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Editor:
Rev. Dr. C. Lalhlira

Members of the Editorial Board:
Mrs. P.C. Laltlani
Rev. Dr. K.Lallawmzuala
Rev. P.R. Hmuaka
Ms. Lalrindiki Ralte

Manager:
Rev. Lalthangpuia Fanai

Postal Address of the Editor:
Aizawl Theological College,
Post Box No. 167,
Aizawl - 796 001,
MIZORAM, INDIA.
Ph. (0389) 2361126
Fax (0389) 2361663
E-mail: atheol @ sancharnet.in

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To Subscribe, please contact
The Manager,
Presbyterian Review,
Aizawl Theological College,
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Aizawl - 796 001,
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The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the official position of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church; each contributor is solely responsible for the views expressed in his/her article.
CHRISTIAN BOUNDARIES

Boundary disputes are not only political but religious and social issues too. There have been lots of boundary disputes in the world, ranging from international, regional and even at the interstate and local levels. Disputes instigated on the basis of international boundaries have led to wars between countries; disputes over interstate boundaries have brought about clashes of people, government forces and even administrators. Such disputes could not easily be solved due to the fact that the parties involved could not easily accept the terms of agreement laid down by the body that has been entrusted to look into the matters. Not to mention the disputes occurring between different countries of the world, even in India there have been good numbers of State boundary disputes. India has experienced such disputes, and the Central Government could not even solve many of such problems (http://www.boundaries.com/India.htm). Not only the disputes at the national level, but even individuals do have their disputes over the boundaries with their neighbours. There are even instances of border encroachment by the rich people over land of the poor. (See for example of such disputes: www.rics.org, etc).

It is not our intention here to give detailed instances of the disputes over temporal boundaries. But we would like to illustrate ‘boundary disputes’ for our Christian life. Should not Christians extend the reign of God in the hearts of people in the contexts where peoples and countries are fighting either to defend or to extend the boundaries of their land, so that the entire world will be the ‘Kingdom’ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Let us extend this boundary but in a peaceful manner. Chirstians of all castes, tribes and clans, and all church denominations should cross their respective boundaries in stead of making walls so that they could all be governed by the same Ruler, the Lord Jesus Christ. As a theologian of Suva, Fiji Island says, “We, Christians, are not many to win over the entire people of the world to Christ. Let us join our hands and work together for Christ.”
REPORT:

THE 40TH PCI GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION
- Rev. Dr. C. Lalhlira

The 40th General Assembly Session of the Presbyterian Church of India was hosted by the Presbyterian Church, Champhai Vengsang, on behalf of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod. The location of the venue is at the Myanmar Border, a three hours drive will take you to that foreign land! One of the District headquarters in Mizoram, and one of the most beautiful townships in the state, it has been the centre of tourist attractions in the State (Mizoram). Though located in a hill top, it is surrounded by flat area of land, ploughed for paddy fields. The Assembly Sessions were held during May 2-6, 2012. It may be due to the attraction of the location, good number of delegates assembled together, far better than in any other Assembly Sessions. The Sessions were held under the efficient leadership of Rev. S. I. Iawphniaw of KJP Synod Sepngi who conducted each session in a humorous but solemn manner. The Secretaries were Rev. Zosangliana Colney (Mizo Synod, Senior), and Rev. Awnkhankhup (Zou Synod, Junior). Rev. W. C. Khongwir has been the treasurer; Rev. D. C. Haia Darney (the former Administrative Secretary of the General Assembly) became the moderator elect. Rev. R. K. Marsing becomes the new Statistician. While Rev. Lalramliana Pachuau, one of the Administrative Secretaries’ term has expired, Rev. V. L. Luaia Hranleh from the Mizoram Synod has been appointed as the new Administrative Secretary. The other two Administrative Secretaries namely Rev. S. S. Majaw and Rev. David Thatkhokai Lhovum will continue for their second terms.

Among many others, the followings are some of the resolutions made in the Assembly sessions:
1. The next and the 41st General Assembly Session will be hosted by the KJP Sepngi Synod with the Theme: “The Prophetic Roles of the Church Today”. (The location will be selected by the host Synod)
2. The next Presbyterian Youth Fellowship leader during 2013-2016 will be Rev. J. H. Lalropuia, from Manipur Synod.

3. Ms. K. Lalliantluangi from Mizoram Synod was appointed to be the Chairperson of the Presbyterian Women Fellowship during 2013-2016.

4. The session resolved not to join the WCC immediately; the matter will be discussed again in the 2014 General Assembly.

5. The Session had made resolution for the Ministers who will be shifting from one Synod to another under the PCI General Assembly as below:
   (a) If an active minister due to necessary appointment have to shift from one synod to another will be received according to the agreement made by the concerned synods.
   (b) Any retired minister who is willing to shift his Synod to another synod will be given a certifying letter that should be read/announced in the first synod meeting that follows; he will become a permanent member of the Pastorate/district, Presbytery and the Synod; and he will also become a committee member of the local Church, of the Presbytery Standing committee. He may also be appointed a member of a synod committee.

6. If any Church elder of one Synod migrate to another synod, he should obtained a certificate submit to the local church and Presbytery under where he stays; after he has been formally approved, he may be a permanent member of Pastorate/District and of Presbytery. He may also be reelected for church elder, and announcement in the following presbytery will suffice to approve the election.

7. The Session also had made provision to include the Women and the Youths’ fellowships to send their representatives in the General Assembly, to be inserted in the PCI’s Constitution.
8. A new mission statement of the PCI was adopted.
9. The PCI’s Justice Committee had been granted permission to register itself under the Society Registration Act.
10. The PCI General Assembly will have a permanent time for having its General Assembly Session.
11. The Executive Committee of the PCI was entrusted to look into the matter relating to the formation of Meitei Synod.

The theme of the General Assembly was “Christ, the Lord of the Creation,” delivered by Rev. Dr. M.J. Hynniewta, Principal of John Roberts Theological Seminary, Shillong of Khasi and Jaintia Synod Sepngi, an the Bilbe study was conducted by Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte Registrar of the Aizawl Theological College, Mizoram Presbyterian Church. On Sunday May 6, 2012 at 6.00 a.m. the Holy communion service was held, and the Moderator Rev. S.I. Iawphniaw was the celebrant. Some delegates were sent to various churches in and around the Champhai town for preaching on Sunday forenoon’s worship services, In the evening, the outgoing Moderator Rev. Dr. L. S. Khobung delivered his Valedictory sermon.

For the General Assembly fund during 2010-2011 the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod gives the highest amount of money among the eight Synods which amounted to ₹15,00,000/- a Seconded by the KJP Synod Sepngi which amounted to ₹5,54,212/- The summary of membership statistics is as below:

1. Mizoram Synod 5,64,517
2. Cachar Hill Tribe Synod 31,645
3. Manipur Synod 14,264
4. Biateram Synod 12,780
5. Ribhoi Synod 60,091
6. KJP Mihngi Synod 2,48,000
7. KJP Sepngi Synod 3,18,616
8. Zou Synod 10,316
PCI General Assembly at Public Worship Services
Champhai Vengsang Church:

www.mizoramsynod.org

APRIL - SEPTEMBER, 2012
NEWS AROUND THE MPC
- Ms. P. C. Laltlani & Dr. Lalrindiki Ralte

SYNOD BOOKROOM CONFERENCE 2012
On May 10 & 11, 2012 the Synod Bookroom convened “the Synod Bookroom Conference” at Zosaphluia building, Mission Veng, Aizawl. All the workers of the Synod Bookroom in Mizoram attended the Conference. Words of encouragements and discussion of how to develop the ministry of the Church through the Synod Bookroom were the main themes of the conference. According the their report, the sale proceeds of the Bookroom is:

During 2010–2011 ₹ 6,19,54,508/-
During 2011–2012 ₹ 8,36,07,062/-
Exceeding the previous year by ₹ 2,16,52,554/-

The existing bidgeted amount for this financial year is ‘₹5,20,00,000/- which so far the highest budget amount of the Synod Bookroom. The Synod Bookroom was started 1911 in a small building, but now it has 12 Branches 12 and Distribution Centres.

PASTORS’ ORIENTATION TRAINING
Pastor’s Orientation Training course was conducted at the Missionary Training College, Mission Vengthlang during May 8-15, 2012 for newly appointed Field Secretaries and Pastors in different mission fields.

SYNOD BOUGHT A PLOT OF LAND
The Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod purchased a plot of land at Bawngkawn, Aizawl from the family of Mr. Jantere for ₹ 5,48,00,000/-; the amount of money was paid on May 15, 2012 (Tuesday).

MISSIONARY RETREAT FOR NORTH EAST REGION
During May 17-20, 2012, a Retreat meeting/conference was conducted for the missionaries under the Synod Mission Board of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church working in North East India at the Bethlehem Veng Church, Aizawl. The theme “Let us strain forward to what lies ahead”(Philippians 3:16) was preached by Rev. Vanlalzuata, the
Senior Executive Secretary (Sr.). Rev. Lalbiaknia, Pastor i/c., Bethlehem Pastorate, did Character Bible Study from the life of the prophet Habakkuk. Field workers under the Synod Mission Board and missionaries working under the Partnership mission agencies with their spouses and missionaries sponsored by individual Christians/Churches altogether 777 attended the retreat meeting.

**Annual Synod Lay Workers’ Day**

On May 25, 2012 (Friday) the Lay workers of the Synod (non-ministers) held their 38th Annual Lay Workers’ Day at the Presbyterian Church Girls’ School, Mission Veng, Aizawl. Of the 861 lay members, 550 members attended the meeting. The participants collected rice in the meeting, and the collection which amounted to more than fifty bags of sack clothes was donated to the Revival Camping Centre at Aizawl, a rehabilitation centre which is looking after drug addicts/alcoholics and other unprivileged peoples; they usually organise occasional gospel camps.

The programme was divided into two: the forenoon was more formal, in which the Synod’s Moderator Rev. Thangzauva gave the ‘Lay Day Address’. He expressed his gratitude due to the fact that while many people feel that it is of no gain to work under the church, there are more than 800 Lay workers under the Synod. He at the same time encouraged them to be loyal in their works, for people judged the Church from the lay ministry and its workers.

The theme for this year’s Annual Day was “Repentance,” (Matthew 3:2). Elder Dr. H. Lallungmuana (a former Member of Parliament) delivered a message on this. His message may be summarised as follows: “It is not enough to be a lay worker under the Synod, but one has to repent of his/her sin daily as old and dried leaves are replaced by new and fresh ones. We are expected to discover new spiritual life, so that we will receive our rewards from God. As we are the stewards of God, we should be faithful; and since our
actions speak louder than what we say, let our lives speak than what we say.”

The meeting mourned the death of six of its members during 2011-2012; and had given away certificates to 6 newly retired members.

The function in the afternoon was spent for variety programmes in which delightful items were presented.

**DEDICATION OF NEW SYNOD CHOIR’S MEMBERS**

On May 25 (Friday) evening the new Synod Choir’s members for 2012-2014 were dedicated to the service of the Lord in the Synod Conference Centre by Rev. Zosanglian Colney, Synod Executive Secretary by delivering a short message of encouragement. The members of the Choirs are selected from pastorates within Aizawl; altogether they are 24 in number.

**Synod discontinued its Partnership with PC (USA)**

The apex Church court of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the Synod Executive Committee (SEC), in its 239th meeting which met at the J. M. Lloyd Hall, Synod Office, Aizawl on June 5-7, 2012 the (Tuesday–Friday) resolved to end its partnership with the PC-USA) due to the fact that the latter was said to have approved of same sex marriage in its constitution. (The report of the previous year’s PC-USA Annual General Assembly was reflected in the local evangelical journal which says the inclination for the same sex marriage. When the Synod sought for clarification from the PC-USA, there was no reply, hence the resolution was passed in order to avoid unnecessary criticism from within and without. Now the PC-USA has discussed in its General Assembly 2012 as reported in Reuter, “The U.S. Presbyterian Church on Friday narrowly rejected a proposal by same-sex marriage proponents for a constitutional change that would redefine marriage as a union between “two people,” rather than between a woman and a man Ed.).

**‘DISABLED DAY’ OBSERVED**

June 17, 2012 (Sunday) was observed by the Mizoram Presbyterian Church
as ‘Disabled Sunday’ and the theme for the day was “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me,”. (Matthew 25: 34-40 [NRSV], Luke 14:11-14) sermons were preached on this topic in every local Churches. The day is observed to make awareness among the Church members on the need to give attention and any relevant care to the disabled people, which have been observed on the third Sunday of June every year since 1997.

RETREATS AT AIZAWL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

- The Aizawl Theological College had a retreat on June 4, 2012 which was meant for the office staff and the Faculty. Rev. H. Remthanga, the former Principal of the College (1990-1993) delivered the message of God.

- Another Retreat was conducted at ATC during June 23 and 24, 2012 for the students and the Faculty. Elder Dr. L.N. Tluanga, the former CWM’s missionary to Kiribati Island was the speaker. Two worship services during day times and one in the evenings were conducted. After the worship services, discussions were held in groups among the students, which was supervised by the faculty members. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated by the College Chaplain Rev. Dr. H. Lalrinthanga, and in the evening of the Second day after the worship service, a typical Mizo singing inspiration programme was held, which was enjoyed by the all who attended.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEWING OF MACHINES

Mizoram Presbyterian Church’s Women Central Committee on June 20, 2012 has distributed sewing machines to those women who had finished their training in 2011, 6 (six) in number. Those women were mainly from broken families who do not have financial resources for getting such training of their own. The Central Women of the Presbyterian Church distributed finds to different rehabilitations centres who look after women such kind.
ECOLOGICAL CONCERN - THE SYNOD SOCIAL FRONT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ZORAM RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Synod Social Front in partnership with the Zoram Research Foundation (ZRF) organised a seminar on April 24, 2012 at the Synod Conference Centre. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Thangchungnuna, the Chairman of ZRF, while Mr. Lalkhama vice Chairman of the Planning Board (Mizoram) presented a concept paper on the Forest Reservation and its Related Issues in Mizoram. Mr. J. H. Rothuama, the State Minister for Land Revenue and Settlement enlightened the participants how the State Government has taken steps to preserve forest resources by setting up an Expert Committee. He invited the intellectuals to give advises and Suggestions for the improvements of the work, and the expressed his hope to have a systematic rules and legislations for the same. Rev. Lalzuithanga, who led devotion had also expressed the work of the Synod Social Front to give awareness to ecological issues and the importance of ecological balances.

Papers were presented by Dr. Robert Halliday, Co-ordinator of Synod Social Front, Dr. Lalnundanga, Associate Professor of Mizoram University, Mr. Lalduthlan, ACF (Conservator of Forest), Mr. B. Lalramenga,
Advocate. Dr. H.T.C. Lalrinchhana Senior Civil Judge had made a summary comment on the whole discussion. The meeting concluded after making a study group to make a follow-up of the whole issues from among the participants.

CONSULTATION ON CHURCH MUSIC

The Synod Music Committee convened a meeting on July 3, 2012 (Tuesday) at the Synod Conference Centre to discuss about a better improvement of Church music in the church. Church Music includes singing, use of both traditional and modern/foreign musical instruments. The participants comprised of the members of Synod Music Committee and one representative each from the pastorates/districts, all from Aizawl; all of them were 59 in number. Rev. Thangzauva, the Synod Moderator chaired the meeting, and Rev. Lalzuithanga, Executive Secretary i/c Music Committee presented the basic concerns of the meeting. Discussions followed under the following points:

1. The improvement of leading singing and singing in general;
2. Use of musical instruments in worship services;
3. Reciting the lyrics of songs while singing in the worship services;
4. To train church members to know more hymns in Church’s hymn books;
5. Matters about the local Church’s Music Committees;
6. Matter relating to having music class in local churches;
7. To strengthen the Synod Music Committee;
8. Revision of guidelines for Music Committee.

All the points mentioned were properly recorded. The Synod Music Executive Committee was entrusted to pursue the matters for further discussions in the Synod Music Committee.
CHURCHES IN MIZORAM SETS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTION

An Editorial Report

As the state election for the State Assembly Member is due next year 2013, The Mizoram People’s Forum (MPF) has once again taken steps to monitoring the election as it had been done the last election having had great impact in the election, which was envied by not a few other States in India. It should be understood that in many Indian States, election for Legislative Assembly and also for the Parliament membership have been clouded with violence, threat and financial corruption which have also been experienced in Mizoram in previous decades. The Churches have been making common efforts to eradicate such practices as soon as possible. The last election had seen a successful result of this endeavor.

The MPF convened a meeting of different political parties in the State on August 22, 2012 at the Synod Committee Room no. I. The meeting was convened to discuss about the coming election, and to sign a memorandum of understanding for “peaceful, free and fair election” which was initially drafted by the MPF. Each of the political parties namely the Indian National Congress (INC), the Mizo National Front (MNF), the Mizoram People’s Conference (MPC), the Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP), and the Bharatya Janata Party, Mizoram Unit (BJP) sent their representatives to the meeting. On the part of the MPF, under the chairmanship of Rev. Thangzauva, Synod Moderator, and the General Secretary Elder C. Lalramthanga, with its 10 committee members attended the meeting. They signed the memorandum of agreement to work together for having a free and fair election in the coming election. The agreement was signed by the president of each party and the leaders of the MPF.
The Points of Agreement

The MPF has taken initiatives to conduct free and fair elections successfully in the previous elections such as the elections for Village Council members (2008), Members of Parliament (2009 & 2012), Aizawl Municipal Council (2010), Aizawl Local Council members (2012), and the Autonomous District Council members (Lai and Mara Autonomous Districts, 2012). In those elections, the MPF convened various political parties and devised guidelines to be followed for the free and fair, peaceful election. As a result of these, elections were conducted with peaceful results, excepting few records of malpractices on the part of political parties. People outside and inside Mizoram appreciate the work of the MPF and the willingness of the political parties to observing the instructions.

The MPF once again has taken initiative to have peaceful, free and fair, election to form an unbiased government that would be inclusive of all the citizens irrespective of race, class and gender. The MPF to this effect invited again the political parties to discuss how to carry out its aim. The following points below are the guiding principles to be followed by all the political parties for the election 2013, from the day of the announcement of the election till it is finished.

1. The Election

(a) Every individual citizen is expected to work for a peaceful, free and fair election.
(b) Every electorate is encouraged to exercise his/her franchise in the election.
(c) It is not desirable to give chances to those who are not in their voting constituencies by giving them free conveyances at the time of election by any political parties.

2. Expenses for Election

(a) Each party is expected to work for fewer expenses in the election. To ask or to receive money from any political party is prohibited.
(b) For the best result, a ‘House to house campaign’, going to every
house, is not advisable as it could bring improper results such as increase of financial expenses; however, the candidates may pay a visit to each family ten days before the day of the election in order to make themselves known to voters. No one should be allowed to pay visit individual families personally afterward.

(c) No one should sell or buy votes either in cash or in kind. Even the general public, NGOs and churches should not demand anything from the candidates. At the same time, items such as *silpouline*, jersey, football, mobile handsets and government’s development programmes should not be distributed during the election period.

(d) No party should organise procession ten days before the election, neither picnic nor public feast. This will not include hosting of the visitors, leaders of Block and Unit. No one should make burden to candidates by taking or distributing items from shops.

(e) To avoid heavy expenses for candidates, the following restrictions were made for numbers of banners, flags, and posters:

(i) For Village councils or Local Council having seven members: 3 banners; 30 flags; and 20 posters.
(ii) For Village councils or Local Council having five members: 3 banners; 20 flags; and 15 posters.
(iii) For Village councils or Local Council having three members: 3 banners; 10 flags; and 10 posters.

- That the size of banners should not be bigger than 18’ x 4’; while poster size should not be bigger than 2’x1½
- That caps, badge, and stickers, bearing the party symbols should not be used for tools of party campaigns.
• That the MPF will direct any party to remove the flags, banners and posters if they go beyond the above guidelines

3. Security Measures for Peaceful Election
(a) All should work for the eradication of intimidations or threats during the election.
(b) All should fight against rebels/underground forces/ gunduism; no party should make use of such things for the benefit of their parties.
(c) All parties and the MPF should take precautionary measures in sensitive and border areas.

4. Implementation of Policy
(a) That the parties should formulate manifestos, policies and programmes that could only be materialised.
(b) It is not enough to deal with personal and local matters, but party politics and programmes should be the slogan of the campaign. False claims that may be proved or disproved straight away should be avoided.

5. Selection of Candidates
The MPF expects the parties to consider the following while choosing the candidates:
(a) A mature person with good reputation and trustworthy
(b) Diligent and faithful
(c) One who is not greedy after money and other materials unjustly
(d) One who is free from alcohol and intoxication/abusive habits
(e) One who is free from sexual immorality
(f) One who obeys law and order of the land and lover of peace and justice
(g) One who loves and works for the welfare of other fellow human beings and the society
(h) One who has good name in his/her denomination

6. Common Effort

(a) The MPF and the Candidate in each constituency may work together to make a joint platform in sub-towns under the supervision of the MPF’s Constituency Forum which will help the candidate introduced themselves to each family and listen to their policies, and if possible, to publicised over the local TV channels or other mass media. This joint platform should not be organised other than the MPF.

(b) In case a single party likes to organise a separate public meeting, it may be done under the supervision of the MPF. In the absence of the MPF, any single party may have a public meeting.

(c) Tea should not be served for the public; that the checking of electoral rolls near the polling booths by any single political party is not needed; but this should be done carefully by joint parties under the guidance of the MPF.

7. Conclusion

(a) The District, Constituency and local’s MPF are not expected to take any extra plans other than the above ‘Points of Agreement’.

(b) If any individual or political parties are found violating the ‘common Agreement’ the MPF will make public in the concerned constituency.

(c) The Common Agreement should be publicised by the MPF and all the political parties as broad as possible.
MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PERSONS RECEIVED BAPTISM IN ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

The Synod Moderator Rev. Thangzauva administered the Sacrament of Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit when 206 received baptism on September 9, 2012. This incident occurred at the ‘TNT Camp’, an orphanage-cum-rehab centre at Zuangtui, in the outskirt of Aizawl, run by the Thutak Nunpuitu Team, a non-profit Christian organisation. There were 1041 inmates at the time of the baptism; most of them were orphans who do not have parents to look after them at all. There were also mentally and physically challenged people who do not have family supports. The leaders of the TNT have felt the need of having a certificate of baptism for their children for proof of their identity in their studies and other skills training. For this matter, they approached the Synod Officers’ Meeting (OM) and as a result of which the Synod Moderator gladly had consented to give them baptism.

FINANCIAL AID GIVEN TO THE VICTIMS OF ETHNIC CONFLICTS IN ASSAM

As per the appeal made by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI), the Mizoram Presbyterian Church has donated Rs. 30,000/- in aid of the victims of the ethnic conflicts in Assam recently. So also Rs. 20,000/- has been donated for the same as per the request of the North East India Christian Council (NEICC).

MINISTERIAL CUM-COUNSELLING TRAINING

The Family Guidance and Counselling Centre (FGCC) of the MPC organised a training a short course training for counselling in which Church leaders form selected churches were called from six district (pastorates) such as Vivakawn, Chawnpui, Zemabawk, Khatla,
Ramhlun Vengthar and Lungleng I. Twenty church elders could participate in the training for 15 days. This has become a regular feature organised by the FGCC for a number of years in which many ordained ministers and church elders have been given basic skills of pastoral care and counselling in the ministry of the Church.

CONSULTATION ORGANISED BY THE SYNOD SOCIAL FRONT

On August 20, 2012, the Synod Social Front organised a consultation in which the main concern was to chalk out a strategy to eradicate local arrack that has been in great supply in the vicinity of Aizawl namely Rangvamual and Phunchawng (on the road side of Lengpui Airport from Aizawl). Dr. Robert S. Halliday, the co-ordinator of the Synod Social Front read a concept paper followed by a discussion. The participants, altogether 323, were the committee members from local church Social Front in Aizawl. They proposed 21 points for taking steps to help the manufacturers of the arrack. For reduction of Demand:
1. To make a clearer survey of the exact situation of the two localities.
2. To distribute works form the survey results.
3. To identify the members who are frequent to these localities and educate them by their respective churches.
4. To open a counselling/recreation centres in the localities.
5. To give prayer supports for the work and for the victims.

For supply reduction
1. That to request the government to exercise the law and order upon the foreigners living within the localities without permissions.
2. That the Churches and NGOs work together.
3. To evangelise the liquor sellers as per their needs and demands.
4. To help the liquor sellers stop their business and change their business.
5. To request the Government authorities to set up a police check-post.

(Note: There are two locations in the vicinity of Aizawl namely Rangvamual and Phunchawng where immigrants mostly from Myanmar settled themselves; to earn their living they manufacture rice beer. Since the Total Liquor Prohibition Act have been enforced in the State they used to make good profit but out of illegal business. Many people have become alcoholics both among the villagers and the visitors; hundreds of people have lost their lives. The government’s forces and the social organisations such as YMA have been making drives to check the problems but to no avail till today. The last Synod meeting of the MPC resolved to take concrete steps to help stop the business as it have been causing lots of untoward casualties and even deaths. The above report is about the initial steps to be taken by the Synod Social Front under the MPC).
The Mizoram Church Leaders Committee (shortened MKHC for Mizoram Kohhran Hruaitute Committee) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on August 13, 2012. The Committee originally was established under the name Zoram Kohhran Hruaitute Komitee (Church Leaders Committee of Zoram) during the political movements starting in 1966 in which one political party namely the Mizo National Front took up arms and declared a war for independence against the Indian Government. After a long and dark decade of wars and killings of both sides – the underground and the Indian armies – peace talks were initiated from 1976 but due to differences of opinions from both sides, the peace talks resulted negatives, and there was a bitter hatred and darker political situation, ‘Quit Mizoram Order’ was served in which local ruling political parties were targetted. In such a situation, Admiral S. N. Kohli, the then Lt. Governor of Mizoram (at that time a Union Territory status) convened all the leaders of church denominations to the Raj Bhavan to discuss about the possibility of bringing peace between the Indian Government and the underground MNF forces, who were then called by the Government as insurgents. The governor made a request to the leaders of the churches to go to the Arakan, Bangladesh, and appealed the MNF leaders to put down arms and come overground. But the although the warring parties were unequalled in size, the MNF leaders may not easily obey the church leaders. They rather have the opinion that the Central government and the underground armed parties should best be sit together sharing one table to talk about the real problems and propose possible solutions themselves. Thus, on June 15,
1982 various Church leaders within Aizawl namely The Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the United Pentecostal Church, the Salvation Army, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Seventhday Adventist met at the Synod Hall, Mission Veng, Aizawl for the first time to form a more meaningful plan for peace.

The first step which was taken by the meeting of Churches’ leaders was the request to all the churches in Mizoram to pray for peace in their respective local churches on June 20, 1982 (Sunday) and July 17, 1982 (Saturday) both evening services. The second step was that the leaders met again on July 30, 1982. The third step was publishing a leaflet to the public in which the following were written:

1. to ask the Government and the MNF to have talk for peace and the people to seek for peace;
2. Since life is created and given by God, it is precious that no one should kill or shed blood of one’s fellow human beings;
3. that all the armed armies should deal with the general public responsibly.

After this first meeting, a second meeting was held by the church leaders on July 30, 1982. The Rev Thangpuiliana, the incumbent moderator of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod was appointed to be the Chairman, Pastor V. L. Rawna of Seventh Day Adventist as Secretary. Twenty four church leaders attended this meeting from

(a) Mizoram Presbyterian Church
(b) Baptist Church of Mizoram
(c) United Pentecostal Church
(d) Roman Catholic Church
(e) Seventh Day Adventist
(f) Isua Krista Kohhran
(g) Assemblies of God
(h) Independent Church of Maraland

This meeting made it clear that they form this leaders committee only for the purpose of peace and harmony in the State.

The third meeting was held on August 13, 1982 at the Vestry of the Mission Veng Church. Twenty five leaders of different denominations which
have been mentioned above attended the meeting added by a representative from Pawiram Baptist Church. This meeting became more strategic than the previous meetings because it had made the following resolutions:

(a) that all the respective denominational churches should make an appeal to both the Central Government and the MNF to have a talk for peace.

(b) That the name of the meeting should be called ‘ZORAM KOHHRAN HRUAITUTE COMMITTEE (ZKHC) in English THE COMMITTEE OF ZORAM CHURCHES’ LEADERS’.

(c) The meeting also selected the following person for the executive committee members in addition to the Chairman and Secretary:
   i) Rev. P. L. Lianzuala (BCM)
   ii) Rev. Ellic Hnehzova (UPC)
   iii) Rev. Lalsawma (MPC)
   iv) Mr. V. L. Bela (RC)
   v) Maj. Saidawla (S.A.)
   vi) Rev. Dr. C. L. Hminga (BCM)

(d) To organise prayer for peaceful settlement in every first Saturday of a month.

(e) each church denominations may send three members each to represent their churches to ZKHC.

(f) that each church would give donation for the expenses of the ZKHC.

Having set its own agenda with a proper organisation, the ZKHC took all possible attempts to bringing peace in the State, and became the peace emisary between the Indian Government and the MNF. Not a few times they were suspected by either or both the parties but they did not give up their intension for peace. To cut the story short, due to the untiring initiatives taken by the MKHC, the Indian Government and the MNF came to gather over a single table and at last they could settle the problems. Finally, on June 30, 1986 the famous Peace Accord was signed between the Central Government and the leaders of the MNF leading to the ‘farewell to Arms for the
underground peole. The ZKHC/ MKCH should be given its due credits for this.

The MKHC After the Peace Accord: the ZKHC continues to exist as an organisation even after the signing of the Peace Accord to continue its concerted effort in fighting against ethnic clashes, voicing against violent persecutions upon Christians in many parts of India, and to eradicate immoral living due to abuse of drugs and alcoholic products, and financial and political corruption in the State. Churches’ Leaders come together and planned strategies of highlighting the issues and problems, so also educating the general public by issuing pamphlets and Radio broadcast and TV telecast. In order to achieve their goals, they had to go for emissaries to bring about peace between those fighting ethnic groups. They even put pressures on the government to introduce the ‘Mizoram Total Liquor Prohibitions Act’ which has been enforced till date to minimise the ill effect of excessive habits of drinking liquor. They publish statement of messages in time of general election (for MLAs and MPs). The MKHC, in short, is an ecumenical body that Churches’ leaders formed themselves to educate people for social and political movements in the right way matching with the Gospel values, and to stand for the weak and vulnerables in the society.

We congratulate the MKHC for celebrating its 30th anniversary. May God continue to bless and use it for His glory. (Acknowledgement: MKHC Chanchin 1982-2012 [This History of MKHC 2982-2012] editor).

Synod Moderator & Chairman of MKHC releases MKHC’s Jubilee Souvenir
The rehabilitation centre for drug and alcoholic addicts of the Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod called the Synod Rescue Home, celebrates its Silver Jubilee on September 21, 2012. The Rev. Lalzuithanga, Synod Executive Secretary i/c Synod Social Front Chaired the meeting, and the Synod Moderator Rev. Lalchhanhima delivered a message. Bawngkawn Pastorate’s Choir and the Leitan Pastorate’s Choirs sang praises. Two gospel singers sang solos. Members of the Synod Social Front and those who had been ‘rescued’ from the addiction, and the representatives of the Synod departments, and church leaders of the neighbourhood attended the celebration which was held at the newly constructed chapel. A brief report was presented by the Director of the Home Rev. R. Ramdinmawia.

According to the report, the ‘Synod Rescue Home’ was established in 1987 following the Synod’s Resolution of 1986 in which an agenda submitted by the Church’s Central Women Conference – a proposal to run a rehabilitation centre for women who have been addicted to drugs and other intoxicants was discussed. The Synod thus resolved that such a centre be established for both men and women. The Synod Social Front, as entrusted to take up the matter, thus started the ‘home’ at Chaltlang by renting a house on
September 21, 1987 with 5 patients. After almost a year and five months, the centre was shifted to Mission Veng, once again in a rented house, in which they remained for two years and two months until they have shifted at the present location at Durtlang below the Aizawl Theological College on May 7, 1991. From the very beginning, Synod Rescue Home has been under the supervision of the Synod Social Front.

The aims of the Home are:

(1) To give intensive care for people who have been affected by the abuse of drugs, alcoholism, and misuse of financial resources.

(2) To lead such people to Christ in order to make them become whole again in body, mind, and spirit.

(3) To train and teach them to stand by themselves and to become self-support.

According to the report of the Director, the Home has admitted 3999 (3510 males and 489 females) during 25 years. There are 28 workers, and at present they

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Rev. Lalzuithanga, Executive Secretary i/c Synod Social Front Chairing the Silver Jubilee worship service.
have 49 inmates (39 males and 10 females). From its inception, the Home have been taken care of under the abled administration of

(2) To lead such people to Christ in order to make them become whole again in body, mind, and spirit.

(3) To train and teach them to stand by themselves and to become self-support.

The need for this kind of rehabilitation homes/centres have been realised by both NGOs and the Church due to social, economic and political upheaval in the State of Mizoram. When the Mizoram was clamped by the ‘independence movement’ in the mid 1960s, almost all the Mizos have been traumatised and displaced except very few of them who found shelter under the government forces. This traumatic experiences and displacements made them economically poor and psychologically and socially disintegrated, resulting for many to search for a more profitable and successful business, thus doing ‘any kind’ of businesses. Moreover, when the Mizoram District was given a status of Union Territory, and later followed by the State status, more funds came in terms of money from the India’s Central Government. Both the rich and the poor became victims of social, political and economic changes of the State, thus bringing many vices to the society. While this has brought lots of eases for few people economically, many people were still in poor condition; they were still in a deplorable condition both socially and economically. These kinds of social and economic changes have made them to commit different vices such as excessive spending of money, sell of one’s own body, addiction to drugs and alcohol. This leads to the establishment of the Rescue Home. Today many rehab centres have been set up in different places in and around Aizawl due to the same reason.

The Synod Rescue Home should be congratulated for having celebrated its Silver Jubilee. We thank the Directors, the staff and the inmates of both the former and the incumbent who work with God
to make the broken people to become whole again and help them support themselves spiritually and physically. According to the report on the day of the Silver Jubilee celebration, only two patients (addicts) died in the Home so far. The record of the healed persons were encouraging: after they were discharged, some became church elders in their locality, some became missionaries, others got Master of Social work degree, others set up a rehab centres and becoming directors or counsellors, while others are choirs conductors in their churches, and some became itinerant speakers under the Mizoram Synod. Even some of the female former inmates became church women leaders or counsellors. We congratulate the Rescue Home for its successful ministry, and at the same time we wish a better success and fruitful ministry in caring the broken and depressed people by leading them to Christ.

- Rev. Laldintluanga

The Annual Session-cum-Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the North East India Council (NEICC) was held at Rymbai Presbyterian Church (Meghalaya) from May 16 – 20, 2012. This year is remarkable for the NEICC that it was its last Annual Session and Platinum Jubilee year. After the inaugural message was being addressed by Rev. Zosangliana Colney in the first worship service on May 17 evening, the 75th Annual Business Session, represented by 160 delegates from 29 units, began with the opening devotion on May 18 at 7:00 a.m. These were the officers of the Annual Session:

President: Rev. K. Nongpluh
Vice President Rev. Dr. J. Huoplien Neitham
Secretary: Rev. R. Lahnunzira
Treasurer: Elder K. Lyngkhoi

Here are some of the important resolutions made by the Session:

(1) The policy of chaplaincy in the Union Christian College (UCC) prepared by the Executive Committee was approved.

(2) Delinking of Higher Secondary section of the UCC from the College section as per the rule and guidelines of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), i.e., the NEICC shall run a HSS and College side by side on the present UCC Campus, was accepted. The Governing Board of the UCC was entrusted to prepare detailed proposals and programmes.

(3) Owing to his appointment as one of the Administrative Secretaries of the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI), Rev. V.L. Luaia Hranleh was released from his assignment as the chaplain of the UCC.

(4) In order to promote unity of the churches in North East India (NEI) it was resolved to enlarge the membership of the Executive
Committee as was recommended by the Consultation on Church Union. As per recommendation, all the member churches (excluding associate members) shall send one delegate each to the Executive Committee; NEICCWA and NEICCYA shall also send one representative each to the Executive Committee. However, since the amendment of the constitution is a prerequisite for implementing this resolution, the next Biennial meeting in 2014 will have to amend the constitution.

(5) It was agreed to have Mission Partnership Consultation with Serving in Mission North East India (SIMNEI). The Executive Committee was entrusted to organise every year in Tripura, Assam and Arunachal in the month of October/November 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

(6) Recommendation made by the Consultation on Research Centre Programme (RCP) for the establishment of Research Centre Programme in NEI was approved and the Executive
Committee was assigned to follow the matter up.

(7) Appeal has to be made to the State governments and NGOs in NEI for the cessation of government and non-government sponsored functions on Sunday.

(8) The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North East India (RPCNEI) was accepted as member church of the NEICC and the North East India Harvest Network (NEIHN) as associate member.

Late in the afternoon, after the Business Session was over, the Jubilee Tablet placed in front of the Church building was unveiled by the President of the NEICC. He also inaugurated the NEICC Platinum Jubilee on that evening worship service. A paper presented on the next day (19th May) by Rev. Dr. Lalhmangaiha on ‘Past, Present and Future of the NEICC’ in the Reflective Session deserves praise due to its informative and enlightening contents and its reliability as well. Following which was a
lively Jubilee celebration hour in which different cultural items were performed by people coming from different parts of the NEI; then came the NEICCWA and NEICCYA programmes.

On Sunday morning, the Holy Communion was celebrated by the Rev T. Mukhim (Moderator, KJP Synod Mihngi) and the rest of the day was spent for public worship service. In fact, the atmosphere of all worship service was enlivened by choirs from different NE regions! The theme of the Annual Session-cum-Platinum Jubilee Celebration, ‘Lasting Legacy, Greater Future’ (Phil. 3:12-14), was divided into three sub-themes and were delivered by different speakers, viz, Rev. Dr. Mar Atsongchanger (NCCI Vice President), Rev. G.P.L. Gadew (Principal, Thomas John School of Mission) and Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad (General Secretary, NCCI). Rev. K. Nongpluh (the outgoing President) also delivered his valedictory sermon on Sunday evening worship service.

The next Session (the first Biennial Session) of the NEICC will be hosted by the EFCI at Sielmat, Churachandpur (Manipur) in 2014 under the leadership of the following persons:

President: Rev. Dr. J. Huoplien Neitham
Vice Presidents:
  Rev. Zosangliana Colney
  Rev. Greater Burn
Secretary: Rev. R. Lalnunzira
Treasurer: Elder K. Lyngkhoi

1 The Council will meet biennially (alternate years) from 2014 onwards.
HRIATTIRNA


COURSE DIL THEI CHIN

M.Th. (i) B.D. Second Class B Grade chin; an zir tur subject-ah B.D. an zirlaiin Paper 3 ah 60% an hmu tur a ni. (OT, NT leh Theology subject atan Biblical language requirement pawh a tel)
(ii) B.Th. zo tawh B.D. zo tawh bawk chuan an zir tur Subject-ah B.D. an zir laiin Paper 2 ah 60% an hmu tur a ni. (OT, NT leh Theology subject atan Biblical language requirement pawh a tel)

B.D.  (i) Graduate leh a chung lam emaw
(ii) B.Th. (English papers 72 & 73 passed)

B.C.S. (i) Graduate leh a chung lam emaw, (Mizo/English)
(ii) B.Th. emaw, Dip. C.S. Second Class passed emaw, (English Paper 72 & 73 passed chin)
(iii) Senate pawm theih rawngbawl na kum 2 thawk tawh kum 25 chin chung lam Senate of Serampore College Mature Candidate examination passed tawhte emaw tan.

Dip. C.S.  (i) Kum 18 chin Class XII passed emaw, (Mizo/English)
(ii) Class X passed Senate of Serampore College pawm theih rawngbawl na kum 5 thawk tawh te emaw,
(iii) Class X passed kum 2 Theology emaw Secular Institution emawa zir tawh emaw, rawngbawl hna lo thawk tawhte emaw tan.
B.Th. (Hindi)  (i) General ah PUC/HSSLC pass.
B.D. (Hindi)  (i) General ah PUC/HSSLC pass.
      (ii) Hindi B.A.

**DİL THEIH HUN CHHÛNG:**
BCS/Dip.CS ---- : November 30, 2012 thleng
B.D./M.Th. ----- : January 10, 2013 thleng
B.Th. & B.D. --- : January 10, 2013 thleng
      (Hindi)

**ENTRANCE TEST:**
M.Th. ------------: January 22, 2013
B.D. -------------- : February 13, 2013

**INTERVIEW:**
M.Th.
Departmental Interview - : January 23, 2013
Interview (TEB) -----------: January 25, 2013
B.D. (TEB) ---------------: February 15, 2013
B.Th. & B.D. ---------------: February 15, 2013
      (Hindi)

Dîlna form (Application form)-ah hengte hi thil tel tur a ni:
   1) HSLC leh a chunglam Certificates leh Marksheets (Attested Copy)

     Sd/-
     (REV. PROF. VANLALCHHUANAWMA)
     Principal
     Aizawl Theological College
     Durtlang: Mizoram
DECLARATION
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I, Rev. Prof. Vanlalchhuanawma, hereby declare that the particulars given
above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated Aizawl
the 27th September, 2012          sd/-
REV. DR. VANLALCHHUANAWMA
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