

MANIPUR MISSION JULY 2017 (Pastor Gary, Jul 16, 2017. Revised)

1. **Jul 3-6: Four days** (7 hours daily) of teaching and training about forty pastors and leaders on Expository Preaching at the Tangkul Baptist Churches Association training centre in Ukhrul. CCBC supplied thirty copies of Expository Preaching textbook and 30 copies of Teaching Visuals for the participants. (Slides 1, and 2)
 - a. **June 30:** Daniel and I arrived in Imphal airport from Kolkata, and was met by Rev. Dr. Mathotmi, Secretary General, Tangkul Baptist Churches Association—94 churches under this association. Had a sumptuous mid-afternoon lunch hosted by our dear brother Zimik at Classic Hotel, Imphal. Thereafter, we were driven to Ukhrul, in the hills, about 4 hours rough terrain drive, in the midst of torrential rain and mud slides, and by the time we'd reached there it was already pitch dark, about 7pm. Daniel was checked into his hotel, about 10 min drive from the TBCA Mission Compound where I would be staying.
 - b. **Jul 1:** Saturday. Brother Zimik brought Daniel and I to see the plot of land (6.5 acres) his father had bequeathed to him. Thankfully the morning saw clear skies and dry weather. His dream is to build a private school to teach the young living in Ukhrul so that he can perhaps turn the young away from alcoholism and drugs. He shared his plan with me three years ago, but I had no chance to see the plot of land due to inclement weather in 2016 when I was there in Ukhrul.
 - c. **Jul 2:** Sunday, I preached in two churches—one at 7am, and the other at 4pm. Heavy rain throughout the early morning. Brother Daniel offered a song with guitar. In the afternoon, he shared a message in another church.
 - d. **Jun 30-Jul 6:** In Ukhrul, I stayed in a room on the second level in the training centre, with no electricity. I used candle lights for reading, writing, and preparing my teaching materials in the night. Most of the five nights, I “dried-washed/cleaned” my body with the very cold untreated water collected from the heavy rain stored in very large water containers.
 - e. Mathotmi and his wife, Choun, played hosts to Daniel and I for meals. Very thankful for their friendship, and their three young children as well. I love their green organic vegetables, fruits, and salad when we ate together.
 - f. One of the highlights for me was an impromptu meeting with the President of TBCA, and some members of the planning committee for a theological college to be built in the premises within their mission compound. During the two-hour long meeting, the president of the TBCA, invited me, if I could, to join them in 2018 for a week's consultation with the official planning board, which included several of their own Tangkuls who are lecturers and administrators in various theological institutions all over India. I was humbled by that invitation.

- g. **SUMMARY:** Very fruitful and rewarding teaching-equipping ministry with the forty or more participants—culminating with three pastors who overcame their fear of speaking in English in public! What a blessed time of learning and growing together as we wrapped up on Thursday morning with many heart-warming testimonials, both written and spoken.
2. **July 6-8:** Two days in Imphal, capital of Manipur. Training was cancelled due to poor road conditions because of heavy rain, landslides, and heavy flooding in several parts of Imphal. It was difficult to gather the pastors in Imphal because many roads in Imphal were unpassable.
- a. After lunch on Jul 6, Thursday, Mathotmi and wife brought us drove us back to Imphal, delayed by a mudslide along the way. Arrived in Imphal, after about 5-hour rough terrain road trip, and was met by Rev. Boipu, on behalf of the Manipur Baptist Convention. The MBC hosted us at the Imphal Hotel.
- b. **Jul 7:** Brother Boipu brought us to visit The Manipur Theological College, an hour's drive from MBC. Met our brother Zimik, who was assigned to lead the morning chapel. Daniel played a song on the guitar, while I shared a devotion. Very good and meaningful renewal of friendships with the faculty, staff, and students. I presented to the principal two copies of the preaching book for their library.
- c. We visited the home of MTC's VP, also a faculty member, Dr. Kennedy, to pray for him and his family. Both his kidneys have failed, and he was in New Delhi to seek for a suitable kidney donor. His wife is expecting their third child this month, and have two daughters. Kennedy's mother is staying with them during this period. I'd met Kennedy and his family in 2013 when I was in MTC teaching for a week. I'd wanted to pray for him and his family during this visit to MTC, having been informed of his condition when we first arrived in Imphal.
- d. On our way back to Imphal from MTC, brother Boipu brought us to visit another theological college, and introduced me to the principal of Chil Chil Baptist college and seminary.
- e. Another highlight for me was to be able to meet those whom I had taught in 2016, and were living in Imphal. Three young men and a lady showed up at the café in MBC. What a wonderful time of sharing, encouraging, and praying for one another as we spent time together. I shared four copies of the preaching books with them.
- f. I was invited to this lady's home to meet her oldest daughter, who sensed the call of God to ministry, and her husband, a high Government official in the civil service. This lady, Guang Mei, wanted me to offer some advice to her daughter and to meet her husband to pray for both of them. I obliged.
- g. In the evening, the MBC Executive Secretariat (six of them) hosted a dinner for us in the café. We had a wonderful time fellowship together. I shared two copies of the preaching book with Boipu.

- h. On our last day in Imphal, Jul 8, we met with Zimik and his family for a farewell lunch at the Hotel Classic. He drove us to see the flooded condition of his house, rented by his brother-in-law, a civil servant. The floods came upon his area and many households had leave their houses temporarily and to move to higher grounds. I gave Zimik two copies of the preaching book.
- i. **Summary:** Fruitful two and half days in Imphal—friendship renewing with the Manipur Baptist Convention, the Manipur Theological College, and pastors and leaders who attended the training in 2016.

3. THANKSGIVING

- A. GOD’S HAND OF GRACE FOR BOTH DANIEL YEO AND I TO BE THERE. ESPECIALLY FOR DANIEL TO SEE FOR HIMSELF, FIRSTHAND, THE SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF MANIPUR.
- B. A VERY FRUITFUL MINISTRY IN UKHRUL, AND IMPHAL—FRIENDSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS.
- C. FOR PRAYERFUL AND MORAL SUPPORT OF FAMILIES IN SINGAPORE, WHILE WE WERE AWAY FOR TEN DAYS.
- D. CCBC’S PRAYERS, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND THE PRINTING COSTS FOR THE SEVENTY BOOKS SHARED WITH BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MANIPUR.

4. INTERCESSION-SUPPLICATION

- A. FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN UKHRUL TO CONTINUE TO GROW IN THEIR PREACHING JOURNEY AS PASTORS AFTER THE TRAINING.
- B. FOR BROTHER MATHOTMI AND HIS FAMILY—WELLBEING, AND HIS LEADERSHIP WITH THE TANGKUL BAPTIST CHURCHES ASSOCIATION.
- C. FOR THE TANGKUL BAPTIST CHURCHES ASSOCIATION, AND THE PLANNING, AND RESOURCES TO BEGIN A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.
- D. FOR THE IMPHAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO BE ENCOURAGED TO GROW IN THEIR PREACHING JOURNEY AS PASTORS AND LEADERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CHURCHES.
- E. FOR BROTHER KENNEDY AS HE SEEKS A SUITABLE KIDNEY DONOR AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAY FOR THE TRANSPLANT WHEN A MATCHING DONOR IS FOUND. FOR HIS WIFE WHO IS EXPECTING A THIRD CHILD IN JULY.
- F. FOR ZIMIK, HIS FAMILY—WELLBEING, AND HIS DREAM TO BUILD A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.
- G. FOR MANIPUR MISSION, 2018—THAT CCBC MAY CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH OUR BROTHERS IN NORTH-EAST INDIA: TO TEACH-EQUIP THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEED OF SPIRITUAL RESOURCES, RENEWAL, REVIVAL, AND BROTHERLY-SISTERLY SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP.