

Mission Update



Issue: 18

August 2024

Chasing the Vision A Story of Fulfilment

A group from Faithcity Church, Kochi went on a mission trip to Darjeeling in 2000 to attend a conference led by Pastor P.R. Baby. After the conference, Pastor P.R. Baby expressed his vision for ministry in the Northeastern states of India and the Himalayan region. The group prayed for 19 years for an opportunity to do ministry in this area.



Left to Right

Hardingson A Sangma
Riksan Marak
Rekbath D Momin
Chinmi Malick
Pripston N Sangma
Heblison R Marak
Kerin C Marak

Meghalaya
Mission Team

In 2019, as part of an all-India prayer tour, a sizable delegation from Faithcity Church embarked on a journey through various states in the Northeastern region, including Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. During this tour, a missionary was appointed in Meghalaya's Garo Hills, which resulted in the team's expansion in the region. As a result, regular worship services have commenced in three villages, utilizing purpose-built structures for this purpose. Additionally, a non-formal education center has been established in Moradum, currently boasting an enrollment of 42 students. Construction is ongoing in Maingittim village in South Garo Hill district and is expected to be completed by November 2024. There are also plans for construction in Mengotchigre village in West Garo Hill district.

It is evident that Almighty God is working through us in Meghalaya, and we are grateful for the opportunities to serve and spread His message in this region.



John Alex, Director
P R. Baby Foundation

Redefining Prayer

Practical Tips to take your Prayer to the Next Level

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is considered one of the most essential and comprehensive presentations of Jesus' teachings. It encapsulates his moral philosophy and guides how we should live and treat others. Jesus's instructions on prayer at the Sermon on the Mount overturned all notions of prayer that existed until then (Matt 6:7-8). To a crowd focused on sacrifices and human works to please God, he said prayer has nothing to do with effort, i.e., the number of words or repetitions. If the goal was to deliver a message to God through prayer, the message was already delivered, for Jesus said the Father knows what we need before we ask him. Jesus then taught the very concise 66 words (KJV) Lord's Prayer.

Was Jesus against long prayers? I don't think so because Jesus himself spent long hours in prayer. In Matthew 14, after feeding the five thousand, Jesus dispersed the crowd and asked his disciples to get on a boat and leave so that he could go up the mountainside by himself to pray. We read that Jesus prayed till shortly before dawn, which is at least 8 hours in prayer.

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Dr. Giby Raphael

Associate Pastor,
Faithcity Church, Kochi
& CEO, Remote X Corporation, USA



Mastering the Art of Leadership

PART: 03

The Leadership Example of Jesus Christ



In the July 2024 issue, I outlined 15 essential characteristics for successful leaders. Building upon that, I would like to introduce five additional traits inspired by the leadership example set by Jesus Christ.

LEARN AND EVOLVE

Leaders must constantly adapt to the latest developments. Just as Jesus dedicated himself to prayer, studying scriptures, and building relationships, we too must prioritize continuous learning. In Matthew 11:29-30, Jesus urges his disciples to "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Learning is a lifelong journey that necessitates active engagement in executive education programs and ongoing training.

Dr. P J George

Former Director,
Sam Higginbottom University of
Agriculture, Technology and
Sciences
Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.



Faithcity A.chik Foundation

Empowering the Community for Success

Charity work in Northeastern India is crucial as the region faces many social and economic challenges. With a high percentage of the population living below the poverty line, organizations and individuals often step in to provide essential services such as healthcare, education, and job training. Additionally, there is a great need for support in areas affected by natural disasters and conflict.

Faithcity A.chik Foundation is a non-profit organization incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, with a corporate identity number (CIN) 494910AR2024NPL014107 in Arunachal Pradesh under RoC: Shillong. Our mission is to implement a range of programs aimed at community development, youth and women empowerment, seminars, spiritual enlightenment, drug awareness campaigns, and seminars throughout all states of Northeast India.

Shalvin James

Director.
Faithcity A.chik
Foundation
Arunachal Pradesh



HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Leaders should maintain a positive attitude, but be honest when things are not going well. They should provide a clear vision and offer encouragement to move it forward. Jesus showed remarkable integrity and commitment to the Word of God, remaining faithful to his mission as the Son of God even when tempted. We are instructed to speak truthfully to our neighbors and worship God in Spirit and truth, like Jesus did.

A PROBLEM SOLVER

Leaders should always strive to find solutions or offer alternatives to problems, engaging in discussions with their team. Jesus came to strengthen our relationship with God, who can help us solve all our problems. The Book of Proverbs encourages acknowledging God in all we do to find guidance, while Matthew 7:7 tells us to ask, seek, and knock for what we need. Philippians 4:13 reminds us that we can do all things with God's strength.

FOCUSED

Stay focused on achieving goals and implementing strategies effectively, prioritize critical objectives even in challenges. Jesus' ultimate mission was to sacrifice himself for the forgiveness of our sins. Through repentance and faith in Him, we can attain eternal life with God. God showed his love by sending Christ to die for us. Jesus guided his disciples in fulfilling his mission, and they followed faithfully.

CONFIDENCE WITHOUT ARROGANCE

Leaders should lead by setting a good example, rather than just talking about it. In Luke 14:11, it says that those who are humble will be exalted. Jesus demonstrated this by being humble, even when he was crucified. The key to greatness is humility, which goes against what the world values. Jesus never doubted himself, changed his beliefs for others, or felt the need to prove his strength or abilities.

Redefining Prayer

If Jesus asked his followers not to repeat words and he taught a prayer that could be done in less than 2 minutes, what would Jesus have been doing for 8 hours? Therein lies our lack of understanding of the true concept of prayer that Jesus was trying to teach and exemplify.

Yes, prayer is submitting our requests and petitions to God, but even more importantly – **prayer is spending time with God**, and building a personal connection with Him. To understand this life-changing definition of prayer, one must understand God's heart.

From Genesis to Revelation, God has made it no secret that He loves and wants to spend time with his precious creation and beloved children, a.k.a you and me. We read in Genesis 3 that despite his busy schedule running the universe, God came down to spend time with Adam and Eve during the cool of the day. God banished them from the Garden of Eden and stopped walking with them when man sinned. But he then selected Abraham and, through Abraham's offspring, formed Israel to give them laws that would make them holy. His desire again was to dwell with them. In the New Testament, God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. Jesus's blood has purified us so the Holy Spirit can dwell in us forever, i.e., we have this treasure in jars of clay (2 Corinth 4:7). God longs to spend time with us, and prayer is our response to give him our undivided attention.

Redefining prayer as time spent with God rather than the number of requests submitted to God has profound implications.

While the list of requests may be long or short, what defines the duration of prayer is not the length of the list but the length of time and attitude of the heart. For e.g., if one decides to spend 30 minutes in prayer every day, the prayer doesn't stop when the list is exhausted but when the alarm rings at the end of 30 minutes.

When we approach God in prayer, the attitude of the heart is not as a servant pleading with his master, though in many cases, such prayers are relevant and warranted. But a better attitude is that of the sons of Korah in Psalms 42:1: "My soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?". The ultimate level is when we can tell our Lord - it is not about getting or not getting what we ask for: we pray because we want to worship the Lord, we pray because we love the Lord, and we long to spend time with the Lord. And all of us who have been in love can attest that – "When we're with those we love, time itself seems to vanish." I pray that the Lord will lead us to this ultimate level in prayer. Amen.



Dr. Giby Raphael
Associate Pastor,
Faithcity Church, Kochi
& CEO, Remote X Corporation, USA



BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Shiksha Saptah

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, is currently celebrating Shiksha Saptah from 22-28 July 2024, in honor of the 4th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This week-long celebration serves as a valuable opportunity to reflect on the impactful reforms introduced by NEP 2020 and to reiterate our dedication to enhancing education throughout the nation.

ACTIVITIES IN GEMS

GEMS (Gasa English Medium School) has organized a series of engaging activities in conjunction with Shiksha Saptah. These activities include a seminar on personal hygiene, wellness practices, and first aid, as well as workshops on creating colorful cloth bags, kitchen gardening, and weaving bamboo baskets.

These activities are designed to inspire students, nurture their talents, and enhance their skills. By participating in these programs, the school is actively contributing to the implementation of the National Education Policy and to the development of a stronger nation.

Shiksha Saptah aims to promote collaboration and innovation among students, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders in the education sector. It serves as a platform for sharing best practices, addressing challenges, and outlining a path forward to achieve the goals set forth in the NEP 2020 at the grassroots level.



These events, organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, seek to provide a unified platform to celebrate and embody the successes achieved during the first four years of NEP 2020 implementation. Each day of the week is dedicated to a specific theme, highlighting different aspects of education and development.



Ms. Susan Rajesh
Former Asst. Principal
Gasa English Medium School
East Garo Hills

www.gemsmeghalaya.com

Breaking Barriers

Creating Opportunities for Everyone

School dropout rates in North East India are a growing concern due to factors such as poverty, lack of access to quality education, cultural norms, inadequate infrastructure, and discrimination. Government initiatives like mid-day meals and scholarships have not been successful in reducing dropout rates. This trend not only limits individual opportunities but also hinders the region's socio-economic development. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach involving community engagement, policy changes, and increased investment in education infrastructure. By addressing these root causes, we can hope to reduce dropout rates and ensure all children have access to quality education in North East India.

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution in India that provides education to those who have missed formal schooling or want to continue learning through distance education. NIOS offers courses at secondary, senior secondary, and vocational levels, with flexible exam schedules and self-paced study options. It aims to reach marginalized communities and empower individuals across the country.



P R Baby Foundation, Faithcity A.chik Foundation, and PCEF are collaborating to launch open schools that will offer vocational training programs aimed at school dropouts, unemployed youth, and individuals seeking employment. The goal is to enhance their skills, increase their earning potential, and ultimately improve their lives and communities. Our plan is to establish 100 skill development centres in Northeast India over the coming years.

Sunny Thomas
Director
Pentecostal Children's
Education Fund



Arukash 2024

POWER Conference

To Restore & Revive



Church of God (Full Gospel)
Central Eastern Region



05 TO 07
NOVEMBER 2024



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Church of God (Full
Gospel) Central
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Kolkata and
Faithcity A.chik
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CELEBRATING SUCCESS

GEMS' Proud Moments



Gasa English Medium School (GEMS) in Dilma Chiading, East Garo Hills, proudly secured the third prize at the Block level march past competition held during the Independence Day celebration on August 15, 2024. Congratulations to all the students who participated and the dedicated staff who trained them.



gmsmeghalaya

www.gmsmeghalaya.com



BALPAKRAM NATIONAL PARK

An Ecological Wonderland
of rich faun and flora

Established as a National Park on December 27, 1987, by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Balpakram holds immense cultural and ecological significance for the local Garo tribe.



This stunning natural reserve is located in the south Garo Hills of Meghalaya, India, at an altitude of approximately 910 meters (3,000 feet) near the international border with Bangladesh. Balpakram National Park serves as a sanctuary for a diverse array of wildlife, including barking deer, Asian golden cat, Bengal tiger, marbled cat, wild water buffalo, red panda, and Indian elephant. The name Balpakram translates to "land of the eternal wind" in the mythological beliefs of the Garo people.

The Government of India has identified the Garo Hills Conservation Area (GHCA), which spans across South and West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya, as a potential World Heritage Site, encompassing Balpakram National Park. This prestigious recognition has led to its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage tentative list.

**Pr. Hardingson
A Sangma**
South Garo Hills
Meghalaya



Opting to rent a 4x4 vehicle with a driver from Tura for the entire journey is the most convenient and recommended choice for exploring this enchanting national park.

Balpakram National Park boasts a rich variety of flora and fauna, with vegetation ranging from subtropical forests and grasslands to bamboo forests, tropical deciduous trees, and even carnivorous plants such as the pitcher-plant and Drosera. The park is home to a plethora of species, including Indian elephants, chital deer, wild water buffalo, red pandas, Bengal tigers, and marbled cats. The rivers and lakes within the park also support a diverse range of bird species.

Visitors to Balpakram National Park can enjoy the pristine waters, playful schools of fish, uncharted limestone caves, and lush tropical forests teeming with a variety of bird species, enhancing the overall trekking experience. .

Accessible from Baghmara at a distance of 60 kilometers and Tura at 170 kilometers in West Garo Hills, reaching Balpakram can be challenging due to limited transportation options