's time. The principles and truths of Paul's instructions are just as relevant today as they were then. To become a Titus 2 woman is an important process – made possible only through the saving grace of God and dependence on the Holy Spirit. God gave Himself for us, to redeem us from every lawless deed, to purify for Himself His own special people who are zealous for good works (2:14,15). The love and grace of God is our encouragement and motivation to conduct ourselves in such a way that we can be worthy examples to others, and that God will be glorified in our lives.

The Role of Belief in Entrepreneurship

A Christian Perspective

Mr. Vivito Yeptho
Proprietor of Nagaland Coffee



Through my experience in entrepreneurship for the last 5 years, I believe the following points make me what I am today in Christ as an Entrepreneur.

1 A Sense of Calling

For me, my work is more than just a job - it's a calling. I believe that God has given me specific talents and abilities that are meant to be used for a greater purpose. This sense of calling inspires me to pursue my work with passion and purpose, knowing that I am making a difference in the world.

2 A Focus on Service

My Faith in God has also inspired me to focus on serving others, rather than just making money. When you view your business as a way to serve others, it can shift your perspective and priorities. You may be more willing to make sacrifices in the short term in order to achieve a greater good in the long term.

3 A Strong Moral Compass

Entrepreneurship can be a challenging and sometimes cut-throat world. It's easy to get swept up in the pursuit

of success and lose sight of your values. This is where my faith in Christ comes in, as it provides me with a strong moral compass, helping me to stay grounded and focus on what's truly important. This also helps me to make decisions that align with my values, even when it's not the easiest or most profitable choice.

4 A Community of Support

Entrepreneurship can be a lonely and isolating journey, but when there are other people who share the same faith and belief as I do, it provides a sense of support and camaraderie. By connecting with other like-minded individuals and entrepreneurs, I find much encouragement, advice, and accountability. This helps me to stay motivated and focused on my purpose and mission.

In conclusion, we as born again Christians who are into business must realise that there will always be hurdles and challenges that we need to bear and overcome. And when we have Christ in us, nothing can shake us from reaching our goal for it is written in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me".



The Impact of Sunday School on Children's Spiritual Growth

Mrs. Zuthunglo Ezung, Asso. Pastor, Christian Education

The idea of Sunday school was initially established for education and discipline of lesser privileged and orphaned children in 1780's. Today, it exists for holistic spiritual discipleship and biblical learning regardless of a child's background. Parents and guardians send children to Sunday school with the hope that they grow to love the Lord. Thus, Sunday school essentially disciple children through age appropriate approaches which otherwise is difficult to fulfill through the adult church.

As we review on Sunday school programs, here are 5 foundational areas we can affirm on that impacts children's spiritual growth.

1. CAPTIVATING BIBLE LESSONS

The basic and most important way to make an impact on spiritual growth among children is to inculcate consistent weekly Bible lessons. This is efficient as we can feed the children in drips rather than in gulps. Bible lessons are taught through different methods like storytelling, role-plays, visual aids like videos or puppets and object lessons using common props through which a child can understand the truth about God. This prepares them to respond and receive Christ into their lives. As *Romans 10:17* says "faith comes by hearing the Word of God."

2. CREATIVE MEMORIZING OF SCRIPTURE

For God's Word to take root, a child is encouraged to memorize scriptures. There are several ways to teach memory verses in a fun and interactive manner. We can incorporate play in the process which is a child's natural instinct to respond to. Remembering scripture will allow them to personally witness how God's word is a reality during good times and even in difficult times. Hiding God's word in one's heart allows a child to mature spiritually as they begin to make God-honoring choices. *Psalms 119:11* says 'Thy Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.'

3. EXPRESSIVE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Colossians 3:16 says singing is one way through which God's Word richly resides in us. Singing is also a profound

way to honour God with our mouths. Singing can be expressed in various ways (action songs, choreography, praise and worship) which effectively draw their attention to focus on God. Through songs, basic biblical truths can also be reinforced to guide a child. Thus, singing praises steadily cultivates spiritual maturity.

4. INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Sunday school allows children to be a friend and also make friends with their peers. Programs like Vacation Bible School, retreats, outings and outdoor activities create an environment where children can experience the Christian life in the mundane things (playing games with integrity, forgiving someone who hurts you, being friends to the friendless, helping someone in need or praying for someone who is sad/hurt/sick). They can also witness exemplary lives of elders/seniors or discover spiritual friends who influence them positively. This enables them to exercise tangible faith that in turn fosters spiritual maturity. *Hebrews 10:24-25* talks about not forsaking meeting up in order to stir up love and good works.

5. INTENTIONAL COUNSELING AND PRAYER

Bonding with children and praying over them makes an impact on children's spiritual growth. Leading them to Christ by providing periodical counseling will encourage growth. We can pray relevantly according to their age and understanding. For example VBS 2022 had a prayer station dedicated for conversation and prayers. This is another way to bring children to salvation and nurture spiritual growth for the long run.

We believe at CBCD we emphasize on these areas but we can do more in the area of counseling and prayer. It is our deepest desire to see children give their lives to Christ and live in freedom of God's transforming love. Children are capable of radiating godly influence in their families and society as *1 Timothy 4:12* rightly puts, 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young (children) but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'

Are Christian Teens Influencing or being Influenced by the World?

Mr. Alipa Sangtam

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future" - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Today's young generation as we call, "The Gen-Z generation", are influenced in such a manner that they cannot sustain themselves without the influx of western culture, the types of movies they watch, way of dressing, use of language, listening to music etc. They are highly motivated by highlights which are displayed in social media/magazines which push them to want to become an iconic figure in the media world. The young people of this generation are highly resourceful, yet vulnerable as they navigate today's hypercompetitive world.

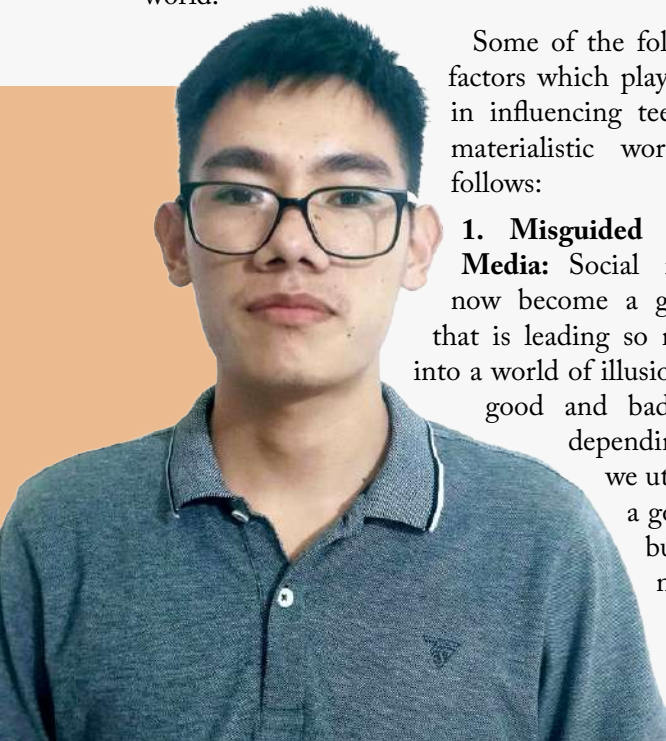
Some of the following key factors which play a key role in influencing teens by this materialistic world are as follows:

1. Misguided by Social Media: Social media has now become a giant factor that is leading so many teens into a world of illusion. It serves good and bad purposes, depending on how we utilise it. It is a good servant but a bad master. For example,

Google knows more than what you know, Amazon/ Flipkart already knows what you want, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp have become a platform to express one's feeling and current situation. Teenagers try to emulate their social media role models and the outcome pushes them into depression, cybercrime, cyber bullying, invasion of privacy, social anxiety, isolation and suicidal thoughts. Over access of social media has built up a virtual prison, where one assumes he can escape from loneliness, but in reality they end up feeling more lonely and isolated from the real world. Social Media is also becoming a hub of immorality, through excessive gaming, watching of pornography etc. Parents need to adopt certain restrictions in these situations which will help young people use social media responsibly.

2. Shift of Culture: We have been heavily influenced by western culture and it has impacted us in so many ways-such as our eating habits, way of dressing, way of decorating our home, way of communication etc. At the same time, we are also witnessing a deterioration of our own cultural values and ethics. Issues such as gender identity crisis and legalizing immoral laws (such as gay marriage, abortion etc.) are totally contradictory to Christian principles. This warrants a need to have an understanding of these issues from a biblical perspective and talking about such matters to them from a young age.

3. Absence of Christ-Centred Family: As per one report, it is said that 51% of American youths claimed to be a Christian, yet only 8% displayed the beliefs and habits of committed Christians and also 46% of Christians have never read the Bible and still some sections of young people believed that they don't have





PARENTS
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So many parents are failing in their role of parenthood towards their children when they are supposed to nurture them. The practice of fellowshiping together through family prayer, the practice of Bible study or teaching how to do quiet time is rarely observed in today's context by believing that it's the responsibility of the church leaders. Parents who work overtime at their office and personal engagements leave the children feeling left out and fail to check on their children's spiritual growth. Providing for their children's education and personal needs is necessary but feeding them with spiritual food should be the core foundation of every family.

Parents should impart Christian ethics and values at an early age so that the children grow firm in their faith.

4. Rigidity of laws: Various factors in our traditional churches such as strict imposition of traditional laws and principles upon the youth and being over-critical without empathy directly discourages many youth from

attending church services. The lack of personal pastoral care among young believers is also lacking. The issues and challenges faced by today's youth are different from the issues faced ten years back. The leaders of today's church need to mentor the youth just as the Apostle Paul mentored young Timothy.

5. Mushrooming of independent churches: The birth of multiple independent Churches is also one of the factors which is creating a dilemma for young people on which church to follow and which to not follow. For instance, many churches in the west have approved of immoral laws and principles within the church such as same sex marriage or LGBTQ on the ground of humanity. Instead, the church should use the pulpit as a platform to teach the truth rather than comfort the world with lies for their personal benefit.

Above all, we as a family in Christ need to develop an attitude of empathy and care for Generation Z. They are growing up in times of uncertainty and chaos and face massive challenges. Advancements in science and technology have been a key factor affecting the lives of our young people in many aspects. May we all continue to extend our helping hand to this group of people through prayer because what we do for them at this age will determine their future.



The Purpose of the Young Adult Ministry in Today's Church

Mr. I. Tiaba Pongen

In an era marked by rapid social and technological changes, the role of the church has evolved significantly. At the heart of this transformation is the young adult ministry, a pivotal segment in the church that bridges the traditional with the contemporary. Understanding and nurturing this group is vital for the church's relevance and growth.

Understanding Young Adults in the Contemporary Church Context

Young adults in the church, typically aged between 18 and 30, are navigating a unique life stage characterized by transitions in education, career, and personal relationships. They face distinct challenges, including identity formation, career pressures, and social changes, necessitating a ministry tailored to their specific needs.

Core Purposes of Young Adult Ministry

1. Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

The primary purpose of the young adult ministry is to deepen spiritual understanding and commitment among young adults. This demographic is often at a crossroads in life, making it a critical time for spiritual formation. Engaging them in Bible study is more than just reading and interpreting scripture; it's about connecting the timeless truths of the Bible to their everyday experiences and challenges. These studies can be tailored to address topics such as career choices, relationships, and personal identity from a Christian perspective.

Prayer groups and discussion forums serve as platforms for young adults to explore their faith in a communal setting. These groups should offer a safe and open environment where questions and doubts can be expressed and explored without judgment. This approach helps in fostering a mature, enduring faith that is not only personal but also communal.

Another aspect of discipleship is mentoring. Pairing young adults with more experienced believers can provide them with valuable guidance and support as they navigate both their spiritual journey and life challenges.

2. Community Building

In a world where isolation and superficial connections are

prevalent, creating a genuine sense of belonging within the church is crucial. The young adult ministry aims to establish a supportive community where individuals can form deep, meaningful relationships. This involves more than just organizing social events; it's about creating spaces where young adults can share their experiences, challenges, and victories.

Small groups or life groups are effective in building these close-knit communities. These groups meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer, fostering a sense of family among members. Social activities, like retreats, sports events, or cultural outings, also play a significant role in community building, offering relaxed environments for members to connect and build friendships.

The ministry should also focus on inclusivity, ensuring that all young adults, regardless of their background or life stage, feel welcomed and valued in the church community.

3. Outreach and Service

Young adults often seek to make a meaningful impact in their world. Encouraging them to participate in service and evangelistic activities not only helps them apply their faith in practical ways but also fosters a sense of purpose and community contribution. This can take many forms, from local community service projects to international mission trips.

Service projects like feeding the homeless, tutoring children, or environmental stewardship can be powerful ways for young adults to express their faith in action. Evangelistic efforts, whether through personal relationships or organized events, can be tailored to the unique gifts and interests of the young adult group.

Involving young adults in these activities also helps them develop a broader perspective of the church's role in society and their personal calling to be agents of change and hope in the world.

Addressing the Needs of Young Adults

1. Pastoral Care

Offering guidance and support for personal and spiritual challenges is a cornerstone of effective young adult ministry. This age group often faces a range of issues, from career decisions and relationship struggles to deeper existential and faith-related questions. Pastoral care tailored to young adults involves providing them with resources and counseling that address these specific challenges. This can be achieved through one-on-one

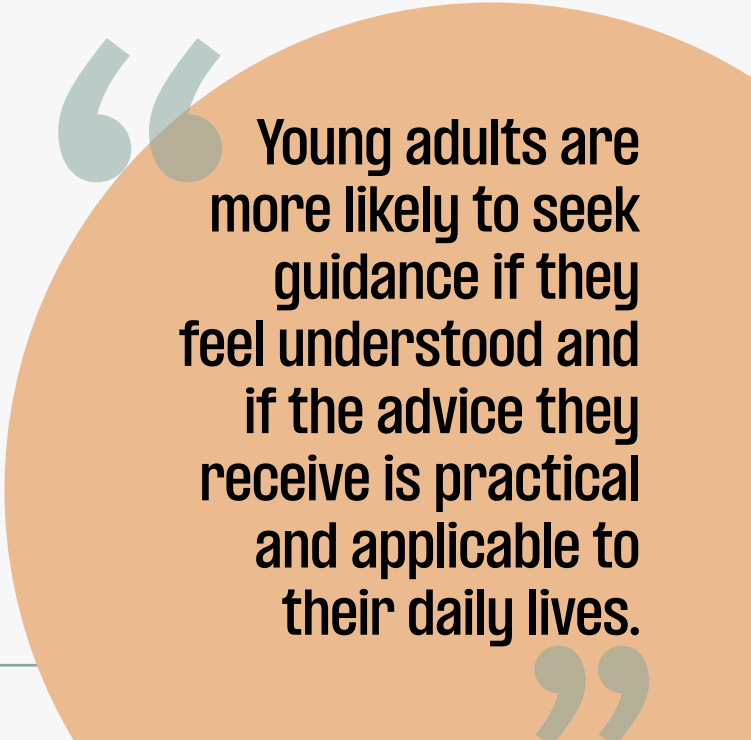
counseling sessions, support groups, or mentorship programs.

A key aspect of this pastoral care is its accessibility and relevance. Young adults are more likely to seek guidance if they feel understood and if the advice they receive is practical and applicable to their daily lives. Therefore, pastors and leaders should be approachable and knowledgeable about the unique challenges facing this demographic. Additionally, integrating faith-based perspectives in addressing issues like mental health, financial management, and relationship advice can provide holistic support to young adults.

2. Educational Programs

Educational initiatives play a vital role in engaging young adults and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to navigate contemporary society as Christians. Workshops and seminars can cover a range of topics relevant to their daily lives, such as integrating faith in the workplace, understanding Christian ethics in modern society, and navigating relationships with a faith-based approach.

These programs should be interactive and practical, offering not just theoretical knowledge but also real-life applications. For instance, a workshop on faith in the workplace might include role-playing scenarios or discussions on ethical dilemmas young adults might face in their careers. Similarly, seminars on Christian ethics can delve into contemporary issues like social justice, technology, and environmental stewardship, encouraging young adults to reflect on and respond to these issues from a Christian perspective.



Young adults are more likely to seek guidance if they feel understood and if the advice they receive is practical and applicable to their daily lives.

3. Social and Recreational Activities

Social and recreational activities are crucial in making the church an integral and enjoyable part of young adults' lives. These activities provide informal settings for young adults to build relationships and experience fellowship in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. This could include a range of activities, from sports events, movie nights, and cultural outings to volunteer opportunities and retreats.

It's important for these activities to be varied and appealing to a wide range of interests, ensuring that there's something for everyone. For instance, organizing a hiking trip can appeal to those who enjoy outdoor activities, while a book club might attract those interested in literature and discussion. Additionally, these social events can also be opportunities for outreach, inviting non-churchgoing friends to experience the community and warmth of the church in a non-threatening environment.

By addressing these needs through pastoral care, educational programs, and social and recreational activities, the church can provide a supportive, enriching, and engaging environment for young adults. This not only aids in their personal and spiritual development but also strengthens their connection to the church and their faith.

Integrating Young Adults into the Wider Church Community

1. Bridging Generational Gaps

Creating opportunities for young adults to interact with other age groups is essential for fostering a holistic and interconnected church community. This can be achieved through mixed-age study groups, intergenerational service projects, and mentorship programs where older church members share their wisdom and experiences. Such interactions not only enrich the faith journey of young adults but also enable older generations to gain fresh perspectives and energy from the younger members. Celebrating church-wide events and encouraging young adults to participate in planning and execution can also promote intergenerational bonding and understanding.

2. Leadership Development

Encouraging young adults to take on leadership roles within the church not only prepares them for future responsibilities but also gives them a sense of ownership and investment in the church community. This could involve leading small groups, participating in church governance, or spearheading community initiatives. Providing leadership training and opportunities for practical application ensures that young adults are well-

equipped for these roles. Moreover, seeing their peers in leadership positions can inspire other young adults to become more involved in church life.

Challenges and Solutions in Young Adult Ministry

A common challenge in young adult ministry is overcoming disengagement and skepticism towards organized religion. Innovative approaches such as mentorship programs can provide personalized guidance and support, helping young adults navigate their faith journey in a meaningful way. Contemporary worship styles, incorporating modern music and technology, can make church services more relatable and engaging for this demographic. Open forums for discussion allow young adults to voice their doubts and concerns in a safe environment, fostering a church culture of openness and inclusivity.

The Impact of Technology and Social Media

Leveraging digital platforms for outreach and community building is increasingly important in today's connected world. Online Bible studies, virtual prayer groups, and social media outreach can extend the church's reach and provide accessible avenues for engagement. However, it's also crucial to be mindful of the digital divide. Ensuring that all young adults, regardless of their technological access, can participate in these digital offerings is important. This may involve providing resources or training for those who are less digitally savvy.

Future Directions for Young Adult Ministry

The needs and preferences of young adults are constantly evolving, influenced by societal changes and emerging trends. The young adult ministry must remain agile and forward-thinking, continuously adapting its approaches to stay relevant. This includes staying informed about cultural trends, technological advancements, and shifts in faith practice. Anticipating these changes and proactively adjusting the ministry's strategies can help maintain its effectiveness and appeal to young adults.

By addressing these aspects, the young adult ministry can play a vital role in integrating young adults into the wider church community, tackling challenges they face, leveraging technology effectively, and preparing for future developments. This holistic approach not only benefits the young adults but also strengthens the entire church community.

The JOYS AND CHALLENGES *of* CHRISTIAN PARENTING



Mrs. Awheno Medom

With my father in church ministry, I had the privilege of growing up in a mission compound, surrounded by wholesome families and neighbors. I have many childhood memories of children in the neighborhood playing kitchen, playing house, playing church, all so real in the imaginary play of children. We loved playing weddings and I even remember being married off twice. Fast forward some years and now I am married for almost 7 years, blessed with a very kind husband and two lovely children. There is a real kitchen to run, little mouths to feed, potties to clean, little hearts to soothe and hush them to sleep, but above all these, there are two lives that I am accountable for raising up in the way of the Lord.

With the huge responsibility of parenting also comes so much joy. One of the greatest joys is being showered by the purest form of love from a child, totally unconditional, pure innocence, no expectations or demands and despite of all your shortcomings, you mean the whole world to them. Knowing and feeling such love is overwhelming sometimes and I believe it is something that helps me feel the love of God in a human dimension.

Raising children is not always smooth. Chaos and mess are the new orderliness in the house and

everything that screams danger is the most inviting. In the beautiful chaos of parenting, it can get tough and challenging sometimes. I am no super mom. One of the biggest challenges for me is balancing work life and motherhood. There have been days when I felt like a failure, critical of myself, guilt-ridden, feeling not good enough or not doing enough for them. Another challenge is that both my husband and I do not have our parents/family physically close to us. There have been very lonely days and nights when we just wish for some assistance, especially when the children are sick, rushing to the ER at midnight sometimes, feeling helpless and down. But in all those lowest moments, God has faithfully seen us through.

Disciplining children with authority and love is a responsibility and challenge that needs fine balancing that can only be done by wisdom from God. Sometimes it may mean standing firm on your principles, politely turning down unsolicited advice, setting limits and boundaries without crushing their spirit and self-esteem and saying 'no' to your children even if it hurts them (or yourself).

As Christian parents, we need to keep eternity in perspective, something that is easy to miss out in the busyness of parenting. Along with their physical and emotional needs, their soul needs tender loving care. To guide my children to a secure and personal relationship with God will be my greatest joy and it is my prayer for them to do so as they grow. Motherhood has been a journey of growth for me, teaching me sacrificial love, patience, endurance, putting me in a position that needs to constantly trust and depend on God. The stewardship of Christian parenting is to raise children in the fear of God in this fallen and broken world, a huge task that cannot be accomplished without constant dependence on God.

THE CAUSE IS THE CROSS

An Evening of Soulful Music

Covenant Baptist Church Dimapur (CBCD) Worship Team spearheaded an evening of worship on the 2nd of October. The CBCD worship team was accompanied by a band, choir groups and artists for an enlivened evening of worship with the banner “The Cause is the Cross,” as inspired by 1. Cor. 1:18

With the celebration of her decadal celebration in 2020, Covenant has a fresh desire for the Church to have a place of worship of her own. Toward this goal,

Covenant church reached out to the members and well-wishers to partner with the church in this endeavour where a fundraiser was held in aid of our church plot.

Covenant Church was blessed to have DABA (Dimapur Ao Baptist Arogo) who graciously offered us the sanctuary for the event. The event was blessed with enthralling performances by The Nagaland Chamber Choir (TNCC), City Music (City Church Kohima), Margaret Shishak School of Music (MSSM Choir), St. John Choir, and the CBCD Worship Team.



Church Cell Groups

Cell group potpourri

Covenant Baptist Church, Dimapur with a vision to continue fellowship other than the Sunday worship service started the Cell Group Fellowship to encourage one another, pray for each other and grow spiritually. The cell groups are divided into eight groups based on the geographical location of the congregation of the church and spreads from Indisen, Dimapur upto Chumoukedima district. The following are the eight cell groups:

- Cell Group 1: **Duncan, Landmark, DC Court**
- Cell Group 2: **Notun Bosti, Nagarjan**
- Cell Group 3: **Fellowship colony**
- Cell Group 4: **Fellowship, Nepali Bosti, Midland, PWD**
- Cell Group 5: **Nepali Kashiram and Beyond**
- Cell Group 6: **Naharbari, Thilixu**
- Cell Group 7: **Purana Bazar, Padumpukhuri**
- Cell Group 8: **4th Mile and Beyond**

Each cell group is assigned with a leader and the members fellowship together on suitable weekdays which is convenient for its members and the frequency of fellowship also varies within the individual groups. The various activities from the cell groups include praise and worship, intercessory, sharing, bible study, group activities, outreach and group discussion (on any topic or issue). The cell group fellowship are creative with a friendly environment where the members open up, share, encourage one another and thus get to know each member better which in turn creates a healthy environment for the growth of the church. Our pastor is in constant touch with all the cell groups and visits the cell groups and fellowship with them often. Each cell group has a WhatsApp group to communicate and which in return is also a great platform to pass on information of the various activities of the church. Some cell groups over the calendar year 2023 have shared very

encouraging testimonies where by the grace of God, they could complete Bible Study on the book of James. The reflections have been very productive, allowing the members to grow biblically and relationally with God and with one another. The cell group fellowship also brings insights through God's word and strengthens us in our daily lives. Gods power and faithfulness in answering the prayers of the members praying for each other during cell group fellowship is a great testimony which members have witnessed and it has changed the prayer life of many. The cell groups also allow the members to grow together as a family, learning to share their deepest struggles and pray and encourage one another. The cell group also fellowship with refreshments and potluck which are unforgettable and helps in bonding of the members.

God has blessed CBCD through this cell group ministry and in the coming year ahead, the church aims to keep continuing this ministry with even bigger goals and visions and expand the members in each cell group. We encourage each member of our church to continue to pray for the cell group fellowship. We also encourage anyone who fellowships in Covenant Baptist Church and is not part of any cell group to contact our pastors or any member of our church to be a part of the cell groups and be blessed.

Fellowship Cell group

Our cell group, comprising of six families—Mr. Alunbo, Mr. Wati Jamir, Mr. Chuba, Mrs. Alila, Mr. Vepu and six individuals—Ms. Kim Leivon, Mr. Peshia, Ms. Benda, Ms. Sida, Ms. Dindin, Ms. Floral. Our fellowships, conducted in Nagamese is a testimony to the diversity within our church family.

Initially we would meet on a weekly basis, but we have been temporarily affected by various engagements, resulting in occasional missed fellowships. Despite these challenges, our group has thrived through mutual

encouragement and spiritual growth. The core of our meeting is a shared commitment to prayer. The moments of communal prayer not only deepen our spiritual

connections but reinforce the bonds that tie us together as a church family. We are looking forward to growing together in Christ.



Cell Group Testimonies

(Naharbari, Thilixu area)

Before Jane and I moved to Dimapur, we had been praying for a suitable Church to attend and CBCD was the first Church we attended here in Dimapur. We've felt very welcomed and comfortable from day one. The Cell Group Fellowship came as an unexpected surprise. We remember attending our first Cell Group Bible study/fellowship at Dr. Noktang's residence, and from that very first day, we felt at home and we felt that we belonged to that Group because everyone made us feel very comfortable and the atmosphere was so inviting where we could share our thoughts and doubts without restraint. We excitedly looked forward to every Cell Group meeting and we have been so blessed with every fellowship that we've had. At the beginning, Pastor Yabang told us that it was a rule that the host family will not take any burden of preparing refreshments or dinner, but now, we can't keep count of the number of potluck dinners we've had at our meetings and we were pleasantly surprised to find out, all the members of the group were just as fond of food as we were! This cell group has played such a vital part in our spiritual growth as a couple and as individuals. Through all the sharing, prayers and casual interactions with people from all walks of life, realizing that every believer needs to be one in Christ, we have learned so much just by studying a few chapters from the book of James, which we've been studying. To be doers of the Word, to put our Faith in action, to have the discernment between godly wisdom and earthly wisdom and so much more, we have learned so much through this group and we continue to pray that we will be able to apply all that we've learned and shared into our personal lives.

– Mr. & Mrs. Kesiegie

Greetings from our cell group in the name of Jesus Christ. Indeed the Lord has been gracious ever since the start of our cell group.

We are 7 families from Naharbari and adjoining areas. We meet on monthly basis at the homes of our members, taking turn in hosting and leading the Bible study / fellowship

Coming together and studying God's word together and fellowshiping with one another has built stronger friendship, learned more about ourselves and most importantly about God's purpose for our life. As much as we enjoy coming together and partaking the food of God's word together we also enjoy the fellowship over physical food through potlucks and delicious refreshments served by the host families.

Grateful for each group member who has been invaluable in their collaboration, support and commitment.

By encouraging, supporting, strengthening and building each other up in faith we are striving towards "Growing Together" in Christ.

– Dr. Michelle and family

Our family has been blessed through the cell group meetings, a time that brings families together for spiritual growth and wholesome fellowship.

– The Medoms

COMMITTEE REPORTS

■ PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee members

Mrs. Lily Kent
Mrs. Amen
Mr. Deepak Verma

Vision

To work together as a team to further the work of the Kingdom of God.

■ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Committee members

1. Mrs. Hitokali Nisa
2. Mrs. Jenny Murry
3. Mrs. Sashikala Longchar

From the Youth Express

1. Ms. Sida
2. Ms. Avisela
3. Mr. Zhia Achumi
4. Mr. Napem

Mission

The mission of the hospitality committee is to provide a welcoming environment of love, acceptance, comfort, support, care, and unity for visitors, members, guests, and friends in order to enhance their worship experience, encourage fellowship, and help build a community of believers.

Purpose

The hospitality committee serves to reflect the love of Christ through expressions of gratitude, excitement, and enthusiasm, to:

1. Create an inviting environment during our services and special events that is:
 - Welcoming
 - Hospitable
 - Friendly
 - Organized
 - Disciplined

2. Create a sense of belonging by making sure every visitor, member, and guest feels special and welcome in our church home.

Biblical Motivation

The word of God teaches us that we have a duty to greet and welcome each other, be hospitable toward others, and fellowship with each other. The motivation for the hospitality committee comes from the following scriptures.

1. "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings." Romans 16:16
2. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Activities

1. The refreshments/snacks served on Sundays are maintained within the yearly budget. Some families voluntarily sponsor refreshments on certain days.
2. We use disposable items like cups, plates, bowls, spoon and fork for serving the refreshments for hygienic purpose.
3. The committee members take turns on a monthly basis managing the Sunday after-service refreshments.
4. We really appreciate and acknowledge our four youth team members who have helped us a lot in arranging and serving the refreshments every Sunday and any other special occasions.

■ WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Team Members

Sis. Ajem (Keyboardist)
 Bro. Along (Bassist)
 Bro. Chang (Drummer)
 Bro. Moa (Electric guitarist)
 Bro. Jeten (Electric guitarist)
 Bro. Khuli (Acoustic guitarist)
 Bro. Vepu (Acoustic guitarist)
 Sis. Gloria (Vocalist)
 Sis. Kheli (Vocalist)
 Bro. Peter (Vocalist)
 Bro. Peshia (Technician)
 Bro. Gangmei (Sound Operator)

Activities

- Worship Concert at LM Higher Secondary, New Jalukie on 3rd February
- CBCD Wednesday prayer fellowship with praise and worship team on 15th March
- One Day Retreat at Jubilee Memorial Hall, Kohima with Bro. Viketuo Chupou as the resource person on 11th September
- Worship Evening at DABA on 2nd October on the theme "The Cause is the Cross" (1 Corinthians 1:18)
- Worship Concert at St. John Higher Secondary School on 8th October.

■ MISSION COMMITTEE

Members

- Mr. Yabang Longkumer
- Mrs. Flora Leivon
- Mrs. Michelle
- Mr. Edward Maruzu

The mission committee began the year 2023 by observing the mission month in the month of March. The speakers for the mission month were Rev. Dr. Vichukho Ngukha, Dr. Anshely Sumi, Mr. Jonathan Chang and Mrs. Flora Leivon and the church was blessed immensely through the word of God.

In light of the conflict in Imphal, the mission committee along with the Church decided to give relief aid to Meitei Baptist Church, Dimapur, Koomrem Baptist Church, Dimapur and two families who were hosting people who have fled from Imphal because of the situation.

With much prayer and with the support of the Church board and the Church, the Nagamese Fellowship was started on the 25th June at 4pm (CBCD). Pastor Lanuakum, Nagamese Baptist Church, Kevijau was the speaker on the inaugural day. The fellowship for the time being is taking place on alternate Sundays. The prayer of the members of CBCD is much needed for the growth of this fellowship for the days to come. So far we have had 11 fellowships.

The mission committee also was able to conduct a medical camp to Ponyui (Myanmar) which took place on the 28th November to 3rd December 2022. The mission committee is grateful to Dr. Temjen, Dr. Kindy, Dr. Noun, Dr. Krutz, Dr. Aluna and Mr. Imtinukshi for giving their time, commitment and availability for this noble cause.

The mission committee sponsored two theological students who went as interns to Ponyui in the month of May for a month. We were able to support Nagamese Baptist Church, Kevijau in aid of their Church building.

The mission committee continues to support Rev. Yhunglo Thong (Chaplain, Dimapur District hospital) partnering with the Dimapur Baptist Pastor's Fellowship (DBPF), The Love Burma Mission (LBM) and Mr. Ashi Konyak, a student of Eastern Theological College (ETC).

The mission committee is still praying for an evangelist to minister to people of different faith in the city of Dimapur and request the church to continue to pray for the mission committee for wisdom and direction and let us also continue to pray for the missionaries supported by the Church.

DECORATION COMMITTEE

Theme: *"Colors of life" (Galatians 5:23)*

Committee members

- Mrs. Aren Imchen (Chairperson)
- Mrs. Kiyetoli Shupao
- Mrs. Khonzani Merry
- Mrs. Kavili Pongener
- Mrs. Lucy Jamir
- Mrs. Kekhriesinuo
- Mrs. Gracy Chache.

All through the year, as a team and with the blessings of God we were able to give time and work according to the given responsibilities. The committee would also like to sincerely thank all the generous givers in ways of giving flowers, stands etc.

Activities

1. The committee took the responsibility to clean the store room where the flowers are kept every two months.
2. The committee was responsible to decorate the church every Sunday and other special events such as Advent Christmas, Passion week, Father's day, Mother's day, Thanksgiving Sunday, Cultural Sunday.
3. We plan to continue to plant natural flowers for the Church.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Theme: *Spread out (2 Kings 19:14)*

Committee members

- Dr. Neisevilie Nisa
- Mr. Roland Merry
- Mr. Imtinukshi Jamir
- Dr. Kindy Newmai

Regular Activities

- Sermon snippets
- Bimonthly newsletter
- Annual magazine
- Maintaining church library
- Church events video/photographic documentation

■ YOUTH EXPRESS

Mrs. Kewi Pfuno, Associate Pastor, Youth

In the spirit of our annual theme, “Discover the Undiscovered: Maximize God’s Given Potential” Ephesians 3:20, the year unfolded as a year of exploring and growth. Beyond our routine services, we embarked on a journey, delving into various programs, engaging discussions that sought to unearth the unique gifts bestowed upon each individual by God. As we reflect on the past year, we unveil the chapters of discovery and express our gratitude for the collective efforts that fuelled this enriching journey.

- We had two competition services where the competitions featured Extempore speech, Choir singing, Solo, Quiz and Skit. The objective, was to learn the Word of God intentionally, discover their gift/talent, build confidence and encourage them.
- *Talks* on “Discovering You” with Mr. Sentilong Ozukum and “Skills and Entrepreneurship”, with Dr. Yan Murry was conducted successfully.
- *Workshop*: the workshop integrated the theme, emphasizing the exploration of untapped talents and abilities gifted. Youths were empowered to explore their interests by participating in two out of the five engaging sessions:
 - a) *Pickle Making*: focusing on culinary creativity and the art of preserving flavours.
Resource persons—Mrs. Muithingla and Mr. Moasunep Jamir from “Deshen Food”.
 - b) *Photography*: to help unleashed the artistic potential through lens skills.
Resource person—Mr. Imtinukshi Jamir.

- c) *Craft*: to nurture creativity and craftsmanship through hands-on artistic endeavours. Resource person—Mr. Elemmongba
- d) *Grooming*: to provide practical insights into personal presentation and self-care. Resource person—Ms. Sanjana from Sunflower beauty parlour.
- e) *First Aid*: to equip with essential life-saving skills, emphasizing the importance of immediate response in emergencies.
Resource person—Dr. Temjenpokba Lkr.

The workshop concluded on an impactful note as pastor Yabang delivered brief exhortation, leaving participants inspired and motivated.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the following speakers during the Youth fellowships:

- 19th August—Ms. Kim Leivon
- 26th August—Ms. Ajem
- 2nd September—Pastor Yabang Lkr
- 9th September—Mr. Kusasing (Crossover)
- 16th September—Ms. Keweneilou, Asso. Pastor, Christian Education, Chakhesang Baptist Church Dimapur
- 23rd September—Mrs. Khonzani Merry, Deaconess
- 7th October—Dr. Kindy Newmai
- 14th October—Dr. Samuel Wati, Deacon
- 21st October—Pastor Yabang Lkr.
- 28th October—Mr. Vepu Pfuno
- 4th November—David Koza



Glimpes from the Youth workshop

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Mrs. Zuthunglo Ezung, Asso. Pastor, Christian Education

1. Introduction

Sunday school began the new year on the theme 'You are God's Masterpiece' based on Ephesians 2:10. The department is thankful to God for all the blessings, challenges and learning undertaken so far. We are reminded that each of our children is God's masterpiece. Thank you to the church and to our dear children and their families for making a huge difference. Here is a brief annual report.

A. Sunday School Teachers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ms. Tolivi Y. Achumi | 5. Ms. Lipoksongla |
| 2. Mr. Widamlubo Newmai | 6. Ms. Fedilia Jamir |
| 3. Ms. Amanda Verma | 7. Mrs. B. Roopa |
| 4. Mr. Asianmei | 8. Ms. Khrutalu Dozo |

B. Committee Adviser:

- Mrs. Khonzani Merry

Events Undertaken

1. November 6th 2022 - World SS Day

The WSSD theme was "I Will Follow You"- Luke 9:57 and the speaker was Mrs. Elivi Kibami, who along with her husband are founders of *Christian Education Training Center* (CETC), Chekiye. Ms. Khrutalu Dozo, teacher of the SS teens was the Chairperson.

2. November 27th 2022 - Star Bazaar

The SS held a warm closing ceremony for the winters on November 27th, the last Sunday of the month. The yearlong hard earned stars are finally given out to the students on the following criteria:

- Attendance
- Participation
- Responsiveness
- Using Gifts/Talents
- Attitude towards learning

3. December 4th 2022 - 1st Christmas Advent-Sunday School Christmas Skit

The SS had the privilege of presenting a Christmas Skit on the nativity story from the gospel of Matthew ch. 1-2 at the first Advent of Christmas.

4. February 8th 2023 - Sunday School Teachers Training

The department organized the first teachers training for the year at CBCD, between 2pm to 6:30pm. Resource persons were Mr. and Mrs. Vito Kibami, founders of

Christian Education Training Center (CETC), Chekiye. There were 3 sessions on the following topics.

Session I- The Most Effective Teacher

Session II- Creative Tools for Sunday School

Session III- The Art of Imparting Biblical Lessons

5. February 12th - Sunday School Re-Opening Day

6. February 25th - Church Worker's Retreat

7. March - Mission Month

8. April 8th - Teens & Youth Retreat

The Youth Express along with the Sunday School organized a Teens and Youth Retreat at Oriental Theological Seminary, Bade with around 60 members.

9. April - Passion Week

10. June 24th - Vacation Bible School Teachers Training

The second training for the SS teachers took place at CBCD. Our resource person was Mrs. Azonuo Ciesotsu, Christian Education Director, Angami Baptist Churches Council. She took us through a preview for the VBS Curriculum from Groups Publishing India, based on the theme 'Stellar.'

11. Vacation Bible School July 23rd-26th

By the grace of God, we are encouraged to say we had a high number of 164 children and teenagers who attended the 3 day VBS which concluded on the 4th day on VBS Sunday.

12. Thanksgiving Sunday September 24th

Joining with the rest of the church, the SS Teens and Intermediate classes participated in making DIY bracelets, bookmarkers and thank you cards.

13. Cultural Sunday October 29th

Each class from Beginners up to the Teens learnt and presented various dialect memory verses ranging from South Indian language Telugu to other tribal dialects in Rongmei, Ao and Sumi. There were also Ao songs and short sharing about the importance of their respective tribes Konyak, Chang, Zeliang and Nepali etc.

14. Sunday School Picnic October 24th

On 24th of October, the SS went out for the much awaited Annual Picnic at Stone Park, NEZCC. Around 100 children, 5 teachers, 6 volunteers and 2 Bus drivers from Hope Academy were part of it.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Mrs. Aren Lkr.

The CBCD Women group had an eventful 2023. This year our monthly fellowship began in the month of March and concluded on 1st December. Our attendance has been 13-16 members for most of the meetings. I have also represented CBCD several times during Dimapur Baptist Women Union (DBWU) Executive meetings and our members have attended couple of events organized by DBWU.

A. 2023 CBCD Women Activities

The following are some of the activities during the year:

- 1. Outdoor Retreat:** We organized an outdoor retreat trip to Dzuleke on 15th April with the theme "Connecting with the Creator". It was a time of refreshing and rekindling our relationship with our Creator and with one another.
- 2. Seminar on Basic Cooking:** On May 27th, 18 members of CBCD Women group attended a one day Basic Cooking workshop at the State Institute of Hotel Management, Dimapur. Apart from learning the art of cooking, it was also a great opportunity for us to discover many hidden talents amongst our group.
- 3. Father's day:** Mrs. Kakheli Inato Jimomi, Women Secretary WSBK, was the speaker. She blessed the congregation with a challenging message on the topic "Father in the Eyes of God" from the life of Joshua.
- 4. Seminar on Finance:** On 24th June, the CBCD Women group had a seminar on the topic "Managing Finances". Our resource person Mrs. Nancy Kikon shared from her years of valuable personal experiences. She not only enlightened our spirits but also motivated us to work diligently on our daily income and expenditure so that we maintain sound family income and expenses.

5. Seminar on "Women and Health": Dr. Apeli Sukhalu from Nikos Hospital was our resource person. She highlighted several health concerns women face day to day and the importance to take care of our physical body. We had also opportunity to discuss and clarify personal health issues which was an added benefit.

6. Extending a Helping Hand: The home of one of our church members was severely affected by floodwater due to sudden downpour of the Monsoon rain. Our women group rallied together to find them a house in another location.

7. Core Team Meeting: The CBCD Core team met three times in 2023 to plan out the year's activities and discussed issues which needed attention.

B. The following are the Calendar of Ministry for 2024

1. February 24th: Talk on Parenting (Dr. Adela and Mrs. Aren Y. Lkr)
2. March 23rd : Bible Study: Series
3. April 27th : Outreach program
4. May : Bible Study: Series
5. June : Spiritual Retreat
6. July : Bible Study: Series
7. August : Fellowship
8. September : Bible Study: Series
9. October : Recreational Outing
10. November : End of the Year Fellowship.

Apart from these the following are some proposed activities for next year:

1. Organise a Chain of Prayer
2. Core team prayer and fasting
3. Women's group day of fasting & Prayer



Seminar on Women's Health



International Women's Day at Town Baptist Church Dimapur organized by DBWU & NBCC



Women's group retreat at Dzuleke

CROSSOVER

(Deuteronomy 9:1-3)

The Crossover fellowship was established to foster a collaborative community among young working professionals, bridging the gap, and the mission is to provide mentorship in terms of spiritual mentoring, career guidance, skills development to the younger youths and create supportive network for professional development. We are blessed to have around 25 working professionals.

- First fellowship was held on 19th February 2023, 4 pm at CBCD, 13 of them attended.
- 19th March—fellowship with Mr. Sentilong Ozukum, where the team was encouraged and motivated.
- 30th April—Potluck fellowship at “The Garden” Supermarket.
- 28th May—Fellowship at NMM conference hall.



- 9th July—Fellowship with Dr. Samuel Wati at Pomelo Café, Indisen.
- 3rd September—Fellowship with Pastor Yabang Lkr.
- 24th September—Fellowship with Mr. Kethozavi Liegise, YD, Kuda Baptist Church.
- 10th December—Advent Christmas celebration at Rosemary's residence.

We are grateful to God for the Crossover group. We could see the team willingly participating in church activities, rendering their services in the Youth group as well as in the Sunday School department.

As we aim to create an environment where the young people genuinely encounter Jesus through various avenues, fostering a transformative and everlasting relationship, we need more prayer support.



My experience at Crossover

Just as the group name ‘Crossover’, I believe we are all at that age where we are juggling somewhere between figuring out our life ahead and settling down by taking more adult responsibilities. As a group of similar age gap, we can also relate to the ups and downs of each other's current lives. I believe that being unmarried also gives us the advantage of flexibility with time and to help out accordingly in our own capacity for the church ministry. We are still getting to know each other better so I am hoping for the group to become more dynamic and purposeful in the coming years.

- Kusasing Nsarangbe

Photo Gallery



CHURCH WORKERS' RETREAT



PALM SUNDAY



GOOD FRIDAY



EASTER SUNDAY



MOTHER'S DAY



FATHER'S DAY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**CULTURAL SUNDAY**



Yabang Longkumer
Pastor



Kewi Pfuno
Associate Pastor, Youth



Pastors & Deacons



Zuthunglo Ezung
Associate Pastor, Children Education



Peshia
Office Assistant



Alunbo Pamai
Caretaker



Danganlung Kamei
Sound Operator



OUR VISION

- To glorify God and expand His Kingdom.
- To build a vibrant and worshipping community.
- To preach and propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ.



OUR MISSION

- To disciple others (discipleship).
- To reach the unreached through worshipping, preaching, teaching fellowshiping and ministering.

Regular Activities

- Sunday Service at 10:00 am at CBCD.
- Youth Express every Saturday at 4:00 pm (winter) and 5:00 pm (summer).
- Sunday School at 10:00 am.
- Board Meeting once a month.
- Women's Fellowship and Men's Prayer breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.
- Cell groups and Bible study.
- Holy Communion once in a month.
- Nagamese fellowship on alternate Sundays.

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH DIMAPUR

NMM Compound, 316-Fellowship Colony,
Dimapur-797112, Nagaland.

Email: covenantbc.dimapur@gmail.com

+91 70058 82424