



~ Together in Christ ~

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Prepare Him
Room

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Prepare Him Room

editorial

'Joy to the world!' we carol, 'the Lord is come; let earth receive her king. Let every heart, prepare Him room.' The bustling and bursting Bethlehem had no room for Jesus. There was just no room in the inn! And we think, "Surely there is some room somewhere." Is there? When God comes knocking today (*Rev. 3:20*), will there be room in your heart?

Can you imagine the missed opportunity of God's Son being born at your inn? The innkeeper is not alone in turning down the opportunity of Christmas, because for so many of us, there is still no room.

In a world glorifying busyness, it is easy to be deceived into believing that our worth is measured by our workload and accomplishments. The busier we are, the more valued and connected we feel. We're often juggling demands at work and home, serving our families, even volunteering at church, that we neglect the most important thing: MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS.

Let life never overwhelm us to the point where we lose our wonder of God. May we never lose sight of His love as often as we think of Him, speak of Him, and work for Him.

We hope this issue helps us understand what it really means to prepare room for Jesus and how we can make room for Him by putting Him first, letting His Word dwell richly in us and honouring Him in our workplaces.

Let us open our hearts and focus on Him as we celebrate the remarkable birth of Jesus, not just this season but throughout the year. Let us desire to make more room for Jesus and keep ourselves in God's love as we wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us to eternal life (*Jude 1:21*).

Prepare Him room!
Let the King of glory enter in!



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LET EVERY HEART PREPARE



Rev. Rachülie Vihienuo
Pastor
Union Baptist Church

STRANGE YEAR

"Unprecedented", "Extraordinary", "Hellacious", "Crazy" are some of the many words used to describe the year 2020. It's been a strange year. For me one of the strangest things was the inability to make any long-term plans. Everything was short-term. There was a time when I couldn't even plan for the next day!

STRANGE CHRISTMAS

Preparing for Christmas 2020 was no different as it has been very different from previous years. It feels strange when what is normal is no longer normal. What is normal now belongs to the past, and we are reinventing and reorienting ourselves to a different kind of normal. By the time this magazine reaches you Christmas would already be over and probably you might have felt strange that you could not celebrate Christmas the way you used to. Christmas without gatherings in churches (like UBC) and with families and friends, virtual programmes without feasting, etc. All these feel very strange. This is the new normal.

That is what we would normally do this season in order to make Christmas meaningful. So, minus all these legitimate activities, Christmas loses its spirit, and without them, it will not be Christmas. Or so we think.

STRANGE HEART

Consider the following. Why is it that we become so easily dissatisfied with what we already have – be it mobile phone, car, house, hairstyle, appearance or job, etc? We soon find ourselves either dreaming about a better one, or already on a search mission. We get disappointed when we fail to do the right thing, or when we don't succeed in something. Though inherently evil, we want to do good. We don't want to age and that is why anti-ageing creams are on high demand. We believe in heaven and so when someone dies we say that the person has gone to a far better place. But we don't want to die. Why is it?

There is in every heart the longing to enjoy, to be free, to be right, to be better, the desire for the best, and a longing to last. There is a search for more, for something bigger than the self. For meaning, satisfaction and continuity. Where does this longing come from?

ETERNITY IN THE HEART

Scripture points these longings of the human heart to something incredible, almost inconceivable. Are you ready for this? It says, *"God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end"* (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT). Pause for a moment and let that sink in: God has planted eternity in your heart. He has done this in every human heart. Now, with our fallen state of mind, we are unable to comprehend "eternity". But the longings of our heart and our search for something bigger than ourselves mirror the intrinsic presence of what we can't comprehend. The irony is that, what we can't comprehend, we relentlessly pursue all of our life. And while, what we achieve or acquire in our pursuit is meant to give us meaning and satisfy our longings, yet they don't and soon we are back to our usual search mission for something better and bigger than what we have achieved. Why? Because eternity is planted in our hearts and the need to satisfy that which is planted in our heart is real.

ETERNITY IN A PERSON

So, where does this search end, because it should. If our longings and desires are because of eternity planted in our hearts, then only that which is eternal can satisfy us. God himself gave the only answer to this pursuit. The Bible says, *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16 NLT). Eternity is in a person – Jesus. Therefore, the longings of the human heart find its satisfaction and answer, not on earthly things we relentlessly pursue, but in Jesus Christ alone. Saint Augustine, an early church father who is considered to be the most influential Christian thinker after the Apostle Paul, wrote in his work, Confessions, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

This season, as strange as it might seem without all the legitimate activities that go with it, could it be that God is allowing you to be sure if Jesus is the end of your search for meaning, purpose and satisfaction? God has made you for himself, and your heart will be restless until it finds rest in Jesus Christ, the Lord, whom God sent so that what you couldn't comprehend, now you can because He has come in human flesh, just like you and me. God bless you!

For God who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
(2 Corinthians 4:6)

ROOTED IN THE WORD

Avino Peseye Savino



ANYONE who has gone through micro and macro lessons knows how very challenging it is to prepare and present a micro lesson plan. Writing this article has been like that! (so many things to share and yet not enough time or space)

Several books flipped through, the internet sourced for creative ideas and thoughts (which I found in mind boggling abundance) and then BAM! that still small voice, you hear so often when you just need it?, said, "Why write something anyone can access at the flick of a button, when you can share your own experiences?" And so here goes...

My journey with the Word of God, The Bible, began from childhood. Memorizing and reciting scriptures, even before starting school. To cut a long story short, allow me to start my journey after I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour when I was 13 years old. Knowing how very important it is to have a personal relationship with the Lord by reading the Bible to grow spiritually, and actually doing it, is very different.

Thinking back, the time I really started exploring the BIBLE by myself coincided with my introduction to the world of NOVELS (you know? Adult novels, haha). Before that, it was comics, fairy tales, story-telling, etc. Then, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Enid Blyton, Robin Cook, Mills and Boon, Barbara Cartland, Tintin, Louis L'Amour. The list is endless, plus my school work, all came in to wrestle with my Bible reading time. A novel, I could read for hours on end; but the Bible? Sadly, Bible reading often took backstage, sometimes completely ignored. If a certain chapter had fifty or more verses, I would very smartly divide them into two or three parts and study those over several days! But interests change. Now, in my fifties, The Bible has taken over all those novels. (Though, of course, even now I still enjoy reading a good fiction once in a while).

The early mentors in my journey with the Bible were my Mom and Grandmother, Late Atsapfü Zeno. Both of them would forever be telling us how important it is to read the Bible and pray. They would urge and encourage us to read our bibles daily. Atsapfü Zeno loved her Angami Bible. It was always within her reach or in her Naga-bag when she went out. She would always be reading us verses which she wanted us to hear. A verse she loved sharing was Psalm 34:15 "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry".

Growing up in UBC, Apfü Seno (Pastor Rachülie's Mom) was a strong mentor, both as my Sunday School teacher and later on working together as Sunday School teachers. She, like my Mom and Atsapfü, would always advice and encourage us to be diligent in prayer and Bible study. Sometimes, in her cozy kitchen, even in the middle of cooking some exotic jam, surrounded by dozens of sterilized jam jars, she would suddenly stop and say, "Mia pete u Bible phrüphrelie di tuonhie ?" or " Vorlie, Kechachütuo we". It was such fun being with her, never a dull moment, whether in her kitchen, cooking up a storm together or in a Sunday School class. I would also like to mention that Azuo Kerheno and Apaneüü Khriesetuoü greatly influenced me spiritually and they continue to do so.

Growing up with God-fearing, Bible loving parents and mentors have, over the years, enabled me to learn to love the Word of God and study it as all believers of Jesus Christ should. The Bible has countless blessings and treasures for us, if we only take the time to dig into it. God speaks to us through His Word. If we want our faith to be steady and growing, we need to be meditating on His Word. Just as trees need deep roots to withstand storms and droughts, we also need to be deeply rooted in our faith and the Word. The Psalms (read Psalm 1 and 119) instructs us to meditate on scripture day and night: It should become a daily routine, a habit, like eating and drinking. When we make reading and meditating on the Word of God an integral part of our daily life, our roots grow deeper and we begin to depend on Him for everything.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,

And whose hope is in the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,

Which spreads out its roots by the river,

And will not fear when heat comes;

But its leaf will be green,

And will not be anxious in the year of drought,

Nor will cease from yielding fruit".

My prayer is that God will help all of us to be deeply rooted in Him.



Putting God First



Dr. Visietsolie Vüprü

SOMEONE mentioned that not putting God first is like buttoning your coat incorrectly. If you get the first button wrong, all others will be wrong. And when you get the first button right, all others will line up. As we put God first, everything else in our life will begin to line up as well.

The first of the Ten Commandments put God first. "You shall have no other gods before me" (*Exodus 20:3*). The things that we consider important such as wealth, power, job, family, a person and so on could take first place in our priorities. They can become the god that we begin to idolize. The apostle Paul wrote, "Be very careful then, how you live..." (*Ephesians 5:15*). In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you". Jesus speaks about priorities and keeping it right. When we put His Kingdom and eternal things first, God assures that our needs will be met.

We can put God first only when we give God first place in our heart (*Matthew 22:37*). Good Christian stewardship requires of us to put God first in using the gifts of Time, Treasure and Talents responsibly to glorify God and edify others. We can put God first by giving Him the first hour of the day (*Psalms 63:1, Mark 1:35-37*), the first day of the week (*1 Cor 16:2*), the first consideration in every decision (*Proverbs 3:6*), the first portion of our pay or produce (*Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10*). The world is full of distractions and we are at risk of losing focus on putting God first while attending to other priorities such as jobs, kids, spouses, hobbies and various activities. When our eyes are fixated on God first, the things that distract us will diminish in importance: to the Pastor, it could be the economic growth of the church and its buildings; to the politician, it could be his electorates; to the doctor, his patients; to the teacher, his students; to the engineer, his projects; to the farmer, his fields and crops; to the entrepreneur, his business and markets; to the administrator, his management; to the family man, his wife and children; to the housewife, her family and chores. While they are important, Jesus tells us through the story of Mary and Martha that these are not the most important priority. We are reminded that the first priority is to put God first.

Putting God first may not always remain within the confines of comfort zones. It can be as difficult and painful as the chilling test of Abraham's faith and his resolute loyalty unto God even at the cost of his only son; the steadfast faith of Job to trust in the goodness of God even at the most wretched moment of personal suffering and loss of wealth and family; the allegiance of Daniel to fear God rather than kings of men even at the peril of losing his own life, are some examples of going beyond personal safety and comfort while putting God first. We learn from their stories that when they put God first, He also provided a way out and they were blessed abundantly.

Putting God first may not always be easy. It can also be a test of our commitment and of our faith in action. Do we put God first in the daily affairs of our life as a matter of principle of faith or as a matter of convenience like a life jacket or a genie in a bottle that we resort to only in times of trouble? Do we put God first when tempted with dishonest gains? When Jesus was tempted in the desert after fasting for forty days and nights, He showed us the way to put God first and overcome even when we are tempted with physical gratification, power and worldly riches (*Matthew 4:1-10*). Jesus understands perfectly what it cost to put the will of God first when he despaired in the garden of Gethsemane. When we put God first, does our action support our convictions? Is our life consistent with our commitments? Do we put God first in our workplaces, in our offices, in our hospitals, in our businesses, in our elections, in our families and in our churches? We pride ourselves as a Christian state but we increasingly often hear of corruptions one after the other, crimes and many other vices unheard of earlier. Certainly, we must have failed to put God first. We need to be better practicing Christians rather than statistical Christians. How do we as a society find our way back and heal again? Only if we seek God and put Him first, will we find healing again (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).

Although there are many who would very aptly instruct us on this very theme, I take this privilege of tasking me, as a gentle reminder from God again to put Him first in my own life. May you be blessed and be reminded to put God first even as I have been.

HONORING GOD AT WORK

Lichan Humtsoe



THERE is a constant tussle between two forces as Christian Entrepreneurs in a business world today; the worldly way and the Godly way. It makes it even more complicated when either of the two helps you get there. This leaves us with the question, how do we discern what is God's way and what is not?

For a very long time I have been trying to figure that out using my own ability, only to realise that, it is not in the manifestation of it but to be able to find the root of it. Ever since then, I have been intentional about drawing my inspiration from God Himself. So in this article, I take this privilege to share my side of the story.

In Luke 1:37, God says He can do all things, and in Genesis 1:27, we are made in His likeness. It is evident that we are designed to do more than what we can possibly imagine. From out of nothingness God created the universe-He is creative, He is enterprising and He is Just. Doing what is right is justice, and justice is love and love is God. Hence, our business goes by the tagline, "Justice a Cup" inspired by the Word.

How do we seek justice in a cup of coffee? In the initial years of our business, we did not have a Mission Vision Document, but down the line as we begin to see work from God's perspective, our vision became clearer. It was three months after I got married, on July 02, 2016 that I officially laid the foundation in the small corner of the apartment with nothing at hand but just me and my wife. I was at the peak of my career in Photography when I decided to quit along with my day job, to kick start a new venture, Ete Coffee, which I believed was what I was called to be; to innovate, to create and to change the narrative of doing business and dispel the notion of dependency and our idea of wealth and success.

Justice is not vengeance, it is Love; and Love is God.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. -1 Corinthians 13:4-8

We are nowhere near it. Nonetheless, these verses have always been our source of inspiration. I would like to share with you all the five thematic areas of justice that we seek at Ete Coffee, with the hope that it will give a picture of what goes in and out of our work.

1 Farmers/Growers: They are the integral part of the whole coffee industry, and therefore, they deserve the highest place. We will do anything to protect them from any form of exploitation. They deserve to be paid the international price or even more depending on the quality of the coffee. Ete Coffee also pays extra incentive/partnership benefit in order to encourage growers. Ete Coffee's EML (Educate, Motivate and Lead) Network provides opportunity for the coffee growers to avail free access to our facilities and receive free training programmes and provides assistance wherever required.

2 Resources: We have plenty of resources in our land. Should we carelessly trade it away? We want to make sure we use it judiciously so that we are self-sustained and even bless others and beyond.

3 Sustainable Employment: To make sure we do not exploit our employees by providing decent salary. That they are sustainably employed.

4 Education/Employability: Considering the fact that our education system does not make us directly employable, especially in a State like ours where private and corporate sectors have not taken off, EYF (Employability of Youth Fund) is a self-styled fund where 10% of the proceeds are saved and the accrued amount is utilized to sponsor Youth to undergo skills training in order to become employable.

5 The Cup: To seek justice in every single cup we serve by making sure we follow standardized protocols. Invest resources to equip ourselves with proper technical knowledge and even if it means losing money, we will do what is right.

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him. - 1 Corinthians 2:9

MY VISION FOR UBC

I think UBC needs at least 2 guard dogs like German Shepherd because we are in the middle of the town. And we should clean the place near baptism pool to build kennels to keep rescued stray dogs and care for them. Then our church members can come & look and see if they would like to adopt a dog.

Also, we might need to have some training course for the dogs and buy lots of leashes, feeding bowls and toys.

Jemimah Vihienuo

I love everything about UBC but my vision is that UBC will be able to help many more people by giving money to the poor in the villages, towns and rural areas. Also, parking space is badly needing, so multi-parking storey building be made.

Viyome Viphrezo Zao

I envision UBC to be-

- A place where people can learn to be good citizens
- A place where people learn more about Jesus Christ and learn to help and love each other.
- To make more believers out of unbelievers

Megothono Zinyü

My vision for UBC is that it will continue to adapt and develop according to the needs of the Church and that it will be more courageous in raising its voice to the questionable issues in the society and the church in particular. I envision my church to be approachable, always keep on reaching out to the people, being creative in their ways and in spreading the word of God and not become complacent. I hope that everyone remembers that they are valuable members of the church and that their contribution is equally important. I also envision our zano krotho and cell groups growing more and bringing all the members together no matter where they are to grow closer to the church and God. I hope that UBC keeps on shining God's light to all and to keep on fulfilling God's mission.

Puja Dey

Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favour my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." Psalm 35:27

Located in the heart of our beloved hometown, Kohima, UBC has been central to uniting believers from every part of the city. I envision my church to lead by example in living and sharing the message of the cross. A church set ablaze to transform lives and show how Christ is the answer. I envision my church to reach in and reach out by sharing the abundant resources (person, equipment, knowledge, ministry, etc) uniting people with the purpose to come closer to Christ.

Pheloseno Shaiza

"My Vision for UBC" is a topic I had never given a thought to and probably might never had I not been asked to share something. I bet most of us won't either (especially we the youth) excepting our church elders and leaders. However, being given an opportunity to share something on this, I'm grateful to God and the Church. This really pushed me to sit down and give a serious thought on the kind of vision I'd want to have for my church.

Our church being in the heart of Kohima town, I could see UBC as a role model church for other churches in Kohima leading in the spirit. Our church is known for its voluntary community services such as the Compassion Ministry providing monthly ration for the underprivileged, the Mission Board looking after the mission ministries in and around our State, Shalom Mission School in Doyapur which has been a part of our church's ministry for a long time, our Youth Alive Ministry which is taken up once every month. I guess I can say that these are some of the popular services we are able to render under our church's ministry.

I wish to see our church grow through these voluntary community services wherever we can, not for the mere benefit of publicity or profit but with the primary goal of sharing the gospel through these platforms.

Maybe through our acts of service, we can also divert certain assumptions among our fellow non-Christians who seem to have taken us as hypocritical beings.

Here's one of my favourite verse

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Ido Hiekha

Thetshe therhu khapie Ukepenuopfü tsüyawe mu kenei se pastor mu u UBC tsüphrü pete kelushüyawe. Teicie 1971 cie a transfer chüpie Kewhira vorte, süsie UBC sedekelie nhie nu vor tsie ketso UBC tsüphrü chü mu UBC ze keze kropuo chü vorzhie zo. A mu a kinumia hienie za sevor UBC nu shükellie nhie nu u UBC ha se a kehou kethopuo chütuote. UBC ha Ruopfü mu Ukepenuopfü kitsa meteitsa keba kehoupuo we, huoniehüo chü kethepfu mu huoniehüo la cha baya. Themia kekra rei u kehou lanu Jisu Khrista ki vorlie. Missionary thau nu rei mha kekra chüliezhükecü la pastor mu puo ze kedzieduo di mhachü kebako pete pezieyawe. Mu Niepuu bu japie kehou rei tsü sashülie mu chükevorko ki rei chükehie salieketuo la Niepuu bu nieko pete khruohisashüliecie.

Kevisi-ü Ziephrü

Kepenuopfü lie mepie re vizhüte derei liethomia tsa, süla UBC bu liethomia peseshülie ketuo u kemengu/mhie mu u kecha we.

Mrs. Nyieloü Liegise



Family Focus

How do you spend time together as a family?

- Having fun together
- Working in the garden
- Devotion together
- Going for outings, visiting new places and travelling

What talents and qualities do you admire in your children?

All are blessed with a loving nature.

Senti - Leadership potential, musical talent, hardworking

Jentiren Joshua - Has concern for others, culinary and cooking ability, sociable

Zhapu - Ready to help, talkative, cheerful

Can you share some parenting challenges you've experienced?

As parents, sometimes it is tough but truly rewarding. Many times we parents find it hard to maintain and enforce a regular schedule/routine for the children. Despite this, we try to follow it through, even if not as regularly as we would wish to. Though we may face some difficult decisions during the raising of our children, in this we are not alone because we believe, with God's help, we can live a life full of joy and promise as we guide our children into adulthood.

In case any problems or misunderstandings arise, firstly we make them reveal the truth, realize their mistake and discipline them, in case of any wrongdoing, or take away some privileges. At the same time, we remind our children that the three of them are our most precious treasures, and whatever may come we love them always. We try to encourage them, and acknowledge their efforts.

How important a role has UBC played in your lives? - For the children, UBC Sunday School has laid the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ and they are learning more from the Word of God every week.

- Children's choir has also played an important role in nurturing their musical abilities and helping them build confidence.
- UBC has been a source of prayer and support at all times for our family, for which we are indeed grateful.
- Like many others, our faith is being built up and strengthened as we fellowship together, or pray for one another even when we cannot fellowship.

What in your opinion are UBC's strengths?

The caring, innovative and active Sunday School & youth groups.

- Appreciated by all is UBC's evolving & dynamic music ministry.
- Its compassionate ministry to less privileged sections of society is appreciated! Let's keep it up.
- Its involvement and concern for missions. Also, the prayer time on Sundays for the various countries of the world is a good reminder for us to remember the family of God outside Nagaland.
- Being centrally located, UBC has a lot of influence, and is blessed because it is open for anyone to come and worship.

What has worked well during the lockdown that you hope our church continues to do as we gradually begin to reopen?

One of the most visible aspects which has worked well during the pandemic has been the media ministry of UBC. Though this is not easy to sustain, we hope it can continue in one form or the other.

What concerns would you like our church to address so you feel safer and more comfortable meeting in person again?

So far UBC is doing well and the weekly SOP efforts are appreciated.

One concern & suggestion is to allow free flow of air during services.

How can UBC better serve the children and teenagers?

It would be good if they could go out together more on outings which would nurture good memories, a sense of oneness and belonging to the Church and one another.

- Since they meet only once a week, we feel that they need to be encouraged to make friends with one another in the hall & class rooms.
- Besides making friends, sharing of talents and being social; obviously the biggest blessing/benefit we parents would love to see is spiritual impact and transformation in the lives of our children and their friends.



Wabang Moa
Media Initiator, Promoter & Entrepreneur



Medohunuo (Neibou)
School Administrator,
BHSS Kohima



Sentinaro Pelekhrienuo Pongen
Class - 12 (Science),
Miles Bronson Residential
School, Guwahati



Jentiren Joshua Pongener
Class - 6
Bethel Higher Secondary
School, Kohima



Zhapulhoutuo Andrew Pongen
Class - 4
Bethel Higher Secondary
School, Kohima

From the Children



I am Sentinaro Pelekhrienuo
I love music, basketball and reading. Travelling together and going for small picnics are my favourite family activities.



Hi, my name is Jentiren Joshua
I like cooking, baking, cycling and badminton. My favourite family activities are travelling and picnicking.



My name is Zhapulhoutuo Andrew Pongen
My interests and hobbies are computer coding, playing games and designing games. I want to be an Architect. I enjoy travelling with my family and going out for picnics together.

What do you love about each other?

SENTI

MOM: Mom is a multitasking woman. She will be taking care of the school at one point of the day and the next, she will be in the woods with a chainsaw! Mom has a heart of compassion. She has made innumerable sacrifices for us.

DAD: Dad gives great advices on career plans, on facing the world and living a successful life. He has always appreciated me and continues to encourage me to give my best in whatever I do.

JENTIREN: He does better cooking than me. Though we have disagreements, There are times when we can talk a good deal about life.

ZHAPU: He is always ready with his 'Would you rather?' questions and silly jokes. He is the most talkative in our family and the most cheerful.

JOJO

DAD: He is loving and kind and a great Dad, he encourages us to be anything we want.

MOM: She is a great mom, she helps me in my studies, she keeps the house in shape.

SENTI: A good sister, she also helps in my study when mom is not available

ZHAPU: He is a good brother he plays with me, and helps me in cooking and baking

ZHAPU

DAD: He is the one who protects our family and take care of our life.

MUM: She is the one who cooks for us and take care of our health.

SENTI: She teaches me piano and helps me study when I have doubts, and also gives me free hugs.

JOJO: He plays with me and also talks with me.

How did you spend your lockdown Days? Do you miss school?

SENTI

I was able to spend time with Atsa Queeno, moments I will never forget. During this lockdown, I have made efforts to learn French and sign language too.

Yes, I miss school. Online classes are on every day, but class 12 boards are only some months away: real life classes are a dire need. Since it's my last year too, I want to be able to spend more time and make memories with my friends in school.

JOJO

Mostly at home, cooking, cycling or watching TV. Yes, I miss school, I miss my teachers' explanations and my friends.

ZHAPU

I spent my lockdown days good. I get to spend time with my family often. I miss my school 50% and the other 50% do not miss school.

COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY ON THE YOUTH

Many of us welcomed the year 2020 with great hope and aspirations for new beginnings, but the outbreak of Covid-19 caught us all unprepared. Nations across the globe resorted to lockdowns as measures to curb the spread of the virus, a measure that brought the world to a standstill. When the nationwide lockdown was announced, chaos and uncertainty ensued, exposing the fragility in the system. The lockdown that continued for months has impacted lives across all section of the society.

The Government brought out directives in response to the covid-19 outbreak which included asking the public to “stay at home” and to maintain “social distancing.” This included the suspension of worship and congregation at churches and other religious places. Due to this, many churches have resorted to the use of technology and livestreaming services to enable their congregation to worship together from different places. However, these modes of communication could never replace the conventional mode of worship. Besides this, the pandemic has disrupted everything including education, employment, social structure, social and religious gatherings and many other aspects of normal day to day life. Studies have shown that among all the different groups, the youth comprise one of the most impacted groups.

With an aim to comprehend the experiences of the youth and the implication brought about by the pandemic, a study was conducted within the youth members of UBC. The survey attempts to analyze the impact of the lockdown on their well being, duration of screen time, quality time spent with family and impact on spiritual growth. The report outlines the findings from the survey of 100 respondents above the age of 17 years, of which the maximum respondents were between the age group 21-25 years. Out of the 100 respondents, 59 were female and 41 male.

Fig 1: Percentage of Respondents by Gender

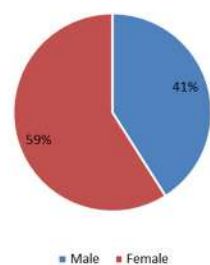
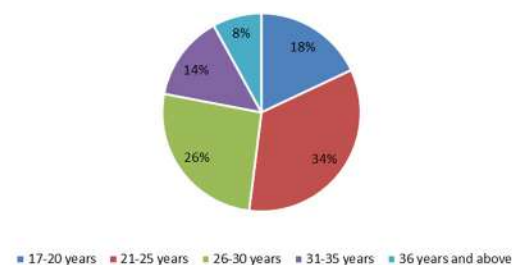


Fig 2: Percentage of Respondents by Age Group



During the total lockdown, except the frontline workers, the general public was forced to stay confined to their homes. Analyzing the time spent by individuals and families during this period, it was found that around 45% were spending 5-8 hours of their day on their phones. Around one-third of the respondents spent 5-8 hours with their family members in a day. However, it was found that 78.8% of the respondents were spending less than an hour with God (fig 3). The survey also found that the lockdown provided opportunity for some to pursue and develop new skills and interests while most kept themselves occupied by engaging in active as well as passive activities and academic work (fig 4).

Fig 3: Time Spent in a day

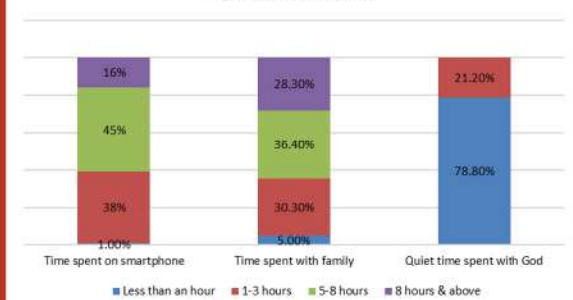
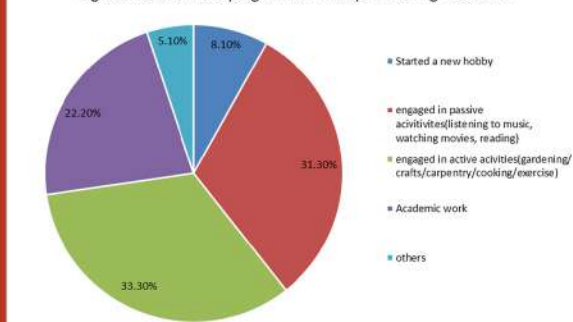


Fig 4: Reasons of keeping oneself occupied during lockdown



As the lockdown temporarily closed educational institutions, the impact on the students' well-being has been significant. The sudden transition from offline mode of education to online mode has been difficult for many. Half of the students responded that they have lost focus in their studies while 20.6% students had difficulty coping with online classes. Shifting to online mode of education requires both students and teachers to have basic technical knowhow and access to internet connectivity. As such, the report found 7.9% students lacking access to such facilities (see fig 5). Among the employed youth, 35.1% reported that their working hours were reduced, 18.9% faced wage deduction and about 5.5 % lost their job due to the pandemic.

Fig 5: Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Endeavours (for students)

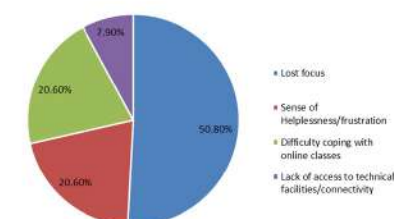
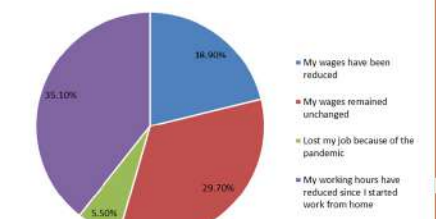
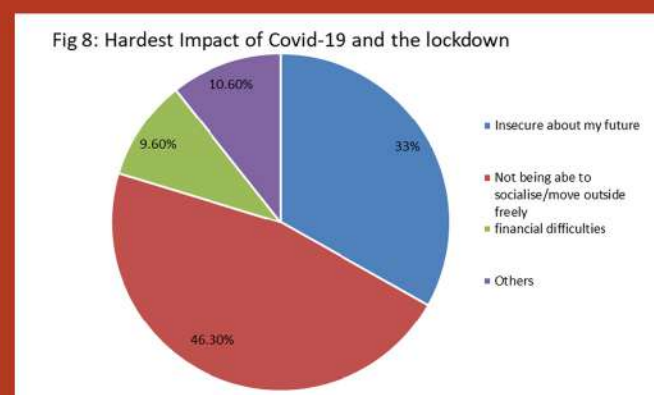
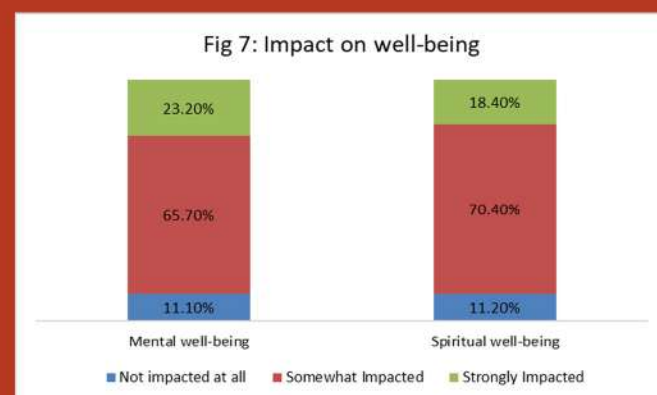


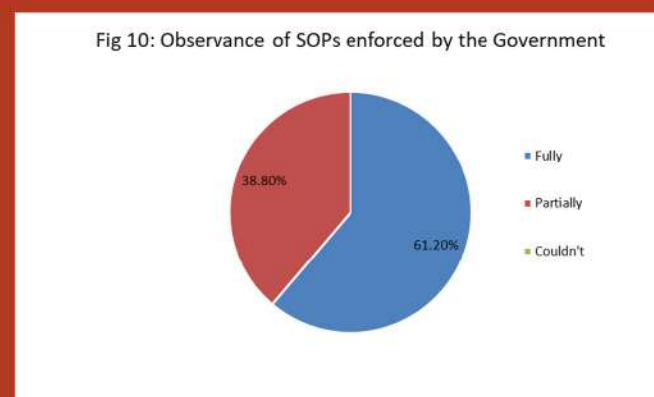
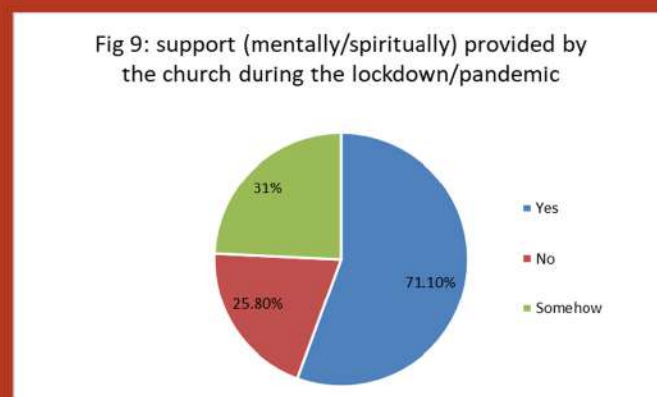
Fig 6: Impact of Covid-19 on employment (if employed)



The survey found the lockdown to have had an impact on the mental and spiritual well being of all the respondents in varying degrees (see fig 7). According to the survey, the inability to socialize and the restriction on movement was found to have been one of the hardest impacts on the youth. About 33 per cent of the respondent felt a sense of insecurity and uncertainty for the future (fig8). Other impacts included financial constraints, losing a loved one, stress from work, poor time management, feeling helpless and depressed, etc. However, the survey found the church to have played a vital role in providing support to its members (fig 9).



Discipline is a part of Christian principles and therefore respondents were asked if they were able to follow the SOPs enforced by the government. The survey found majority could follow the given SOPs while some were not able to fully comply with the SOPs for reasons unknown (fig 10).



Query was also made to understand the youths' expectations from the church to get them through these hard times as well as the concerns they would like the church to address. Many expected prayer support from the church, while other expectations included encouragement from the church in the form of keeping in touch, engaging youth in activities and spiritual challenges, and small Bible study groups; continuing online services and devotionals from pastoral team; helping the needy especially the widowed and single mothers; providing counselling and reaching out to unchurched youth.

On personal concerns, they expressed the need for the church to address issues like mental health, depression, communication gap and other related issues.

It may be noted that the survey is not a comprehensive one but merely a small attempt to capture the impact of Covid-19 on the youth and their well-being, empathizing with their reality and also attempting to provide remedy in the areas where they need encouragement and understanding the most. Youth is God's gift to the church and society today, not just the future. How the church can help the youth live well is a question so critical to the future of the church and one that deserves much reflection and deliberation.



UBC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND REPORT

Responding to the food and essential crisis in the capital caused by the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Baptist Church initiated the UBC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND in the month of April 2020 in order to encourage its members to come forward and help those in desperate need. Through the generous giving of believers, we were able to raise Rs. 5,62,500/- with which we helped over 20 families with rice and other essentials. These families were recommended by the Zano Krotho (Neighborhood Fellowships), Jo Foundation, Persons with disability (c/o Diethono Nakhro) and Life Connect. Distribution also included Transit Peace Camp, Mission Compound, and Kohima Old Age Home. Apart from these distributions, we contributed 300 masks for Kohima Municipal Council workers, and was also able to extend monetary help towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Naya Jeevan Baptist Church Kohima, Nagamese Baptist Church Kevijau Colony, Dimapur. Please find below the details of the Fund.

Thank you for your generosity. Someone was saved from going hungry because you gave. God bless you!

UBC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT				
Receipt	Amount	Expenditures	Amount	Balance
Total contribution	5,62,5000	Towards CM Relief Fund	2,00,000	
		To Naya Jeevan Baptist Church	50,000	
		To Nagamese Baptist Church Kevijau Colony, Dimapur	20,000	
		300 Masks for Kohima Municipal Council	3000	
		UBC general relief for families	39,860	
		Ration for Bethel Kitchen	1,32,375	
Total	5,62,500		4,45,235	1,17,265

NHICUKO KROTHO REPORT



Jisu Khrista u kelakelieu za nu kenei se peteko kelushüya. Haki nu UBC nhicuko krotho mha huoyo chükemie se keza lashüya.

1 UBC Nhicuko Krotho rei Rüyo (September) zha 20 nhie nu sedelie di Niepuuzha metsei nhicuko ze online nunu kerüsuo mhathoko chülie vorzhie. Hieko mhathochie hau nu khriesariüko mu UBC Audio Visual Team-e hieko khruohi seshüshü ba. Siro kikru huo mu kepethako huomia rei kecüca keseshü idi keze zhapu chü vorliezhü.

2 Rüyo-u khrü kecüca (desserts) kro puo chüpie kechüki nu mu mereibou huo nu keriethe chü di mhachü kebako tsüshülie.

3 Nhicuko huomia bu vor khise kerüsuo teiu nu tsali nunu zhapu chülie.

4 Thenyie (October) zha 2 nhie Kohima Baptist Nhicuko Krotho (KBNK) virtual service nu UBC nhicuko rei tsali nu kepekrolie.

5 KBNK kitsa nu kikru tsopfhü za keba huo khruohishünu di raka huo khapie puo khro keba kehouko tsüshü, süla kecüca mu canya khülie di Naga Hospital Colony nu Phom-mia kikru 3 vaphishülie.

6 Nhicuko krothoe u rüna chü keziviketuo la nzhüsie Ziephieu (November) khrü Razhü Point thechüu nu nyiepuo huo se vo doushüshü vor. Ciethie va dia nyiepuo se vo ketsoshü. Mhatho hau chükecü nu kepethako mu hieko nuonuo krünuo huoe u nyiepuo mu raka khashü di keze mhatho-u chü vorliezhü.

7 Christmas teiu nu nhicuko pete la Christmas gifts-hiemvü mu chienü dzepie uko tsüshülie. Mhatho hau chükecü nu UBC Thenuko krothoe raka huo sa khapie kekhuohishü di chülie.

Puotei haikecü puo nu baketa la mha kekra chülie re mu rhüpie keba kekra rei chülie mote sirei chü vorkelie pete Niepuu khruokeshü nu mu kehoue hieko la cha sei bayakezha la chükemie rübei zo. Niepuu za bu kemeyieu chülie üthienyü! Nhicuko za nu Kenei Khristmas mu Teicie Kesa se peteko kelushüyawe!

Dziesengunuo Chadi



UBC GENERAL REPORT

July to December 2020

2020 teicieu mia pete la rükrüecü teicie puote. Ba hurei COVID-19 thepeu bu mha pete bie kedipie thiedzü medzi mu chükevor kekra u bu chülie mote, mu mhahuo chütuo shierei menuo morosuokesuo la chüsechülie mo vorte. UBC Herald issue va 7-u nu January - June 2020 nu u kehou mhatho chükelie kro puo se kezashü. June khrü sie mhapuorei chü phi zolie mo derei haki nu July-December report kedzü yopuo khashüzhie.

1. March 24 nhie thepeu la India pete lockdown sedeshü mu süu ze di u kehou nu mhathochie pete rüleite. Sunday ki mechüu vor kehouki nu kehoulie mota zo shierei kerüsuu mhathoko online nunu petashü di kikruko mu miali bu u kitiekinu nu Niepuu rüsuolie.

2. Teisozha kemeyieko - U Zuonuo Teisozha (May 10), U Puonuo Teisozha (June 21), Senior Citizen Sunday (September 13), mu UBC 47th Foundation & Thanksgiving Day online nunu kehoulie.

3. Thekhrü 7 mechüu kerüsuoki nunu kehoulie mo vor, derei October 4 nhie nu sede di mechü bu vor kehouki nunu Niepuu rüsuolie kevi chüshülie. Hau la Zano krotho 15-ko kezapie Group 4 chülie di Sunday-ko nu ketherü di vor kehoulie. Tsie ketso hau medzi vorzhü zo mu theja ngulie ba. October mu November khrü Niepuu He kesepie kevor pete tsülie.

4. Tsie kehou ministry chükebako liro: Sunday khise kerüsuu kehou, Sunday School Worship (online), Monday khise kecha kehou (5-6 AM), Lighthouse Hardtalk (online), mu Kehouki Office (Wednesday mu Friday).

5. Niepuu u kehou khrie di puotei hau nu uko bu puo zhapu chü kemeya salie kevi cha khrükeshü la puo pezie ba. Lekemo puo nunu UBC Online Ministry sedeliete. Hau Sunday khise kerüsuu teiu nunu peta pekra ba. Online kehouko u kehou tsüphrüko la pekua di sedeshü, derei kehou sedekelie nunu vor tsieketsu mia 2300 kezie UBC Youtube channel subscribe chüliete, mu puotei kekrekrekrecü nu mia 1000 nunu 14,000 kezie u kehou Sunday khise kerüsuu mhathoko meholie ba. Ministry hau nunu mia kekra bu theja ngulie tseiu Khrista silieketsu la cha bacie.

6. COVID-19 teiu nu u kehoue zhapu chüliekevi tei kevi se puo ngulie. Kemezhie kebamia mu kejuketsopfhümiako rülei le di hateiu nu UBC RELIEF FUND FOR COVID-19 idi Fund puo sedelie. Kepenuopfü zhapu mhatho la chiekeshü nu kepelemiako mephruomevuo-i di shükiraka khakeshü la kepezie se pete pesishüya. Ngukelie pete kesa raka 5,61,500 (Five Lakhs Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred) ngulie mu pepakewa kesa raka 4,55,375 (Four Lakhs Fifty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five). Raka peshapie kebako se mhakevi kechü nu se zotuo mu Deacon Board-e hau la kechatha kevor mhie di kehou chatha lashütuo.

7. U kehou nu ministry kemeyie puo liro, "School of Biblical Foundations" (SOBF). Puotei re zo ürei mhathochie hau petewa mo di chü vorkelie la Niepuu pezie ba. Ciethie mia 27 theza rülie di mhatho-u sedelie. SOBF sedekelie nu ciethie üse registration kekhotho chülie. Thekhrü dia (4) vor kehouki nu class-ko zolie. Derei Lockdown-u lerketa sie puo kere nyiketa la thekhrü pengou (5) online nunu pethate, sidi November mu December khrü la vor kehouki nunu class-ko ze lalie. Huomia la puo kere nyiketa la mia 11 thekhrü dia sie late. Dec. 12 nhie class thelau balie mu mia 16 u mhatho

chü tselie di graduate lie. Ciethie SOBF nu kevor pete chazoumia phre. Pastor Sato Yhoshü bu SOBF Director chü ba, mu ciethie kepethako liro Nino Phizo, Avono Iralu, Levino Yhoshü, Megozeno Savino, Santi Keyho, Meripeni Zares, Rev. Dr. Atsi Dolie, Rev. Kedo Peseyie, Dr. Kethoser Kevichüsa, mu Rev. Dr. Rachülie Vihienuo.

8. The Track, UBC Adventure Campsite nu mhathoko do puo rüleite derei tsie sede lalieketa la u nei ba. Mhatho kemeyie kenie (2) la thenounyü vor - electric line teshüketsu la mu cha chüketuo la. Se cha mu mengukevor mhie di tsie mhatho hanie chü sede baketa la u nei mu Niepuu thezie bawe. Sorkari kitsatie nu morokesuoko chü kekhruohishü ba süla u sorkari kesemiako rei pezie. Mhatho hanie chülieta ro Campsite-u se sedelie kevi nu partatuo. Hau la cha bacie.

9. Ciethie u kehoula mu liethoko la rüno mu sekecü puo liro Miss Abeni Ezung, PowerComm nu lietho chü kevorpfü, puo tei voketa. Puo kechü la kemezhie cha se vor di September 28 duü Niepuu ki nu rüleite. Puo kelhou mu lietho nunu u kehou, ba hurei PowerComm bu theja kekra nguliewe. Kekhoketa rüno mu ketho zo, derei puoe Khrista nu puo nei ba di tuote mu vo puo Niepuu keba nu rülei baketa pele touwe.

10. November khrü u kehou nu mia 12 dzüloupfülie.

11. UBC la ciethie Christmas mu New Year puo rhi krei sete. Pete bu vor kehouki nunu kepekro di kehou nyü se derei u kirei morokesuo thezhoko bazocü la teisozha kemeyie hanie nu online nunu kehoute. Derei puo thuo sitazoü shierei UBC nu kikru pete bu u thuo u kikru ze Niepuu kerüsuu nu kepekro di theja kerükrü ngulie kevi tei puo chükelie la Kepenuopfü pezie.

Ciethie lietho chükelie pete Khrista la zo mu thtshetherhu pete puo vie. Puoteiko puotou lavorlieketuo la cha mu merü ba zotuo derei mhanuü si mhailie motatuoü shie rei kepelemia mu kehou-e Khrista u bu chü nu di u ketsekeshü chüsechü di chüzhüzo morokesuo teiute. Teicie 2021 nu Kepenuopfü bu u kehou se pezha sashüketsu merü batuowe. Mu Niepuu bu khrushü di Puo lavor kemochie u kehou bu Puo lie chü zotha di Puo kevor nhie dietho tha, Puo ze kesekelie chü üthienyü!



PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT

Ciethie puotei kere se puo ze kese ba derei puotei hau nu Kepenuopfü we Khristamia kecha kelapie nko tsü ba zo. Nko bu kehoukeruo chüta mo derei puotei pete nu u bu Puo Za kielie mu u nounyü se puo ki rükhruolie kevi Kepenuopfü puo rüsuu keba la u nou thepfu mu nune nguliewe. Ciethie kikru la cha vor mu March 6 nunu vor December 16 ketso kikru 387 la chalie. Süsie rei Sunday khise kehou nu themia la (people group) 22 la chalie. Tuesday/ Wednesday kecha tei hau rei chü vorlie. Menuo nu rhükelie puo liro Saturday therieu se kecha tei puo bayakecüu sede laketsu rhülie mu süu vado chülie. ABCC, NBCC, KBCC, KBPF mu BWA kitsa kecha nounyü keyieshü mu u kehou-u rei süko nu puotei selie. Nko kehou nunu rei temo di kecha chü morosukecü nounyü kezashü mu va kenie kecha tei hako rei seliewe. Kepenuopfü nko bu chalienu si. Puotei huo u thuo u la kevi la zo shierei chülie mokecü tei rei ze keseya derei Kepenuopfü ngukemezhie mu we chakeshü nu Kepenuopfü u kecha rünyü mu kelapie u tsü ba zo. Mha kro puo cha ba rei ngulie mo derei Kepenuopfü Puo medo kevi we si tso mo süla rüno kemo puorei jüwe. Ciethie keze kecha chükevor pete peziehüya. Chüliekemoko rei puotei ba zo süla keze kedzieduo di Kepenuopfü pfhe rünyü mu puo nounyüko si di kecha nu u kha lashütuo khe.

Dziesengunuo Chadi

REPORT MVÜSA-RÜDE 2020

LIGHTHOUSE CELL GROUPS



Tsarie (Aug) 31- Khriesariü tsüphrü pete bu keze di teisonhie huoniehüo la kesieso di kechachükecü sedelie.

Rüyo (Sept) 2 - Weekly Online Bible Quiz sedelie.

Rüyo 25 - Club Ignite Essay writing competition puo piebalie. Topic liro "LIFE IN LOCKDOWN". Nulevino Iralu mu Alesie Dolie unie first mu second prizes ngulie.

Thenyie (Oct) 5 - Khriesariüko mia 13 The Track nu tsu mhachülie.

Thenyie 24 - BLAN (BOC, Lerie, AG, New Ministers Hill) Cell group-ko Sakhrie Park nunu kehoulie mu hanhie mia 18 kepekrolie.

Thenyie 31- EDIFY (New Market, D-Block, Nagabazar, Daklane) Cell Group-ko UBC conference hall nunu kehoulie. Mia 20 vor kepekrolie.

Ziephie (Nov) 1 - Lighthouse Monthly Photography Contest sedelie. Contest kerieu nu Deno Dolie bu kevithopfü chülie.

Ziephie 7 - Jail Colony, Para Medical, Naga Hospital, Agri Forest mu Officers Hill areas cell group-ko Stella Higher Secondary School nunu kehoulie. Hanhie mia 17 vor kepekrolie.

Ziephie 14 - Tanquist, Mission Compound, Keziekie mu Kenuozou area cell group-ko Rivenberg Memorial Chapel nunu kehoulie. Mia 13 keze kepekrolie.

Ziephie 17-18 - Global Leadership Summit online nunu kehoulie.

Ziephie 21 - PWD, Chandmari mu Midlane area Cell group-ko Rose Garden nunu kehoulie. Mia 13 vor kepekrolie.

Ziephie 26-29 - Christmas decorations la khriesariüko keze mhachü.

Ziephie 28 - High School, Meriema, Bayavü, Billy Graham Road mu DBS area cell group-ko Phizo Park nunu kehoulie. Mia 16 vor kepekrolie.

Ziephie 29 - Online Lighthouse Hardtalk Sunday pebalie mu Yanpvuo Kikon bu puotei seshülie.

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Thought Capital



Rüde (Dec) 5 - Kohima Science College Jotsoma area Cell group-ko CD King Higher Secondary School nunu kehoulie. Mia 11 vor kepekrolie.

Rüde 5 - Kohima Baptist Khriesariü Krotho Nousi kehou MHBC nunu pebalie.

Rüde 6 - Lighthouse tsüphrüko keze di Lighthouse Youth Alive Ministry zanu Razhü Point nunu kho Khuochiezhie South Gate ketso mhaketsokecü nya siro nyiepuo mu mha va peziekecü mi kropuo se ketsohö siro Road signage puo rei Razhü Point nu pesieshö.

Rüde 13 - Lighthouse Green Thanksgiving zanu nyiepuo bou 80 mese khriesariüko kinu kengulie. Hako se Khuochiezhie sie tsa alley-u nu siro kehouki chazouko ketso voshülie.

*U khriesariü tsüphrü mia 8 Thenyie mu Rüde doki u kiya kesetuoü kebako kinu vo di uko ze keseshülie.

*Rüde zha 31 nhie online worship service puo petashüketuo rhü ba.

Nieko kehoupuo kecha la nu mha haikecü kropuo chü vorliewe. Siro vorketuo teiko nu shierei nko khriesariü krotho-u la cha ba zocie. Nieko pezie.

Megozeno Savino
Asst. Pastor, Youth

LIGHTHOUSE

let your light shine

THEME: Black & White

Submit your photos by 31st December 2020

LIGHTHOUSE

let your light shine

LIGHTHOUSE BIBLE QUIZ

FOR ALL LIGHTHOUSE MEMBERS

SUNDAYS | 8PM

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP, TELEGRAM

LIGHTHOUSE

let your light shine

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Send us your best photos of nature!

LIGHTHOUSE

let your light shine

HardTalk

SUNDAY

29 NOVEMBER 2020 | 12 NOON

YANPVUO KIKON

ENTREPRENEUR | CONSULTANT

"THE UNCONVENTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND REGULAR GOVERNMENT JOBS"

You Tube STREAMING @Union Baptist Church Kohima
FOLLOWED BY Q & A AT Instagram Facebook @lighthouse.ubc

YOUTHS PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAGE AT RAZHÜ POINT



UBC MISSION REPORT

UPPER ASSAM

- Nobin Borah particularly led one family in Guwahati to Christ and got them baptized in a local church there.
- Despite lockdown, Nobin Borah and Pastor Jibon Lahon continued ministering among the people in Chankhologaoon area by visiting houses, praying for the sick, counselling and sharing the gospel. He led one girl to baptism on November 29 at their local church.
- Nobin Borah went to Tingkhong, Moran and opened the Tingkhong Church after three long years.

DIMASA AREA, ASSAM

- Through the evangelism ministry of Rev. Simon Kemprai, one couple from Shalom Mission School accepted Jesus. He also led one family from Maibang Dimahsao to Christ. All of them were open and ready to take baptism.
- This year, Rev. Simon extensively travelled and baptized new believers ranging from N. D. Raji Dimahasao, Dhansiri Dimasa Baptist Church, Shalom Mission School Doyapur, Hojaipur village, and Rangapahar Saiding.
- Another highlight of Rev. Simon's ministry in the Dimasa area was the Christmas Harvest and Gospel Preaching program in four villages namely Tamulbari, Marmibar, Langthing and Disapur villages.
- In Mailu area, the construction of the prayer house (sponsored by UBC Thepfuko Krotho) by Mr. Dhonbao Pholong is making good progress and he is able to share the word of God to non-believers.
- Both Mr. Nilen Thaosand and Mr. Francis Khemprai are able to share the gospel to non-believers in their respective areas.

BURMA (MYANMAR)

- Our missionary, Mr Yaosang, got stranded in Dimapur after the lockdown came into effect in the last week of March. However, he took opportunities to share the gospel in small fellowships in Chumukedima and Toulazouma while he was there.

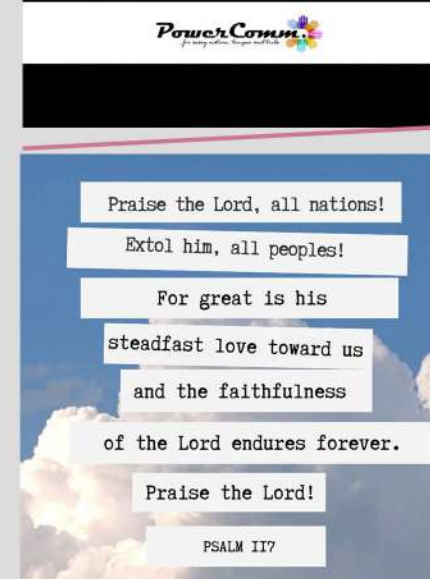
- He went back to Pokhungri in July and extensively ministered to small groups and families by visiting homes, preaching the gospel and conducting Bible study.
- He also travelled and shared the gospel in nearby villages such as Avakhung, Sütsü, Lasuri and old Thewati.

LOVE BURMA MISSION

- The Love Burma Mission Board comprising of five (5) members from City Church and UBC Kohima met with Rev. Dr. Achu Chang (Executive Secretary of Chang Baptist Church Association) on September 22 to discuss about the challenges and future prospects of the mission.
- The same board met again on October 28 along with Rev. Achu Chang, Mr. N. Imlong Chang and Rev. Dr. Chingmak Chang in UBC to discuss about the future of Love Burma Mission and decided to take the mission towards a new direction in the coming year with more specific emphasis on areas such as evangelism, discipleship and leadership building.

KEVIJAU BAPTIST CHURCH, DIMAPUR

- The Installation and Dedication of the new Associate Pastor of Childrens' Ministry, Ms. Nokzenkokla Aier was held on October 11. Akho Savino and Seyievinuo attended this service on behalf of UBC.
- The church also gave out ration supplies in two occasions to several needy families around the Kevijau locality with contributions from UBC Mission Ministry.
- During the lockdown period when in-person gatherings were restricted, some of the church members under the leadership and initiative of Pastor Lanuakum, carried out extensive church building repairing and maintenance work.
- The church also completed the much needed boundary brick wall work in the month of November with contributions from the local church members and UBC.



POWERCOMM. REPORT

1. PowerComm. Lockdown Church:

We continued meeting online for our Sunday services until the month of November and resumed our regular services from the first Sunday of December.

2. Psalms Devotionals:

With the hope to stay connected and encouraged our church members with the word of God, our team was able to bring some short audio devotionals from the book of Psalms, thrice a week from July through November.

3. PowerComm. Family Virtual Thanksgiving Prayer ~ 6th December

On 6th December, our church had a time of reflecting and sharing testimonies of all that God has been to us this year in our own personal lives as well as in our community. We were blessed and strengthened in our faith as we hear each other stories.

We set aside this time of virtual thanksgiving prayer because we wanted to be intentional in our thanksgiving and cultivate a heart of gratitude.

4. Remembering our dear friend ~ Abeni

Abeni served with PowerComm.as a volunteer from July 2017 to December 2017 and joined as full-time Ministry Assistant from January 2018 till August 2020. Though her time with PowerComm. was very short she served God and PowerComm. wholeheartedly. She will always be remembered for her faithfulness, dedication, diligence and resilience. Her love for God and people will always continue to inspire us and her story will continue to live in our hearts.

We are grateful that God brought her to PowerComm. even though it is for a short time. Her life has deeply impacted and immensely blessed us.

Dear Abe, PowerComm. will always cherish your memories and you will be dearly missed you. Until we meet again, rest well our dear Abe.

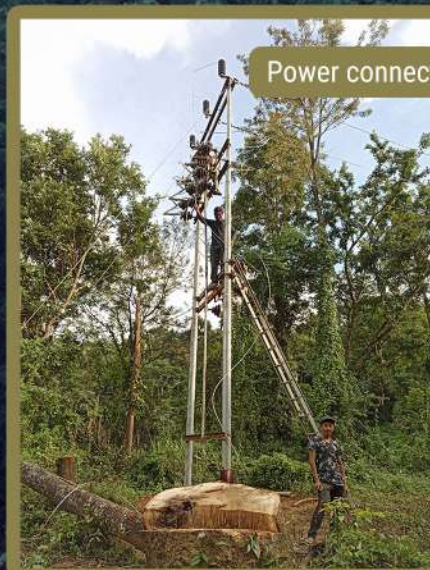




Construction of Girls' Dorm still on halt because of the pandemic.



With the donations contributed by the women of our church, a retaining wall of 150x6 feet is constructed and a footpath from Boys' Dorm to Dining Hall is under construction.



Power connection in progress.



Road widening from Horticulture Gate till The Track is completed. Metalling will begin soon.



Painting of Boys' Dorm in progress.





LIFE IN LOCKDOWN



Essay submitted by
Nulevino Iralu, winner of the
Club Ignite online Essay
Competition held in September,
2020 under the topic "Life in
Lockdown".

Down the road of life, who knew situations would compel us to a standstill and be cocooned in our houses for months. Lockdown has been a rare and unique experience for everyone around the world; proving suffocation to some, leisure to some, stultifying for many, and so on. Our lives have been turned upside down and we are obliged to do everything at home. "Quarantine" has become the most recurrent word and masks & sanitizers are the new normal. The times are hard with thousands of people dying daily around the world but at the same time, lockdown has been giving meaningful insights on concepts we thought that we were already well aware of. Life in lockdown definitely has many valuable lessons in store.

The world was moving at an immeasurably fast rate and nobody had time in their hands. Then the Covid-19 hysteria happened and people had all the time in the world. Everyone is forced to halt and look back on all the little things we were missing out in life. Spending the time that we once never had with our families, learning to do new trades and doing things we once never had the time to. These hard times are teaching us the value of everyday meals and things which were easily available in the market. We are also learning to appreciate the organizations who spend day and night to make our lives easy and smooth. We also have more time to ourselves for self reflection and meditation. And thus, as much as the times may prove difficult, lockdown has countless positive sides.

In my personal experience, life in lockdown has been fairly positive and productive so far. Spending several months consecutively at home has been the biggest blessing for me after an interval of 2 years. The different ideas and plans which have been lingering in me for a long time now has finally been able to come into practice. The little space we have in our terrace where my mother does gardening has proved to be the escape anytime things felt claustrophobic inside which has eventually become my experimenting garden for all kinds of plants and practicals, which in turn has taught me to acknowledge and be grateful of the little space I never once counted as a blessing.

the worst
the best
the worst
the best

With the start of online classes, a new twist in my lockdown life has been introduced. Attending classes from 8am to 5pm, 6 days in a week balancing with all the other works to be completed daily has been very challenging but it has been teaching me the importance of time management and discipline. The complete lockdown definitely made everyone lose track of time in the beginning but as normal activities slowly resume, we find that we need to cope up with the ever changing world. And thus, discipline has become something I need to work on everyday.

Lockdown has obviously affected many people in the worst way possible but by God's grace, I personally feel that (overlooking all the things that I can complain about) this lockdown has in store a huge amount of blessing in store for me. I have been rethinking on the amazing power of prayer and undeserving protection everyday, the amount of blessings I receive everyday and the countless things which I fail to appreciate if not for this lockdown.

One achievement which I'd like to consider as the biggest is being able to start reading through the Bible all over again from Genesis. In the past, there was always this blinking urge to read the entire bible which would fade away unconsciously with the increasing amount of distractions and hence, failing to complete it every single time. This lockdown has helped me to start again from Genesis and I am hopeful that I will successfully complete it this time.

Lockdown has given me tremendous opportunities to learn and adopt new traits and habits. It is definitely easier to be pessimistic and complain about all the things that are lacking but I've learned that it is also not that difficult to be grateful and appreciate the things around you. The situation today is such that the environment surrounding us rarely tells us of gratifying things and instead suffocating us with all the negativity. It is very easy to fall into that side of the world but life in lockdown has given me enough time to ponder on it and by God's grace, I view life differently, & contentedly.



HONORABLE MENTION

Kevilesie Dolie
2nd Place

