

COVENANT 2025

A bimonthly bulletin of COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH DIMAPUR

ISSUE #12 / MARCH-APRIL

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 Saturdays at 4 pm
- Prayer Meeting : Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast : 2nd Saturdays at 7am
- Holy Communion : Bi-Monthly
- Crossover Fellowship : Once a month
- Nagamese Fellowship : 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.

Soul Food

Will God abandon Us?

Will God ever truly abandon those who are in Christ? If Jesus' cry of dereliction was the result of temporary abandonment by the Father, does that mean we could be abandoned by the Father also? When we crumble to the floor and cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" does this express our feelings or represent our reality? The good news we celebrate during Easter (and always!) is that God will never abandon those who are in Christ.

Jesus' cry of dereliction helps us understand this. He was abandoned momentarily so that we can live with assurance eternally. The innocent sufferer was God-forsaken so that we would never be. That's startling.

Even when we suffer innocently, we are still sinful. And it is this sin that separates us from God. On our best day, we don't love God with everything we are, treasure him as our greatest good, or love our brothers as ourselves. Thus, we deserve to be plunged into outer darkness and separated from the presence of God. God could justly desert and leave us to die in our sins.

Yet, Jesus on his worst day loved God with everything he was and treasured him as the greatest good and loved his brothers as himself. Jesus then chose to be separated from the Father that we might be reunited to God through him. Jesus was forsaken by God so that we might be forgiven. Nothing can change that! Not your circumstances, not your suffering, and not your sin.

This is the good news I preach to myself again and again in my pain and depression. Were it not for the light of the gospel, the darkness would crush me. But Jesus was crushed on my behalf, so I have hope. I constantly remind myself, "There is always hope in Jesus!"

Suffering saint, I want you to know that there is always hope in Jesus. Whatever you are walking through this Easter season, remember that God will not abandon you because you are in Christ. It may feel like you have been abandoned. The darkness may feel as though it's going to crush you. But the unshakeable truth that you stand on in the midst of your suffering is that Jesus was temporarily abandoned on your behalf, so you will never be truly abandoned.

An excerpt from <https://www.whitneywoollard.com>. Whitney Woollard, September 1, 2019,

Mission Committee Report:

Brief Report on the Medical Camp at Sepon, Moranhut Assam. | 21st & 22nd March 2025

During the Mission Month (March), the Mission Committee organized a medical camp at Shalom English School with the intention of extending love and care through medical treatment to the people, particularly in Sepon. A total of 30 members went for the camp which included 8 doctors, 6 nurses and 2 pharmacists. Free medical treatment and medicines were provided to all the patients. The camp started at 8:00 AM and continued till 1:30 PM.

The non-medical members divided the area into different stations and assisted the patients to ensure smooth functioning of the camp. Some members helped patients with entry and exit, some helped with registration, blood pressure checks and guiding them to the doctor's room. Volunteers from the school and local church members assisted in interpreting languages and supporting the patients. Every one cooperated exceptionally well and performed their duties to the highest standard. The missionary and his family stationed there, provided dinner and lunch on the 21st and 22nd March, while tea was served during the ongoing camp. By God's grace, everything went well, and the weather was very pleasant too. We give all glory, honor and praise to our living God for listening to our prayers and allowing us to witness His divine hand at work.

We sincerely thank the CBCD members for their support through prayers and other contributions. May the Lord continue to use CBCD as an instrument to reach out and share His love with those in need.



Snapshots from the medical camp at Sepon, Assam

Church Picnic:

8th March 2025

The Church picnic took place on the 8th of March at Zani Village, a serene location with wide open fields and fishery ponds. The day was filled with activities such as fishing, friendly volleyball matches, and various fun games organized especially for the children. A raffle draw added an extra element of excitement for everyone. Alongside these enjoyable events, attendees shared the delicious picnic feast in a spirit of fellowship. The event concluded on a reflective and spiritual note, with a brief time of fellowship, an encouraging exhortation by Mr. David Koza, and a concluding prayer.



Church picnic at Zani village

Passion Week

13th to 20th April 2025

Beginning with Palm Sunday on 13th April, Passion Week at CBCD was observed with much prayer, reflection and thanksgiving. Dr. R.S. Wungramthing delivered a profound message on Palm Sunday sharing about what it means to have the mind of Christ; Mrs. Phutoli Shikhu Chingmak delivered a powerful message about the last seven Sayings of Christ on the cross on Good Friday and Pastor Yabang Longkumer delivered a reflective message reminding the church about the significance of Jesus' resurrection on Resurrection Sunday. Also, after much prayer and counselling, three young women gave their lives to Christ and received water baptism on Good Friday. We praise God for their lives and will continue to remember them in our prayers.



Glimpses of Passion Week at CBCD

Getting to know Mr. Benjamin Benny:

CBCD's Nagamese Evangelist

M. A. Benjamin Benny was born in 1986 and hails from Laii (Gazephema) Village, Senapati district, Manipur. He and his wife are blessed with a son and a daughter. During 2016-17, he served as Youth Director at the Bread of Life Church, Kohima and subsequently served as an evangelist at Anugrah Nagamese Baptist Church (presently Nagamese Baptist Church) at Signal Angami Village, Dimapur, which is under the aegis of the Nagamese Baptist Churches Association (NBCA). He got to know about the vacancy for the Nagamese Evangelist post at CBCD while taking a break from the previous ministry, and prayerfully decided to take the interview and by God's grace, was appointed as the Nagamese Evangelist, CBCD, on the 1st of February 2025. He gives all glory to God and is excited to learn many new things and is privileged to be leading this ministry for the expansion of God's Kingdom.



Testimony:

In 2006, he underwent a major heart surgery at RIIMS Hospital, Imphal, but did not get any relief and was not completely healed. He consulted various doctors and physiotherapists but did not get better. Under the guidance of his uncle, he went to a healing centre at his native village in July, 2008 where he was healed and is pain-free today. He took water baptism in January 2009, however, he struggled with bad habits and a very bad temper, even landed in jail and had broken relationships with friends and family. However, by the grace of God, the Lord encountered him again at a youth camp in October 2014, where his understanding of things changed completely and he began looking at his family and friends with a heart of love, compassion and care.

Q & A:

1. What is your biggest prayer and hope for the CBCD Nagamese Fellowship?

My first priority and prayer for our Nagamese Fellowship is to save the lost souls with my personal motto being “Reaching People, Changing People”. In Dimapur, there are still many unreached, unsaved and unchurched people. In order to save them, I will reach out and spread the love of God as well as the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and I believe that one day, the CBCD Nagamese fellowship will glorify the name of Jesus even more.

2. What are some of the challenges you’re facing in your evangelical work?

Some challenges I have come across so far are:

- a) The unwillingness to attend Church services and change of hearts even after reaching out to them
- b) Relapsing to their addictions after a few days or weeks
- c) Majority of the men/husbands make excuses to avoid attending the fellowships or prayer meetings organized in their family.

3. What sort of responses have you been receiving during your evangelical work?

By the grace of God there are so many positive responses till now and I believe that even in the days to come, there will be many more.

4. In your opinion, what is the best approach for evangelical work here in Dimapur?

According to my personal experience, visiting them in person and building personal relationships with them is more effective than meeting up only during church services.

5. How can CBCD members pray for you and your family?

I thank the believers of CBCD for your prayer support towards my family. By God’s grace, we are all doing well. I humbly request you all to kindly continue to uphold my ministry and my family in your prayers.

Mr. Ashi Konyak's graduation:

With great joy and gratitude to God, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Ashi Konyak on his graduation from Eastern Theological College, Jorhat, where he successfully completed his Bachelor of Divinity. This milestone is especially meaningful as his studies were made possible through the sponsorship and support of our Church. A six-member team from our Church went to grace his graduation ceremony. He is now driven and fully committed to begin his journey of service as a missionary teacher in the state of Assam. We are confident that God will use him mightily in this new chapter. The Church wishes him every success and will continue to uphold him in prayer.



Mr. Ashi Konyak with his parents and CBCD members on his graduation day

Editorial Committee get-together:

8th March 2025

The members of the Editorial Committee along with their spouses had a get-together fellowship over dinner at Jade Restaurant, Noune Resort on 27th April. It was a good time to strengthen friendships and also an opportunity to discuss the works related to the editorial team.



Editorial team with their spouses

Couple's Retreat:

26 April 2025

A one-day retreat was organized for the married couples of CBCD on the 26th April at the Resource Centre, Rainbow Academy, Dimapur. The resource persons were Rev. Dr. Coppe Mero and Dr. Adela Mero. A total of 9 couples and 1 individual attended the retreat. The programme began with an ice breaker activity and an invocation prayer by Pastor Yabang Longkumer. The retreat was divided into two sessions where Rev. Dr. Coppe Mero took up the first session where he talked about the importance of maintaining a Christ-centered relationship between husband and wife, and shared on many important aspects of a marriage such as love, loneliness, loyalty and laziness. He shared many insightful nuggets of wisdom from his experience as a husband and as a father, what it really means to be the head of the household and that being a Godly father requires a husband/father to love and provide for their family sacrificially.

The second session was taken up by Dr. Adela Mero where she mainly spoke on parenting, based on her experiences as a mother of three. She shared many practical ways on how to discipline your children, how to deal with rebellion and arguments with children, how important it is to fellowship with your children through regular Bible study sessions and also daily family worship. She also talked about what it means for wives to submit to their husbands and how discussing with your husband regarding any decisions, big or small, is crucial for a healthy marriage.

Both the sessions were followed by question-and-answer sessions where the participants could ask questions to the resource persons and also to share their views and experiences without any reservations. Overall, the retreat was a great learning opportunity for everyone. The humble, straightforward and frank nature of Mr and Mrs Mero made the participants very comfortable and both sessions were filled with a lot of laughter as well.



Editorial team with their spouses

Sunday School Report:

Mrs. Zuthunglo Ezung

March 2025:

- Observing 'Mission Month' for the children and teens at Sunday School began with combined assembly on March 2nd, with a special visit from a missionary couple Dr. Katoshe Sumi and his wife Mrs. Vivi. Dr. Katoshe pastors Sangdang English Church in Korea while Mrs. Vivi works as a counsellor. They shared their experiences as Pastors as well as Sunday school teachers and mentors. Through interactive activities, they taught the children the importance of praying for missions and to dream big for the Lord. The assembly concluded with a special prayer for missions by the children.
- The venue for our Sunday School classes has now been shifted from Zu-in Ki, DABA to El-Shaddai Academy (ESA), opposite NMM building. We praise God for the team of teachers who gave their time for community service at Zu-in Ki on the last Saturday of the month. All praise to God for DABA who permitted us to use the venue for 3 years of Sunday School ministry. On March 23rd a brief orientation between ESA and Sunday School Teachers took place to help us partner together.
- On an average, the SS attendance of the children was about 115-126 in number.

April 2025:

- **Teen's Retreat:** On the 5th of April, we began an adventure at the Healing Garden, Medziphema. The retreat began with ice breakers, praise and worship songs, quiet time from the Word and a series of teachings on True Love Waits (TLW) which was presented by the resource person, Rev. Suhuto Chishi, Youth Secretary, NBCC. Mr. Boto Achumi took over the outdoor activities which included a zip-line crossing over a small pond. All the teens tried it for the first time which was truly adventurous for them. We thank God for teachers Sashikala, Chumyani, Nenti and Napem who helped in preparing delicious meals as well as leading in praise and singing.
- **Palm Sunday:** The Beginners and Primary class, led by teachers Intinula, Thungyani, Yippi and Napem, presented a Bible verse recitation and a special song, walking in with their palm leaves with shouts of "Hosanna!" We were blessed to have two of our senior students Sentsu from Juniors and Imtilong from Intermediate class to help out with drums and acoustic guitar. After the presentation, the children continued with Sunday School in their respective classes.
- **Good Friday:** The Teens class, led by teacher Mr. Boto Achumi presented a moving skit titled, "Thank You Jesus" enacting out how sin separates us from Christ but how the Cross redeemed us back.
- **Resurrection Sunday:** Sunday School celebrated the occasion in combined assembly. We were challenged by light drizzles of rain but that did not stop us from having a blessed time with singing, memorizing Scripture Roman 10:9 and listening to the Resurrection story narrated by our Easter speaker, Mrs. Wati Amit.

After Sunday School, the teachers continued the fellowship over tea with our speaker, who brought out the story of Edward Kimball, a Sunday School teacher who made an impact in the life of one student, D. L. Moody who went on to touch two continents for God. From here there were a series of events that can be traced over the years through which Billy Graham, one of the greatest evangelists was evangelized, all because of a Sunday school teacher. The exhortation was based on Deuteronomy 32:2 which was a great encouragement.

Upcoming Events:

- VBS Teacher's Training in May
- Teacher's Retreat in June



Collage of Sunday School activities at El-Shaddai Academy, Dimapur



Snapshots of the Sunday School Teens' Retreat at Healing Garden, Medziphema and presentation of a skit on Good Friday

Testimonials from the Teens' Retreat:

We had our Teens Retreat on April 5th at the Healing Garden, a beautiful place owned by a warm, elderly couple. It was a fun and meaningful day. Our speaker, gave a powerful session on waiting for true love and how sex is a gift from God meant for marriage. Though the topic was a bit uncomfortable, it was insightful. He shared on Bible verses based on Romans 8:1–2 and 2 Timothy 2:22. He also spoke about homosexuality and the LGBTQ+ community from a Biblical perspective, which was quite controversial but interesting. He introduced us to the “True Love Waits” (TLW) campaign, encouraging the youth to stay sexually pure and pursue Godly marriages. He also spoke about David’s fall into sexual sin and reminded us that while God forgives, the guilt can linger. Joseph’s story was shared as an example of resisting temptation. Later, it rained and almost ruined a fun activity planned by Sir Boto, but the skies cleared, and we were reminded of God’s greatness. We ended the day with prayer and goodbyes. I’m truly grateful for this retreat—it helped me grow spiritually. Big thanks to the organizers. I’ll always cherish this experience.

- By Yeputoli Hekato

My time at the Healing Garden for the teens retreat was something that I didn't expect in my 2025. However, I enjoyed the lessons and messages the retreat taught us and I'm happy to know that. The retreat taught me how to truly see love and the opposite sex, and I've understood that the world has made into something God has not intended it to be. The retreat let me see love and sex in a different angle that I've never seen before, and I was surprised to know at first. Something I keep close to my heart from the retreat is to wait. And be patient with God's timing. I think this will help me in my further teenage years. I loved the sessions and the environment in the retreat, and it helped me truly reconnect and focus on God and his word. The retreat has truly helped me know how God wanted us to see things like marriages, sex and the opposite gender. This helped me feel comfortable with my body and helped me contain my emotions and discipline myself better.

-By Vinoli

I am grateful to God for giving me the privilege to attend the teen's retreat at Healing Garden. The retreat was very engaging and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with my friends and teachers. I participated in numerous activities including river crossing, singing, dancing and various games. The most important lessons I learned during those sessions were: true love is patient, the appropriate ages for entering into relationships and the understanding that attraction to individuals of the opposite gender may develop but, we must refrain from engaging in such relationships at an immature age. The subject matter presented was crucial for my spiritual well-being. I am profoundly thankful to the Sunday School and the Church for organizing the teen's retreat. I look forward to more of such retreats.

-By Imnajunger Jamir



Sunday School teens having their Quite time at the Teen's Retreat

Youth Express Report:

Mrs. Kewi Pfuno

I thank God for enabling us to smoothly execute our plans this year. Our yearly theme, 'Support, Equip, and Empower (Ephesians 4:16), aligns with our vision for intensive Bible study and member care.

Ongoing Activities:

- Preaching Series: We commenced a series on the book of James.
- Bible Study: We are studying the Gospel of Mark, with sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at Prodigal's Home and Tikvah Centre.

March Highlights:

- On 15th March: Mrs. Roopa, our former Sunday School teacher, shared the Word of God with us.
- On 16th March: Our Youth Express team presented the song 'Let it Rise' during Mission Month.
- On 22nd March: We hosted a talk on 'Empowering Youths, Transforming Society' with Ms. K. Ela, Director of Prodigal's Home.
- On 29th March: We welcomed 8 new teens from the 2024 batch and had a Word-sharing session by our Youth Advisor, Mr. Yanger Longkumer.

April Highlights:

- 19th: A talk on 'Serving God through Excellence in your Field' was shared by Mr. Meyiakum.

Updates and Congratulations:

- Exam Congratulations: We praise God for our friends who cleared their HSLC and HSSLC exams!
- Service Time: Our new summer service time is 5 pm.
- Bible Study Venue: Announced in Youth service and on our WhatsApp group. Join us if you're interested! We pray for God's continued guidance and blessings on our Youth Express journey.



Sunday School teens having their quite time at the Teen's Retreat

Crossover Fellowship Report:

Stepping into 2025, the Crossover fellowship looks forward to a blessed year of fellowship. The theme for this year is "Rooted to Reach". The Crossover members seek to be rooted in Jesus to let His Spirit shape and mould our characters, decisions, goals and interactions so that we can make a lasting impact and be a blessing for others.

("I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5).

The first fellowship for this year took place on 2nd March, with Pastor Yabang Longkumer as the speaker, where he shared on the topic, "*Do Not Fear*". His exhortation had a message of warm comfort, strength and hope.

We also have an upcoming Bible study – cum – reasoning with Mr. Meyiakum Jamir on the topic, 'Salvation: Relationship with Christ'.

God willing, we have a lot of upcoming plans such as community outreach for the needy, retreat and picnic. Do keep us in your prayers.



Crossover Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Report:

Dr. Michell Kamei

On 21st February 2025, the core team held its first meeting where the team planned and scheduled various events and activities for the year. The core team members are Mrs Arenla Yaden, Mrs Sarila, Mrs Kewi, Mrs Zuthonglo, Mrs Khonzani, Mrs Ketuno and Mrs Michelle. The team decided on the yearly theme which is, '*Support, Equip and Empower*' (Ephesians 4:16). The monthly fellowship shifted from the fourth Saturday to second Saturday of every month, and the fellowship timing changed from 10 am to 4 pm for the convenience of everyone, especially the working mothers.

Monthly Fellowship:

- 14th March, Speaker: Pastor Yabang Longkumer
- 12th April, Speaker: Mrs Rongsenla Longkumer
- Home Visitation:
 - 3 families and 1 individual

On 25th April, some of us from the women's group had the privilege to attend a one-day Spiritual Awakening programme on the theme, 'O Lord Revive Us Again', under Arpana Ministries at Town Baptist Church, Dimapur.

Upcoming Events:

1. On 10 May, women's retreat: Theme: 'For Such a Time as This' - Esther 4:14b with Mrs. M. Twinkle Kiba as the resource person
2. On 7 June -monthly fellowship: Speaker: Mrs Gerla Longkumer
3. On 12 July - monthly fellowship: Speaker: Mrs Atemla Anichari

Grateful to God for His guidance and blessings in our women's ministry. We believe that every woman is special and has a unique role in God's plan. We will continue to seek His guidance and wisdom as we strive to encourage and equip one another to fulfil God's purpose.



Women's fellowship home visitations and their first fellowship of the year

Men's Prayer Breakfast Report:

Dr. Temjenpokba Longkumer

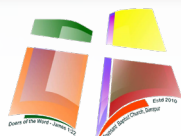
For the year 2025, we have decided to have a systematic Bible study every second Saturday of the month and the other programmes on the fourth Saturdays. Accordingly, the first MPB Bible study was held on the 8th of February at the NMM conference hall. Rev. Babu Bhat, chaplain of Olive Christian Hospital led us in the Bible study starting from the Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25. We also gratefully acknowledge Mr. B. V. Sridhar for arranging the breakfast that day.

The second Bible study was on the 7th of March at NMM conference hall from the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-23 and 3:1-17. The third was on April 12th at NECU where the Bible study continued from Matthew 4:1-25.

The group also had a futsal match on 25th April at Arena 365, Kacharigaon, which was a good opportunity to bond and strengthen friendships through the sport. The men's group is also continuing with leading the praise and worship during the last Sunday of every month. We also meet up every Thursday evening at 5:30 PM for song practice. We welcome all the men of CBCD to come and join us for a time of fellowship, encouragement, prayer, sports for both spiritual as well as physical growth.



Men's Prayer Breakfast fellowship and Bible study at NMM Conference room and futsal match at Arena 365



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