

KOHIMA AO BAPTIST CHURCH  
VOLUME - XXI | JANUARY-APRIL 2023

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# GRACE UPON GRACE

# THE IMPACT

A TRIANNUAL MAGAZINE

## YOUTH MINISTRY

KOHIMA AO BAPTIST CHURCH

VOLUME - XXI | JANUARY-APRIL 2023



GRACE UPON GRACE

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GRACE UPON GRACE



# EDORTIN ALTE



"The motive of grace is the infinite, compassionate love of a merciful God, but the work of grace was the death of Christ on the cross."- Billy Graham

'Grace' a word so powerful yet so beautiful, is a free gift of God for mankind who He loves endlessly. His love so pure and kind, and His grace knows no boundary, "that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life"- John 3:16. We have been loved beyond our comprehension and given more than what we deserve. Our human mind can hardly comprehend the full meaning of "Grace upon Grace." Endless, limitless, abundant and continuous is His love for His people, which at times makes one ponder, what have I done right to deserve so much of His love and mercy?

Our God is a loving God, one who goes an extra mile to make sure we are okay at our lowest, He is there to lift us up. He is there to guide us when we seem lost. And He is there waiting for us with open arms even if we commit mistakes and perceive that we have fallen from His grace ready to wash away our guilt and make us clean. "For from Christ's fullness we have all received, Grace upon Grace"- John 1:16. Christ indeed paid it all.

And therefore, He is worthy of all the praise, "When I look to the cross, I see, I see Grace sealed by your sacrifice." "Forever I surrender all my heart." My fellow soldiers of Christ, in this time of the year let us all take a moment to retrospect our life, repent our sins "As sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."- Romans 5:21 and appreciate what God has done for each one of us, may we all continue to experience wave after wave of His Grace upon Grace.

*Blessed reading,*  
**God bless**

# PASTOR'S DESK

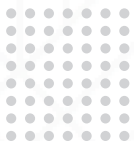
Dear Kaba Lanur & Impact Readers,

The first issue of The Impact magazine for the year 2023 is released on Easter Sunday, a very significant day for Christians. Passion week is one of the most important week for believers. Passion week is followed by Easter Sunday one of the greatest celebration for the community of believers. Passion week and Easter builds one onto the other. It is a time of great vulnerability and also of immense blessing. It portrays painful death and joyful resurrection. Jesus gave the Eucharist and served which inspires us to be of service to one another not in our strength but by the indwelling of Christ in us. In moments of pain and agony Christ turns to God the father in prayer for strength trusting in the will of the father. Christ teaches us that there is meaning and purpose to life even in the midst of grief & suffering. Easter is new beginning, it is proof that the love of God is greater than the trifling clutches of sin and fear. It reminds us of God's great love, giving his only impeccable son for the redemption of sinful humanity. Passion week and Easter celebrates the crucified and risen Christ. We walk with our Saviour King through his last days on earth and rejoice that death was not the end but beginning of birth and hope. May this occasion renew our awareness that God is there when we face challenges of life marked with uncertainty and also be reminded to be reminders of the message of love to each other as we become transforming Christian presence in our groups and communities.



**CHUBASENLA NOKDIR**

Associate Pastor, Youth



# Ao Oshi Tapak TENZÜKTSÜ TEMSUA YANGERTETBA ROGO



**APEN TANUJANG**  
Town Area Fellowship

Tsüngremi Pa mapang shidak nung meimchirtem Pa wadang nung amoka shilem agia tenzüksü asoshi aser nübur len anitsü lenir shimer. Ya ne/ni/asenok dak tajung aliba ajanga masu ta asenoki mezungbuba nung rajemtsula. Alima nung Tsungküm melentepba ama Tsüngremi Pa wadang nung nokdaksü asoshi asen takum medokmeperiba-ji Pa mapa asoshi tabensaba kumdaktsur mapang balala nung nisung balala shimer. Tetezu tanu asenok Arogo lenla balala nung nokdaksüsa mapangi bener arutsüba ya Tsüngremer maongka ta angateti. Nisung shia akokba tashi pei sempet yari sendong balala nung shilem tajung agia Tsüngrem tenzüksü akok aser ibaji asen dak tajung aliba ajanga mesura sempet aliba agi ta kodang angatetir iba nungji Tsüngrem sentsüwangshi madokdaksür. Mosa-i ashi Kibuba ni shiba aka ne wadang nung nokdatsü asoshi? (Who am I Lord to work for you?) iba tetezü ajemaluba aser tila akumba sayur. Ya asen temsuba agi masü saka Tsüngrem taochi aser maongka ajanga asena Kibubar alu arudak shilem agitettsüsa moatsü. Anungji Tenzukba nung shiangai ulua mesura mezümekuma mebilemstsüla. Kati ka dang taoba ta zungshia, tila kumer, temeim nung, teputep nung, ochi nung aser tanela-shisatsü ajak agi bendanga tenzüksüla.

Tenzüksü ta asubaji alima wadang balala nung tenzükba lir. Saka tanu tenzüksü indangji kibubar wadang nung tenzüksü

indang ta asenoki angateti. Teyangluba ajak madak nisung jenjang tematiba, anungji kasa nisungi kasa nisung dang sayutsüngitsü temela masü. Shiba tanela temeshi agi sunga ali aser temenen tatokba tejangja aka parnokji tenzüksü temsua yangertetba rogo ta ajatsüa akok. Tenzüksü purji kanga agi tangatetba, tapensaba, shisa takaba aser tetangshiba asütsü nungdak. Sobaliba metetsüla, meranga inyakba nubu asütsüla, temulung lemtetba aser tesadok asutsula. Anungji 'tenzüksu temsua yangertetba rogo akumtsu asoshi ibai mezungbuba teinyaksü temulung nung yudi, 'Na moatsütsü aser Alima nung arishi alangtsü asoshi netsü aser nebu akum tsübuang (Efesa 6:1), nai tetepset, nai nüktapangta tepenshi, nü kiyonger anema tiyazü kuli tesü, tangar Tsüngrem shinga tsüngdang tapudak aser tetenzük kechiyong asenok khristai kumzükogo.

Osang tajung alima rangpen nung peroktsü aser tenzüksü Tsüngremi asenok aginer Mathi 9:37 nung ashir, "Alu jenti mena lir saka alurur ishika dang," iba luruba nung atentsü asen takum renema lir ma? Ajiangio Arogoji Khrista temang aser asen takum aser kibong Arogo nukdang lir, nukdang makangra kiji laotsüsa. Hindu nungeri khrista Arogo metenzüktet, Muslim aser Buddhist nungeria metenzüktet, saka shiba Khrista aka pai dang Arogoji tenzüktet.

Kibuba tenzükba nung kodanga amajok mali (in the History of humankind, there is no incident or testimony of somebody losing its track in wilderness whence Serving

our living Lord with all his/her/their heart(s). Kibuba wadang nung pa/la, ni/na, tuluba-tilaba ta kecha mali. Shibai temelung ajak agi bendanga tenzüker par takum temoatsüba. Nisung temang nung tenük-telen ama dang lir. Ka mejungra/shirangra temang ajak shiranger aser ka melira temangji mabensa anungji tenzükbba nung tenzüker ajak kasa tongtipang aser ajak Kibuba Tsüngrem asoshi dang. Alima nung, anungji maparen balala asoshi nungja balala jateta yutsürba dang, saka ranglok ka dang aser nükjidong ka dang aser aji Yisu asoshi mazüangi inyaktsübaji lir. Iba yabo alimar yimli ka masü anungji shibai ochi nung bendanga agüja tenzüker pa temoatsüba. Pangdak aser tashiyim iba nung kecha mali anungji shibai tangatetba tajung nung tenzüker item takum koda tepelatsü. Nungloktsüba agi masü saka Tsüngremer moangka angü nung kodaser temelungsentsü ajak agi tenzüksü ta bilema inyaktsüla. Shir takumi Kibuba Tsüngrem ochi nung tenzüker pa/la takum teti asoshi temoatsü aser Tsüngremi achoika ayuba taküm asür. Dang-dang bo sayatenya ji aseni mangutsüa akok saka Tsüngrem tenzükbba tepela aser temoatsüji Tsüngremi magütsui malir, aser ibaji asen takumi dang masü saka nai/ni Tsüngrem tenzükbaji asen tsürabur aser kinunger aser tarutsü ajak asoshi temoatsü alir. Tsüngrem sentsü (the radiant of God) asen dak alir aser ibaji ajak dang tepelatsü tulutiba lir, alimai magutsütetba sentsü aser tepela-temoatsü lir. Ibaji ajangzüksü asenok ajaki na/ni kechi jenjang nung tenzüksü tenung teta jatet iba nungji tapok mapatsü saka kulem tenzüker asoshi temoatsüba takum ka ka asutsüla.

Laishiba nung asenoki kodang reprangdangdir, tenzüksü temsüa yangertetba nubu rongnung Yisu khrista ka liasü. Pa alima nung alidang pai alima aser nubur tenzükbaji tesüngmangtsü ka lir. Yisu khristai-bo takar, sensaker, tular, tilar, tanur, tain, tetsür, tebur ajak dang kasa temeim sayu. Chuba menden nung amnetsü-sa takum liaka, tila kumer nütsung tashi tetsüng shidaoktsüba Yohan 13:1-17 nung shia lir. Tanu asen Arogo, kibong, naga kin rongnung Yisu khrista ama tenzüker anunga kumaago. Lanurtem mapangji dang lir, Anungji arung, asenoki tila kumer, Tsüngrem tali bushidi aser asen Kibuba Yisu-i tenzükbba ama 'Tenzüksü temsüa Yangertetba Rogoji' asenok ta angateta tanelar wadang nung tenzükti ta ayongzüker.

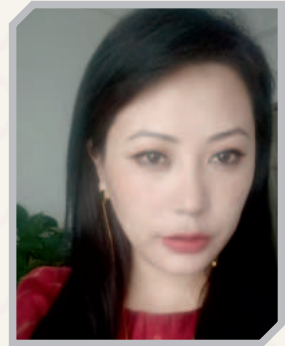


# CORNERSTONE

*grace upon grace*

*Hey you,*

**CHAREMNARO PONGENER**  
KABA Missionary



**W**hat are the first words that come to your mind when you read the word "**Grace**"? Is it words like undeserving, unmerited or you start dropping heavy duty words like regeneration, sanctification, charis, etc, or are you in the category of automatically singing "Amazing Grace"!! Well if you did that then congrats we are on the same page. Well, I am sure you must have read a lot about grace in the Bible, hear it from the pulpit and social media. It is stated that the word "Grace" is one of the foundations of our faith. But have you ever thought about how to describe grace in your own words? How would you explain that to someone curious about your Christian faith? How would you answer their questions? What is the spiritual meaning of grace? What does "Grace upon Grace" mean in the Bible?

Well the reason I am exercising your mind to think is because there have been multiple occasions where I have observed the word Grace being misused and misunderstood or simply being replaced by other vocabularies. Sometimes people emphasize grace in one area of faith but not in others, whereas in other times they use it interchangeably with words

like patience or forbearance. But the definition that concerns me the most is overlooking something (i.e sin). As in, "This is who I am, and God accepts me that way. He gives me Grace to be myself." and the other extreme like, "I have failed God so often, I don't think I am worthy of His Grace." Along all this lines the word 'but' comes around as God's Grace is bigger, greater, deeper, and more amazing than many people realize. So it is really important that we understand the grace of the Bible, so that when we hear people talk about it or share about it, we know what they are talking about. Because believing in a grace that is different from the Bible is not only misleading but also dangerous for our faith.

So come on, let's leave all the fancy language at the door-step and keep things as simple as possible when talking about the meaning of Grace according to the Bible and how to interpret phrases like "Grace upon Grace." Come along.

*Let's dig in, shall we?*

## What Is the Spiritual meaning of Grace?

Simply putting it, Grace is when God gives us goodness that we do not deserve. The best and most powerful example of grace is the gift of eternal life.

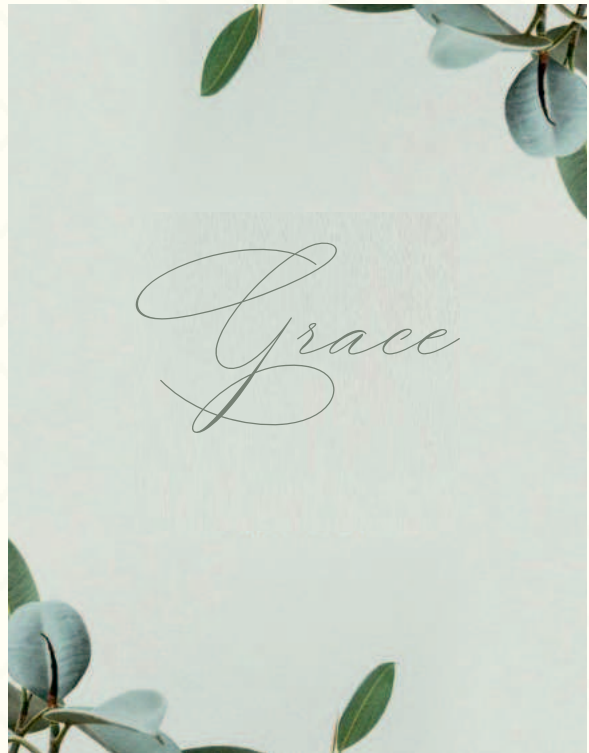
We don't deserve it.

We can't earn it.

But because God loves us so deeply, He made it possible for us to have what we don't deserve; eternal life with Him and We call it salvation.

Paul describes it in the Bible like this, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast" Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV



## What Does Grace for Grace mean in the Bible?

The term "Grace for Grace or Grace upon Grace" comes from a verse in **John chapter I**. In this portion of John, He is describing who Jesus is, His reason for coming to earth and what we gain as recipients of Jesus' love.

John writes,

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and called out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.'" **For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.**

John 1:14-16

Grace upon Grace is another way of describing an abundance of grace; even ongoing grace.

See God deals in grace much differently than we do. Maybe it's because He sees the bigger picture of what grace is supposed to accomplish.

## People see grace as something that is given freely once and only given again if our performance merits it.

But God on the other gives us grace based on how deeply He loves us. It's an ongoing expression of God's love and commitment to people; despite our sin and wrongdoing. Some believe that sin disqualifies us from receiving God's grace. The Bible actually teaches the opposite. When we sin, if we come to God with repentant hearts, He will meet us with abundant grace every single time.

This verse describes it best,

"...where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".

Romans 5:20-24

When we're truly repentant, nothing can separate us from God. Grace wins every time and it is incredible to know how perfectly God loves us.

His mercies renew every morning.

His grace is ongoing and is always available when we need it.

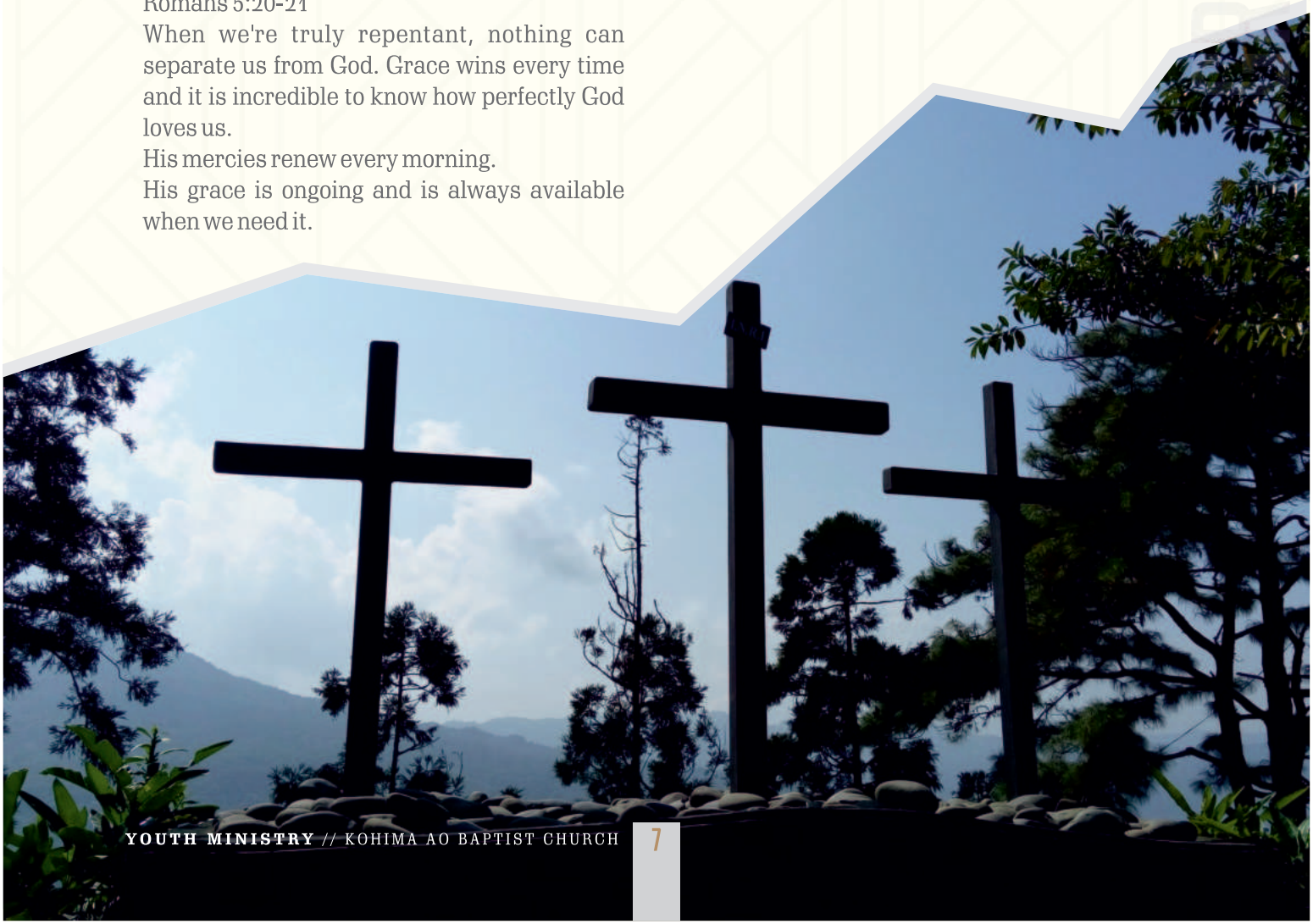
And His love never fails.

Grace is defined as the unmerited gift from God based on His unconditional love for us.

Grace is God's gift to us that is continually transforming us into His image. And we have been given permission through the sacrificial gift of Christ to confidently approach His throne and seek His grace.

"Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need". (Hebrews 4:16).

GRACE UPON GRACE



# FAITH OR FATE ?

*In His pleasure*

Growing in faith and believing in fate are two very different things which should be distinguish and understood. According to Oxford dictionary FATE is "the things ,especially bad things, that will happen or have happened to someone or something "whereas FAITH is "trust in somebody's ability or knowledge; trust that somebody/something will do what has been promised". As Christians our faith does not rest upon any individual but it is in the Lord. Hebrews 11:1 " Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for , the conviction of things not seen".

FATE is believing that certain situations takes place because it was meant to take place and that humans have no control over it. I believe that believing in FATE makes us more like a nominal Christian where we just follow some rules and move according to circumstances. It will not be wrong to point out that many a time we tend to relate or assume that our circumstances ,situations, chances, effects, outcomes, issues etc have been brought upon by our FATE. It is FATE that brought us in the situation we are in and we fail to check on our FAITH. But as Christians I believe it is FAITH and not FATE that should drive our Life's wheel. Faith is taking the step even when we don't see the whole staircase ,believing and allowing God to come into our life and letting Him to take control.

We express our faith by the way we live. Spending time with God ,prayers and reading His Word will help us grow in our faith. we should all practice our faith every-time be it at work, gathering , school or home, etc, because remember you are an ambassador for Christ. Faith and not fate should be the relationship we have with Christ.

Hebrews 11:6

"It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. . . "



**MOATEMSULA  
LONGKUMER**

Town Fellowship

# Love YOUR NEIGHBOUR

On one occasion, an expert in the law asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10:29) In reply Jesus narrated, "A man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers, they stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him and helped him".

Jesus asked him, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The man who had mercy on him". Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise".

The passage reminds us of how we were once chained in the darkness with no hope, suffering and lost but Christ's unfailing love

and grace saved us and gave eternal life.

We live in a society where we come across people from all walks of life. At times we face situations where one needs our help and when that happens, we should not hesitate in doing so.

Someone who is in need of our help irrespective of caste, race, and color is a neighbour in need. So let us try to assist one another.

What is your relationship with the one who sits beside you in the class or your roommate or your client?

It is better to dwell in a thatched house with a good neighbourhood than to live in a house of gold where the harmony with the neighbours do not exist.

To love, to give and to live in harmony with our neighbour is a free blessing from the Lord which brings immense joy.

May the Good Lord bless you immensely.



**TEMSUSUNEP**

Ministers' Hill Fellowship



# Him

Filled with life yet empty,  
Everyone has that day  
With pain and agony:  
Hidden so as to not be judged,  
But there seems to be a path  
Where beings ought to never be judged;

Pack thy suffering and come forward,  
Look at thy self through the lens ahead  
For though art a Master's work:  
You ought not to waste time,  
Instead glorify and smile  
For Thy Kingdom of Heaven will come;

So share and make peace,  
With life and seek the unconditional love  
From Him who gives abundantly and unconditionally.



**PONGENIENLA PONGEN**

Ministers' Hill Fellowship



GRACE UPON GRACE



# “*it is* Time

THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE,  
AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. INSTEAD,  
HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH,  
BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE.”

2 PETER 3: 9



**MOATULA L. IMCHEN**

Ministers' Hill Fellowship

**N** “Now that was a day well-spent,” I said to myself with a beaming smile as I walked back home. I decided to take the forest pathway as detour since I wanted to amble by the woods which I haven't visited for long. Strolling by the woods has always been therapeutic for me and I do love a good saunter during the evenings. While walking up the steep path, I noticed how the trees appeared more captivating than ever or maybe I'm being somehow biased after all I take immense pride in my verdant residential area – a perfect example of urbanisation entwined with nature. From the white and pink blossoms of plums and peaches in spring, to lush refreshing foliage in summer, to golden falling leaves in autumn and the tall evergreen pines in winter; it's a stark contrast from the bustling town where people are confined to sandwich apartments and subjected to roadway noise, and that is why I cherish my place. Moreover, the ambience is serene and a nice stroll by the tranquil woods will provide you with a sense of relief.

As I continued with my ascent, the evening skies were in clear view and it looked extra mundane under the orange hue. “Beautiful,” I said out loud and gazed at the enchanting display of



nature. I finally arrived at the top of the path and down below was my residential colony. I'll have to descend and walk for some few minutes to reach home, but I decided to watch the sun set. As the last ray of the sun faded, darkness came upon the entire place but it wasn't long before the lights slowly lit up the area. It felt like Christmas was already here and I couldn't be happier.

"I better be off now. Must make it home before dinner," I reminded myself. The thought of food made me salivate and I was completely preoccupied till a loud blast filled the entire atmosphere. I assumed it was an explosion and looked below but the place was still. There was no trace of smoke or fire. I was slightly addled because I definitely did hear something. Everything was dead silent, but something was not right. Then I heard it again- the same booming sound. An uneasy sensation slowly began to creep in because the sound was now incessant and felt like it was approaching closer. All of a sudden it stopped and a trumpet blast echoed throughout the entire sky.

I was completely overwhelmed by fear because I realized what was happening. I looked up at the night sky with great trepidation and saw it all. The clouds thundered and flashes of lightning filled the horizon. And behold the heavens opened, making way for the mighty heavenly hosts to descend. They were colossal beings and the light that emanated from their bodies was dazzling. The angelic beings clad in armour marched on radiant horses and were led by three mighty angels. Each held a different gigantic weapon that could wipe out the whole earth with a single stroke. Suddenly they all halted mid air and the angel at the centre stepped forward.

It announced with a large voice, "It is time!" "It is time!" "It is time!" These words completely shattered me. I knew I should be celebrating the second coming of Christ but I wasn't. Questions began to flood in

and I wondered if my family, friends, neighbours and whether everyone was prepared for this day. A sharp pang of guilt filled my chest and it was immensely intense that I stood motionless, silently shedding tears of despair.

"Lord, we're not ready," I sobbed.

At once I opened my eyes and realized it had all been a dream. I felt somehow relieved, but the burden in my heart was overwhelming. Though in pain, I was grateful at the same time and glorified our Father for cautioning me to be prepared.

The dream was not only a reminder, but also a depiction of our worldly attachment. Though we live on it, we should not be bound by it for life on earth is transient.

As the Scripture says "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?" Mark 8: 36

The admiration for my residential area in my dream represented the rat-race scenario of our society- how every individual is engrossed in acquiring a certain status for them-selves. We take pride and become arrogant in our success by giving due credit to our skills and talents, rather than to God who made it possible for us to acquire those achievements. Lastly, the night view of the colony symbolised human flattery and hypocrisy.

"Do not store for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6: 19-20

Now what about you? Can you affirm that you are prepared? If Jesus comes today, will you be able to sing and shout in jubilee?

For it is written "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Matthew 24:36

AMEN

IT IS  
*Time*

# NE TERA KONG YANGA LIR?



**LIKALA SANGLIR**

Town Area Fellowship

**T**anu alima tensa repringdangra, lanur aika takok mesüra tamakok, tepela mesüra tejashi aser tajangshiba balala nung amoa or, mesanga oa kazür. Alima tejakleni aoba den tamanger ka pei lanur takum ji shisa aser tanela nung rajang mekumi saksalema alitsüla. Anungji, iba den apet "Mesanga" (Linger) tetezü: langka ka nung talangka awaloka kazüba; mesera soeta ayuba; mesera talangka rangloka kazüba. Tajung/tamajung asutsü akok.

Mezüngbuba nung, Lot kinungtsü (Lipok 19)

Lipok 19 nung, Lot aser par kibong, pa dak sendaka alirtem ajak Sodom yimti toktsür ainshitsü Tsungremi ashi kechiyong Pai Sodom aser Gomora samatsütsü liasü. Tsungremi tenyar tem ajanga jangja-jangja tesülen meyipa tereprang ta shir kelen Lot kinungtsui temolung agi maremtet nung lai meyipa repring aser la Metsütongshi akumba asenoki angur. Lai la tejen kimong menungra bilema khi meyipdang la takum samaba asenoki angur. Aser lendong tulutiba ji nungdak maliba nung talang ka soeta ayuba nung lir.

Tanabuba nung (Anitet: 33: 14)

Yihusua süki anasa metoktsui Tsungrem Tanela alidak kazüba angur. Iba nung ya Yihusua Tsungrem Tanela alidak

metaloka kazuba asenoki angur. Yihusua indang iba tekong nung kanga rasaa bo shia mali saka Mosa o Tsüngrem na tembar tajung ama angu aser Yihusua-i a kusa Tsungrem süki kimaji nüka aliba Mosa-i angu. Asenok yang nungi tagitetsuba ji, Tsüngrem Tanela kong liasü, yangji Yihusua liasü. Tsüngrem alidak mesanga oa, pai mapang endok.

Lot kinungtsü atishia kodang repringdangtir, Tsüngremi indang-indanga tesülen meyipa merepringstü ashi saka lai khi menungra bilemba maremtetdang meyipa repring nung, la metsü tongshi akum. Koba tesem nungi ajentsü liasü, iba tesem nungji tali mesanga oa lai kazü. Iba meji lar kinungbo aser jala tem den tatem metongtet.

Yihusua anoh asangur tang liasü saka pai Tsüngrem Tanela nungi mainshinü. Kechiyong pai Tsungrem ji ochi Tsungrem ta angatet. Yihusua-i Tsüngrem Tanela tsüngdang mesanga oa kazü.

Asen lanur takum nung alimai agutsütsü tajung, tenükshitsü tapu balala lir. Saang nung shietsü kanga temela, iba amaji, asen takum kodang alima rongsen, subotsü aser jangratemtsü nung mesanga oa, subosuima lidir, tanela nung a rajang akumtsü aser Lot tebuttsü ama, tagidak malitsü. Tsüngrem Oi ashiba aki, sarasadem nung aser Tsüngrem Tanela Temeshi-i anidakja lira, amang tia ajiruaka, teti tepela aser tesunep

nung alitsü. Idakji mesanga mapang endoktsula.

Tanu tensa reprangdangra liba-liro, achi-ajem, kiba-lembo nung kanga masüngteti ajak meyokteper, japujaria aliba lima ka kumogo. Yamaji ano alima tangatetba peria angüba lima ka nung asenoka lisema lir. Asenoki meteta aser angateta liakasa, asen takum nung temenen tatidang jenti arudang aiben shi azü aser tanela mazüoki liba angur. Sura item yimya oda sa benshia aonung, tarutsü asen tia aser putu koma ka anitsu? Alima tejangraba nem kokdaksur, pei sasa mazüoktetba takum jakla bener Tsüngrem akhum metsübuba ajanga asen nem yutsüa aliba maongka tajung jenti samar.

Anungji asen lanur ka takuma Tsüngrem ola aser tashi anga jajaba takum asü masü?

Shisatsü aser jakla tajung aliba ajanga dang Kiburji junga tenzukteter aser yamaji Tsüngremi aginer aser moatsür. Asen Tanela shisatsü tajung asen dak aketba ajanga dang nai aser ni tangar meimer, akhumtsübur, tenzüker, tajung inyaker aser ajak den yimjung nung liteter. Item jakla aliba ajanga Tsüngrem tali akhumtsübur aser asen takum ji Tsüngremer kilir tajung ka ta shiteter. Kechiaser asenoki metet Tsüngrem akhumtsübur dang Tsüngremi aochir aser takum jenjang tajung alangzüker. Asenok Tanela nung aintsü asoshi Tsüngrem Tanela den metaloka alitsüji kanga tongtipang lir. Pa O nung rangloker laishibai ashiba ama aseni inyaka lidar ma?

Tanu asung alima nung anguba ajak aki lanur ka takum poadaktsür. Ajakji tenükshitsüka dang kumogo. Anungji asenok

Tanela nung mi (fire) mesepdaktsütsü asoshi Tsüngrem den tesendaktep tajung akatsü kanga tongtipang. Akhi tejen sobutsü aser yimya tem ajak toktsür Tsüngrem den jajatsü koda jangratemtsü asütsü. Asen tera kong yanga lidir, idakji asen mesanga oa aintsü.

*Tsungremi tazunger ajak moajangma.*

*Amen.*



# “LIFE IS A BLESSING... WITH GOD”



**KATINUNGLA**  
Town Area Fellowship

**H**ow blessed am I to be able to share a part of my life's testimony through this article and I hope that there can be a significant change of heart in the mind of the readers whilst reading this!

Life has been full of trials and errors, ups and downs, and there are days where I would question the reason for my existence and purpose of living. However, every time I faced hardships God always stood by my side, reminding me that I am not alone and that life is not futile. I am reminded each day of how blessed I am that God had given his only beloved Son to pay for my sins and how precious we are to be created in His image. Whenever I feel that life is unjust and the darkness of the world tries to consume me, I have God-sent angels in the form of my family and friends who remind me of His overwhelming love pulling me out of the thread that ties me to the roots of malice and envy.

We often tend to wander off when the situations in life do not seem favorable to us, cursing the stars for the life bestowed upon us but always remember that God does not give us more than what we cannot handle. Every hardship and temptation is a test to make us bolder, stronger, and closer to Him. The challenge is to overcome them with faith, courage, and humility in Christ.

**"FOR THE SPIRIT GOD GAVE US DOES NOT MAKE US TIMID, BUT GIVES US POWER, LOVE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE."**

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Proverbs 18:10

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." We often tend to neglect these assurances from God for us but when as we ponder on it through faith and prayer, only then can we see how blessed we are to be breathing. Indeed we are priceless and wonderfully made by God! When we leave all our worldly problems and connect spiritually with God, we unlock the doors of freedom to all our problems. As said in Proverbs 10:22 (The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it). Trust in the Lord and He will guide us to the right path and bless us beyond our prayers. As children of God, we need to do our part in spreading the gospel and sharing the wealth with the needy for whatever we receive should be equivalent to giving.

Life is a blessing only if we abide by God and allow Him to be beside us at all times.

# MY JOURNEY WITH KABA YOUTH



**IMNAKUMZUK IMSONG**

Chandmari Fellowship

**E**very Journey has a story to be told, and this is my journey with KABA Youth so far. I must say, it were the best days of my life and I thank God for I have so many best stories to share with people about the Journey, I shared with our KABA youths. Looking back to my past, I still remember how my Journey begins with our KABA Youths.

It was way back in 2015 one fine evening, I vividly remember a brother that came to my residence dressed in his white half shorts and holding an enrollment list. He happened to be coordinator of Social Service which we now called it as hospitality. The very year brother Toshimanen, Youth Leaders from Chandmari Youth meet v along with our Colony advisor oku Toshimanen came to meet me personally with words overflowed with Rasgulas, and asked me to help as a member in the Social Service and it was when I couldn't resist and agreed to be a member in the Social Service Committee.

The next year with God's blessings the Church chose me to work as a Co-leader of Social Service in our Chandmari Youth meet V and as journey goes by I was also again blessed with opportunity to participate in the life group which was again another journey which I never forget. When I step in to KABA Youths at first the only person who I know in the Youth meet V was brother Toshimanen but going to life group fellowships and Youth meet V, I started making more new friends. Even though I am not a holy on Godly person, the seed which I sow few years back, I am now enjoying the fruits by being surrounded by people

who always encourages and pushed me more to come closer with God.

It was back in 5th April, 2021 my father passed away because of his health issues and it was when I was astonished to witnessed the love, care and support I encountered from KABA. Pastors, Church leaders, friends especially the youths from KABA chandmari lanur and from every corner of Kohima under KABA came to support my family physically, financially and spiritually. As human, I cannot remember all the names but still I remember their faces and I still thank everyone and pray that good Lord will bless each one.

Working with KABA was never a mistake which I still can proudly tell everyone. The opportunities, Love and blessings I received from our KABA is unimaginable and indeed when I am to count the showers of blessings from God, I sometimes wonder if I really deserve and worthy of all these blessings!

Dear upcoming Youths of KABA lanur, with my little experienced I want to encourage and tell you that you are not a mistake being an Ao, for the book of Jeremiah; it says "before I formed you, in the womb I know you". God did choses you with a purpose to be an Ao and it is you and my duty to work and live for the lord. The lord need you, the KABA need you, the Ao's need you and this is the right time for us to grow together in lord. With these few words I would like to encourage us to come together for the lord and taste the goodness of God for the book of Psalms: 34 verses 8 says, Oh, taste and say that the lord is good. Blessed is the man who trusts in him. As youths let's "Give our ordinary life to our extra ordinary God so that he can do many extra ordinary things in our life"

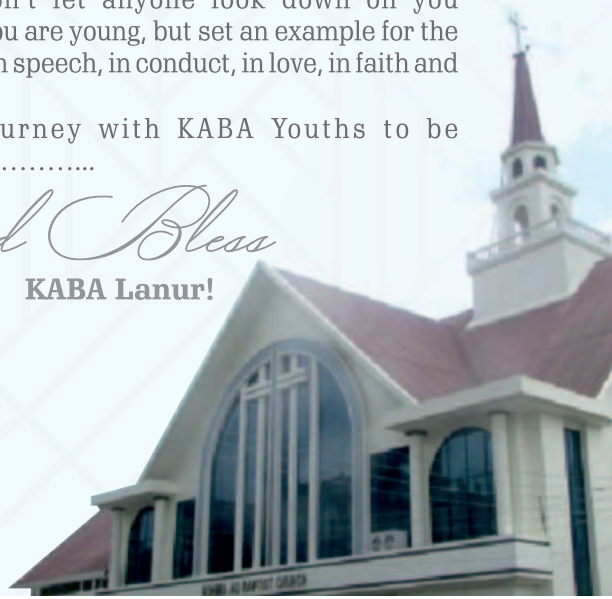
Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Journey with KABA Youths to be continued.....

*God Bless*

**KABA Lanur!**





# *Sending* POSTCARDS TO ALL

**E**ver thought that you are just repeating a vicious cycle of human evolution, a mere existence of monotonous life where, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" as Shakespeare wrote. With numbers adding to our age, seldom do we learn to de-clutter and with every phase of our life, our baggage's grow and the compartments are filled with questions of existential crisis and unsettled disputes with ourselves and others which includes: childhood traumas, anxieties, low self-esteem, failures and shame, and in-between we juggle through worldly comforts and living a Christian life. How do we let ourselves loose from this amalgamation, turning us into a string puppet?

Francis Bacon in his essay, "Of Youth and Age" writes "A man that is young in years maybe old in hours if he has lost no time" this implies that, a man, who is best at his youth may possessed a mature mind if he spends all his time in acquiring knowledge and experience but alas! Seldom do we do it. What stops us from doing so? Is it the fear of rejection? Is it the fear of being weak? Or is it the fear of committing mistakes? What chains you and me from glorifying God or going nearer to Him? It is a question that lingers around for long hours in our minds. But as we read the essay further, Bacon writes how a young man possesses a purer soul than the old it is because the former is more morally connected to God and less manipulative and materialistic. So, the question arises are we taking the time to discover and explore God's kingdom in all its magnificence and glory during our youth?

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 1:26-28, Apostle Paul summed up God's amazing way of using the most unlikely people when he writes, "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify things that are" So the question arises of how God uses us in the most beautiful way? When all we could offer is our broken self, filled with confusion, making temporary figures like a stack; scaffolding and adjusting oneself to label ourselves as good Christians? From the Holy Scriptures lens, we learn that firstly, we ought to build a God-centric life through the acts of repentance and at the cost of discipleship. The process of salvation comes with a lot of hurdles and contrast; we also ought to practice the art of resilience when time gets difficult. For the word of God says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

In John Bunyun work, "The Pilgrim's Progress" which is one of the most significant works in theological fiction, takes us on a journey

of allegorical symbols portrayed beautifully to the reader. It shows us the cost of salvation through the main protagonist i.e, Christian. Bunyan uses many allegorical symbols to present to us a key named Promise that helps Christian escape the Giant Despair. It is the same key of promise that God gives us when we feel lost; it directs the Holy Spirit and draws us closer to Himself we just ought to open our hearts and believe in the promise of God. And as the curtain closes, may we put God as the center of our foundation so that all our questions will thus be answered.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand, and boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:1-5



**Bendangrenla**  
Phezoucha Fellowship



GRACE UPON GRACE



One of the major challenges in any kind of leadership is how to profitably navigate constant changes and turbulences in a way that demonstrate honesty and integrity. Success in this endeavour requires careful balancing, as even though good name and huge profits can undoubtedly be earned through underhand and unethical tactics but it comes at a high price for society. Contrarily, a good commitment to integrity, lacking in the ability to make good judgements and quick decisions will provide a clear conscience but do little. Thus, one of the striking features of some of the most successful people in the world is that they are able to maintain a balance which has been built upon strong values.

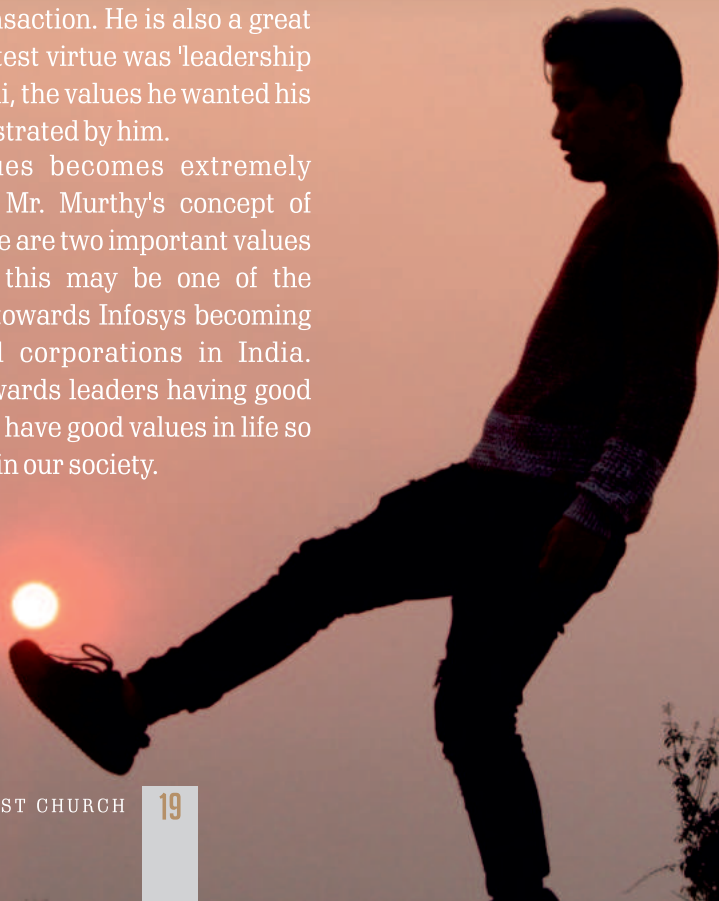
So, I would like to convey some values I gained from the life of N.R.Narayana Murthy the co-founder of Infosys who has deep insides on leadership and life in general. The company provides business consulting, Information & Technology and outsourcing services. And he is described as the Father of Indian IT. Moreover he has also won many awards including the Padma Shri in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.

Through-out his life, Mr. Murthy is said to have followed a golden rule in defining Fairness in his business which can be quoted as "Do unto others what you want them to do unto you". From the above we understand that as long as two people conduct a transaction following this golden rule; they are likely to see fairness in that transaction. He is also a great fan of Mahatma Gandhi whose greatest virtue was 'leadership by example'. In the context of Gandhi, the values he wanted his colleagues to follow was first demonstrated by him.

Committing to good values becomes extremely important in our day to day life. Mr. Murthy's concept of fairness and leading a life by example are two important values which he had demonstrated and this may be one of the important factors that contributed towards Infosys becoming one of the leading multinational corporations in India. Likewise, focusing our attention towards leaders having good values, we as an individual need to have good values in life so that there will be a positive outcome in our society.

# COMM- ITTING TO VALUES

GRACE UPON GRACE



# WORD OF GOD

**R**eading the word of God has been a daily ritual of mine ever since my beginner year in Sunday school. My parents would always make me read verses from the Bible every night during our family prayer meeting. One family tradition that my family has been following through the years is conducting prayer meeting before bed where everyone is to be present unless one is out of station or out for an urgent work. I would read from the Ao Bible every night and I still do which is one of the reasons for my Ao fluency up to certain extends.

Over the years, my grandmother has been my spiritual guide and mentor and be it anywhere in the world, I still seek for her advice and prayers. And every now and then the one thing she keeps reminding me is to keep reading the Bible and praying unceasingly. Sometimes when the worst comes to worst, I find myself reading the Bible and praying for the sake of fulfillment as a Christian which turns up as a mockery and so I pray to God in repentance and seek forgiveness.

Reading the word of God has been like a shield for me; kind of like the Captain America shield blocking all the hits. During my hard times, I open the Bible and read it until I feel peace; be it reading the Bible with teary eyes soaking up the pages or just feeling at my lowest. I also have the habit of reading the verses not only in the morning and bedtime but also when I am going out. Thus, I have seen and experienced His graceful hands saving me from various situations. And on days where I miss out on reading the word of God and praying, something or the other tends to happen that can spoil my day which indicates



**AOKUMLA**

Town Area Fellowship

me to keep track of my devotion time. I'm sure a lot of you can relate with me when I say that I get peace when I read the word of God and pray (like the real peace which sparks joy from within).

I have learnt about patience, humility, compassion, kindness, perseverance and I'm still exploring and learning more from the Bible. The word of God is like a deep abyss which leads to endless discoveries of His goodness. The things I have said above does not give me any credibility but all I'm trying to bring out from this is that reading the Bible has its benefits and wonders. Lastly, conveying that the word of God is powerful and effective if you believe in it!

'Not because of what you do, but because of who you are.'



# A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS BASED ON THE BOOK OF THE ACTS



**IMLICHUBA PONGEN**

Lerie Fellowship



Are you able to understand the full concept of a community of believers? The narration of a community of believers can be seen in the book of The Acts (Acts 2:43). So can it be applied to the whole world? Or perhaps to the little Naga Community after all Nagaland is a Christian State, right? It may probably not even making up even 2% of Indian Population. So as a Community what role does Nagaland play in Nation building or perhaps Peace building? Why did God create humankind in the first place? All these questions and more linger but we ought to understand His intention; which was to build a relationship between His creation and Himself, for all His perfect creation to come together in unity as one body and worship him (1 Corinthians 12:12-26). When Noah landed on dry ground after the forty days of rain, God called him and all that was in the ship with him to come and worship Him. God through Abraham choose a nation for Himself, a nation to call His own people and solely to build a relationship based on worship. And all he required His people to be obedient and surrender to Him in all ways. Thus, the stories that follows afterward in MY JOURNEY WITH KABA YOUTH.docx a way or another orbit around the same thing.

Selflessness was one big part of the first community of believers as observed in The Acts (Acts 2:43). Imagine the Naga first converts, in a very hostile environment where headhunting was normal and Christianity was considered an alien invasion. The new coverts would certainly be considered the ones who were brainwashed and the odd one out in the community. Now, imagine them alienated or shunned by the whole community. Who would despite the threat, show them kindness and acceptance? With that scenario in mind, imagine a handful of coverts meeting secretly at each other's homes, sharing and loving each other in agape love. That is the same old community of believers as in The Acts. Christians all over the world are under many threats because both believers and non-believers unfortunately do not understand what it really means to be a Christian. The few that do understand are under threat or are dying, not necessarily in flesh but in spirit because like Jesus who was persecuted by his own people, the community is divided by nepotism, tribalism, class and jealousy—the mother of all evil, and this community thrives by mentally demoralizing people. What if Nagaland as a community adopts the original community of believers as in The Acts? Where people would not fight over landownership, neighbors would share the mangoes grown in the middle of the fencing dividing two households? What if one Sunday morning the Newspaper report would show a NPSC result and the old man or neighboring aunty would not look at which tribe topped the list or which tribe got the highest number of post? What if the Government employee with power would consider each tribe his own and be vigilant and patriotic for the whole State? In the community of believers one should be a Good Samaritan and not the passing Levite or the Priest.

One big concern of Nagaland today is presumably the Youths. Youth make up most of the population in the Naga society. One would think that all the drug addicts, alcoholics, and all the so called "lost" cases are mere undisciplined, western or social media influenced wannabes but we the people are underestimating the power of a corrupted community. All these slowly dying Naga youths are mere byproducts and victims of the society. Talking about mental illness; how many of us take this issues seriously? Unemployment, divorced parents, abusive parents, financial problem, and many down the list undoubtedly leads to people running for temporary peace and relief. Mental illness cannot be downplayed; it requires a lot of support from fellow friends and family including the society. How many have shown a drug addict or an alcoholic unconditional love? In most cases the society would shun them, even to the point of a parent disowning the child. Individually one would agree that each person needs at least one person as a companion to keep one from going insane, because as John Donne says "No Man is an Island". Is it really impractical to imagine a loving community of believers? Where selflessness, generosity, and togetherness runs deep and it is each person's sole principle.

Is it quite not right to keep on continuing the same old habits? If the works of yesterday does not produce good fruits, today should be a wiser day because tomorrow needs saving. Nagaland is currently transitioning slowly from a headhunting community to a wayward community. Before there was headhunting practices but today people murder for money, vengeance, political conflicts, and so on. The difference is that people today do wrong to people with the Christian tag which means they actually know what they're doing is wrong but act anyway. Today, a handful few will voice out their concerns over the economic, political, ethical and spiritual state of the community. So will you at that time be a Good Samaritan or be a Levite or a Priest? Decide and do not fret over literary or customary concerns and for once think about what is right in the sight of God. If one considers himself/herself as a Christian then one should live by the ways of Jesus Christ as "Jesus Christ is the Christian Life", Frank Viola. And a Community of believers that live by Jesus Christ footsteps do not thrive on selfish gains and disunity.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

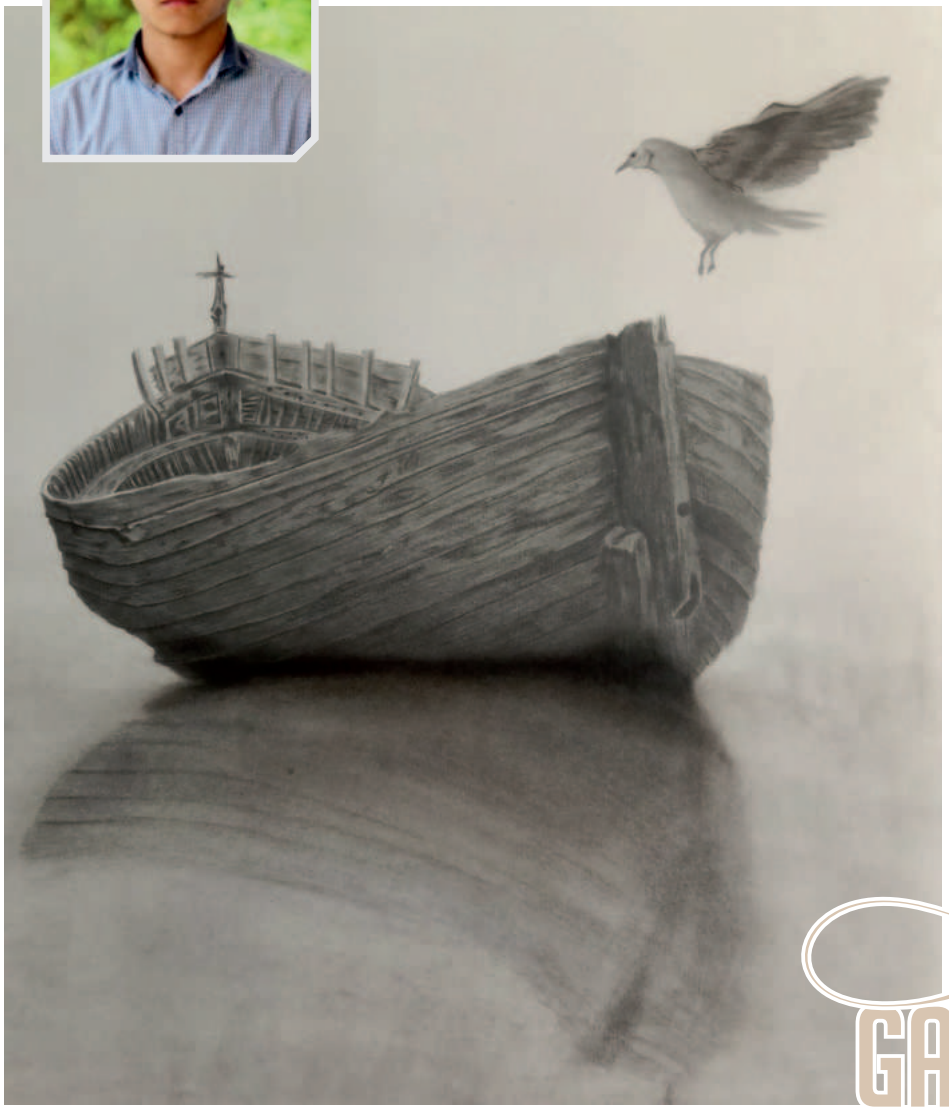
**PAUL OF TARSUS IN COLOSSIANS 2:8**

**"The unexamined life is not  
worth living."**

**Socrates**



**IMKONGAKUM**  
AG Fellowship



*Art*  
**GALLERY**



— Robert Frog.

# THE KINGDOM'S PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE:

**IMNASENLA LONGKUMER**

New Ministers' Hill Fellowship



**T**There are so many cultural ideas these days that appears harmless or innocent on the surface. However, when one digs deeper, we see that some of these notions actually contradict God's word which drives us further from Jesus, as the modern world teaches us to be selfish (centred around me and me alone). One such idea is the philosophy of "SELF-LOVE" that serves as a therapy for modern lifestyle. This new age movement can be seen ramping across cultures seducing so many unsuspecting Christians into its fold.

Articles based on "the importance of self-love, the benefits of self-love, finding your value and purpose and how to treat yourself well?" Are some of the most searched topics online and it is only a click away. In addition, the internet is drenched with quotes and sayings that further advocate this idea of putting oneself first. For instance, "Love yourself first and everything else falls in line", "You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world", "Taking care of yourself should be a priority", "It's not selfish to love yourself, take care of yourself and to make your happiness a priority", "Love yourself more, and then you'll be able to love others more effectively". While it remains an undisputed fact that the world is very self-centred and we live in a very self-consuming society. But yet again the world today is more bent on propagating a "self-focussed" perspective on life, by teaching and promoting the idea of "self-love".

So the question arises what is self-love movement? What is it even saying?

Well the answer will be that "self-love movement" is a philosophy that teaches us to self-prioritize by putting ourselves first be it in wellbeing, happiness, comfort or needs, both for our own good and for the good of others. This movement frequently justifies its stand by quoting the following words "If you can't love yourself first, how can you love other people?" In addition modern psychology attributes many personal and social problems to an individual's lack of self-love and thus promotes awareness on ideas of "self-love, self-esteem, self-focussed, self-care and so on." Thus it is not surprising to see that self-love has become such a cultural buzzword and oftentimes it is offered as an empowering solution to the struggles and insecurities in life. It is particularly influential with the growth of mental-health awareness and its significance in the present scenario. Personally, I admit that it can be hard to wrap our heads around this issue when the entire world persistently propagates and teaches us to love ourselves wrapped under the covers of mental and emotional wellbeing.

The philosophy of self-love and many other similar ideologies are being wide spread and it is subconsciously creeping into our minds and it is sadly gaining popularity even among the Christians. So the question arises, why do I think it's sad that we the Christians are being swept into this cultural wave of self-love? The reason lies in the folds of the virtue of the Scripture that

ironically teaches Christians a completely opposite aspect as "The Kingdom's" prospect on one's life is to focus on others. Thus the Christian prospect of life is therefore the "self-less" perspective and not the other way round. Thus unlike what the Scripture says, the philosophy of self-love hinges on to the belief that we cannot adequately give love until we first love ourselves. If we were to bring it down, it basically means, "If I have enough of self-love within me, I get to share it with the people around me." But the problem with this kind of assumption from a Christian perspective is that it is clearly mentioned that we are not the source of love as a matter of fact "God is love and love comes from God!"

So what does it mean? Does it signify that humans are incapable of love? Of course not! Humans are capable of loving others and that is made possible only because we are created in the image and likeness of God (who is love). We are not love by nature and it does not come from us because we are not God. We are humans, sinful and selfish by nature and we need not be taught to prioritize ourselves, be selfish since by default we already are. Thus, when humans who are sinful in nature makes oneself the reference point for love the meaning of love completely changes from what God intended it to be. Moreover if everyone started putting them-selves first the world would most probably be chaotic so the only solution to our human selfishness is love and divine selflessness i.e, the love that comes from God which is self giving and pure.

It is this kind of selfless-love that God epitomized throughout the Scripture which characterises God Himself. It is a self-giving love not self-love or self-absorbed love. For it was in this selfless love that "God the Father, sent His one and only begotten son to die for our sins, that we may have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This idea of self-less love and other-focused perspective on life has also been beautifully portrait by Jesus (the Son) who in

will-full obedience, manifested the greatest degree of selflessness when He sacrificed His own life on the cross for the sake of the entire world (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:8; 11 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2). Do you ever wonder what the fate of the entire world would be had Jesus also practiced the philosophy of self-love? What would have been the consequence for us and for the entire creation if Jesus had put up His interests, well-being or benefit first? Can you even begin to imagine what would have happened if Jesus considered the splendours more worthy than us?

You see, salvation was made possible only because Jesus was not thinking about Himself. He was thinking about you and me when He sacrificed His life on the cross, and both His prayers and actions shows that He did this. "Jesus came, not for His own benefit, but for ours". So, for those of us who now live under the Lordship of Christ the Bible commands us to imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 2:6, Philippians 2:5) and this also requires us to imitate the selfless mind and heart of Christ. The Scripture teaches us not to look for our own interests or to prioritize ourselves but to follow in the footstep of Jesus, who taught and showed us what self-less love looks like.

That being said, some people have however, went on to Christianize this concept of self-love by often referring to the very famous commandment given by Jesus in the Gospels that states, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31), to imply "First love yourself, only then you'll be able to love your neighbours." Yet in so many other instances when talking about love, Jesus says, "to love is to lay down our lives for our friends (John 15:13) or if we are to be His disciples, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). So, does this mean that Jesus is teaching us two contradictory things about love at the same time? No. This is why reading the Scripture in

its context is vital. When Jesus said, "Love your neighbours, as yourself," the emphasis is on "loving your neighbour" and not on "loving ourselves first." In this commandment, Jesus is not commanding self-love rather He is simply telling us that we ought to be concerned about the well-being and happiness of other people as you are about your own. In this Jesus basically tells us to love others and treat them like how you treat yourself.

In order to teach us how to love others Jesus commanded us to love God first, which is the first and greatest commandment. Only then did Jesus instructs us to love our neighbours which came as a follow-up to the greatest commandment because they are interconnected (Matthew 22:36-40). Thus, it is only after we love God and our relationship is restored through Christ can one can be free from our self-centredness and given the ability to love others. Since God loves us, whoever has been born of God and knows Him are commanded to love other people in the same manner with zero expectations (1 John 4:7-21).

Thus, if we look at the philosophy of "self-love" in the light of these Scriptural arguments, one can understand that the entire idea of it is extremely dangerous to Christianity. It teaches us a very selfish where the path of value, worth and love is directed inwardly whereas Christianity looks outwardly towards God for value, worth, identity, authority and guidance given to us by God. Thus, while navigating such cultural trends, as Christians, let us be reminded that the Bible teaches us to be other-focused and not self-focused. Selflessness as a perspective to life as taught in the Scriptures and exemplified by Jesus is therefore not only counter to our current cultural tides but is also a central Christian character that believers are required to demonstrate. While easier said than done, I'm also aware that selflessness runs counter to human nature and being selfless is not an easy task as it is easier for humans to act selfishly than selflessly. However, the Bible does not leave us without solutions and it tells us that as much as faith is a gift from God, so is selflessness and love for others, fruits of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit works to develop in the lives of those who have accepted Christ and those who abide in Him (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:4). For it is only through Him that our attitudes can be changed and moulded toward unselfish behaviours. And as we continue to go out into the world may our focus be outward just as the Bible teaches us demonstrating our love for God in our relationship and service to others in the same spirit and mind like Jesus. Let us be reminded, once again, that the Kingdom perspective on life is being "other-focused and not self-focused, so that the entire perspective to living as Christian is the love. Thus, while navigating such cultural trends, as Christians, let us be reminded that the Bible teaches us to be other-focused and not self-focused.

# doing GOOD

**"DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL,  
BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD"**

ROMANS 12:21

**LEPZUNG**

Chandmari Fellowship



**T**It may sound like a line from idealistic literature or a kid's movie, but nevertheless a radical countercultural agenda. We do not just attempt to conquer evil but we conquer it by doing good actions. It means that whatever the prevailing culture of the world throws at us, the way to overcome it is not by lowering ourselves to the same set of standards but rather entering into combat with entirely different weapons. Like a gladiator who brings a handshake rather than a sword into the arena, we also ought to be prepared when it appears that we ought to be heading for disaster and understand that God has a twist woven throughout in this story. He defines "winning" differently than most of us think. The goal is not to achieve our goal but to live with His character.

So all of those people who attempt to get love, wealth, happiness, accomplishments, status, positions and pleasure in ways that do not reflect God's character may appear to be winning the battle but in reality, they are actually losing (miserably). And those that seem to fall short of success by maintaining the characteristics of God are more successful than everyone else. That is why the scripture tells us to conquer evil by doing good. Reflecting the character of God is a victory in itself, and it further fuels a cultural revolution that will draw others towards His goodness. Many will not come because they are keeping their eyes focused on a prize that isn't really worth it. But some will realizing that it is better to walk with integrity in another realm than to dominate this one. Either way God is honored and His goodness is displayed for others to see.



# BACKLOG AND I



**MARYANGLA**

Bayavü Youth Fellowship



**B**'Backlog' the word I dreaded the most a few years back; at the mention of which my heart sank and I got teary eyes with a lump in my throat with sweaty palms and nauseous feeling. It made me want to run away from home or disappear without a trace. Taking you back to the worst exam I had appeared during my Bachelors, I had flipped my notebook till the entrance of the exam hall I subtly went in, sat down, received the question paper and went completely blank. My heart went "duk duk duk..." at a 2x speed. For the first time I could feel the blood circulating in my body "tik tik tik..." then it felt as if my head was getting bigger and bigger by the minute, yet my brain was getting foggier and foggier. That lovely day I spent 30 minutes sleeping and another quality 30 minutes mesmerized by the green leaves and branches moving with the breeze through the ventilation. I was 'ZERO' at everything but I was first in something, I was the 'FIRST' person to go out of the exam hall. I went in to the exam hall walking but went back to hostel floating in the air because I was high from trying to recollect things I didn't know.

At that point of time I realized I was not going to graduate unless I become Archimedes overnight or God does a miracle in my life. Failures after failures I was hopeless, lost, confused and mentally exhausted still I would shamelessly pray "God, please do something. I do not know how but please do something, I want to graduate". With that tiny faith and hope in God I survived semester after semester. With tons of logs on my back, I reached sixth semester. I was trying my best but from the start I knew I was going to have backlog even that semester still I desperately prayed "Yisu, ni yariang mah nuh".

Then, on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Government of India ordered a nationwide lockdown, THE MIRACLE in my life. It was a devastating year for millions of people but 2020 was "The year" for me. Long story short, through group discussion with my good friends I graduated online. Though I do not deserve and am not qualified, God pulled me out when I was drowning in failures and I am shamelessly grateful for it.

Now with that undeserving grace of God, I live with a thankful heart and praising God everyday for what he has done in my life. Through all these I learnt one thing and that is:

**"GOD IS ABLE".**

**Psalms 94:19** - "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy".

**Ephesians 2:8** - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God".

**2 Corinthians 12:9** - "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power may rest on me".

**Psalms 40: 2** - "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire: he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand".

# SECOND CHANCES



**WANGSHIKOKLA**

B.D 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
Clark Theological College

When I opened my eyes,  
I found myself sitting alone on the last row at a funeral.  
There was a middle-aged woman reading out her eulogy.  
She cried and cried-  
Last Friday I remember wishing upon a shooting star to take  
away my last breath away with its fading tail,  
I remember I was forlorn and lonely,  
The hands that reached out to me, I denied them.  
I enveloped my heart with my own prejudice  
I remember I've never been kind to myself.  
Lost in self hatred and condemnation,  
I have always allowed myself to burn every bridge built my  
way-  
As I took in my surroundings,  
I saw the tear stained eyes of the dead man's kin,  
The anguish of the loved ones,  
Not one counted his blunders,  
The dead man who could have been a sinner,  
But he was loved-  
The ones sitting solemnly by the casket,

**EDITOR'S**  
*choice*

I could see in the way they sat with their heads down,  
They were only ever waiting for him to reach out to them-  
For the first time in my life, I missed my mother's embrace,  
Was I too late to seek everyone out?

I sat there and regretted dwelling in my past,  
Shunning every possibilities of forgiveness and love,  
I turned a blind eye to every redemption thrown my way,  
My heart denied true love.

Suddenly I had the urge to tell that man in the casket-  
If he had ever doubted himself,  
If he had ever denied the abounding love.

I wanted to tell him about the love he might have never accepted.

I felt dread and regret for the person.  
I wanted to relay him my mistakes and regret.

But it was too late,  
A life has been lost along with its soul.  
With tears streaming down my eyes,  
I vowed-

To make way for true love,  
To make room for compassion,  
I promised-

I will not run away, not anymore.  
I will seek for the One who breathed life unto me,  
And died for my stead.

No more shall I allow my demons to blind me,  
And listen to it say nobody cares,  
Nevermore shall I deny the love of God-

With tears blurring my vision I looked down at my trembling  
hands,

My heart rejoicing with happiness in finding the truth,  
It had set me free.

At last I have found my rest and peace, I thought.

But as my tears rolled down my face  
And my vision cleared, I saw in my hands-  
Balled up in my fist, I was holding a paper

With trembling fingers I unfolded the crumbled piece of paper,

In it was the order of the service  
And on the top of the wrinkled paper,  
Written in bold letters, was my name.

EDITOR'S  
*choice*

# MENTAL HEALTH

## A MYTH OR A REALITY?



**MISS. RONGSENPOKLA**  
Bayavü Youth Fellowship



Mental health encompasses our emotional, psychological, and social well-being, affecting how we think, feel, and act. It is crucial at every stage of life, from childhood to adulthood, as it helps us manage stress, make decisions, and interact with others.

The present generation faces many Mental Health issues that they cannot explain, such as anxiety, depression, and stress. Although some people may believe that it is just a passing phase, it is a real and pressing issue that needs attention. The older generation often disregards such issues, but it is essential to seek help from family, friends, and professionals to overcome these problems. Ignorance of such issues could lead to physical harm or even death.

While mental health is a vast subject, there are common issues that today's youth face and it is essential to recognize those who are mentally ill or unstable and offer assurance that they are valued, loved, and cared for. As Shonda Rhimes said, "You are not alone. You are seen. I am with you. You are not alone."

As a Christian, offering hope to those in need is crucial. Through recognizing the wounded souls and reaching out to them with love and compassion, we can give a new meaning to their lives. Aristotle's quote, "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light," reminding us that even in our most challenging times, there is hope.

The Bible provides many promises of hope, such as Lamentations Chapter 3: 21-23, which states, "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

In conclusion, we all have a purpose in life, and that is to support one another and offer hope to those who are struggling with their mental health. By recognizing the value of mental health and reaching out with love, we can help others overcome their darkest moments and find new meaning and purpose in life.

# METETNUBA ASER ANGATETNEBA KAR :



**IMTICHILA JAMIR**

KABA - ABAM Missionary  
Mongolia since 2018

## 1) A brief description of the ministry you working at and about the specific area you work in?

I am involved in Youth and Evangelism ministry base at Mongolia International University. Since Mongolia is a closed country and we need a professional skill to get the visa, I work as an Assistant Professor in MIU and I reach out to students through Campus Ministry, Open Fellowship, Bible study and Home Fellowship.



## 2) How is the life style and culture there?

Mongolians overall live a more relaxed and care free life. They seem more individualistic and more open or accepting toward Western pop culture. Like many other countries around the world, Mongolia is a patriarchal society where men hold more power and privilege than women and education is highly valued in Mongolia.

**3) What religion do they most follow?**

Like Nagas they take great pride in their customs and way of life. The country's music, dance traditions are an important part of their cultural heritage. For instance, when you don't shake hand after you bump someone's foot accidentally or intentionally, that is considered taboo in Mongolia. Apologizing by words does not count and you must shake hand with the other person.

Buddhism is the main religion but the indigenous religion; Shamanistic elements were integrated into Mongolian Buddhism.

**4) Callings works differently for all and so what was yours?**

I was 2 years old, when I received a prophesy from a crusader during a Home Crusade Revival and it was that God has chosen me to serve in His mission. I used to tell my mom and dad that I want to go out of the country and work as a missionary teacher even when I did not have that much knowledge about what is mission and how do we go about it. At the age of 15 I was truly convicted with my calling to serve God and from that point there was no turning back.

**5) What best helped you prepare you for mission?**

Spiritual preparation for mission is the most important aspect of getting ready to go. It is essential to seek God's will and righteousness before anything and the best place for me to start it was by seeking God's direction in His word. Right after the completion of my secular studies I join a Discipleship training course in YWAM and later involved in Short Term Missionary and other training courses. Going out as missionary we also need to develop other skills like Agriculture, Business as Mission, Education, Medicine, Law, or Music which will be an instrumental to use it in a way that serves the people group you're ministering to. Preparing and equipping oneself is a continuous process and keeping that in mind, I am doing an online course in M.A Biblical Studies from SAICAS to be more effective in the mission.

**6) Do people easily accept a new concept or idea in Mongolia?**

Mongolia's readiness for change or the acceptance a new idea is slow and require a considerable amount of time. Mongolia is a very hard country when it comes to religion. For instance, to acquire a religious visa the law required religious groups to hire at least five local employees for each sponsored foreign worker, which makes it hard to get a visa for foreign missionaries to enter the country, so they ought to enter the country often under nonreligious visas (such as student, teacher, or business visas), which legally restricts us from conducting activities allowed under religious visas.

**7) What differences or similarities do you see in the people at your work environment and the people here?**

Naga as we come from the Mongoloid race somehow, I have observed so much of similarities. Like us Mongolians have a reputation for being frank, honest, hospitable, fun-loving, hardworking, self-reliant, gracious, curious, independent-minded and having a good sense of humour. Mongolia is a relationship-driven culture, so it is important to prepare ourselves to build relationships.

One take away from the Mongolian people; specially the youths is that, they take their own responsibility after entering the college. Almost all my students studying in MIU do part time job in the college café, office or in a restaurant or even go out of the country to America or South Korea during summer break so that they can save money for their college fees and hostel fee for the whole semester.

**8) What message would you convey to the KABA youth?**

"Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9). And always remember, in whatever you do, always seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.



# *meet our* **KABA YOUTH LEADERS**

GRACE



## **OFFICE BEARERS**

**MR. APEN TANUJANG**, Networking & Media

**MISS CHUBASENLA NOKDIR**, Associate Pastor Youth

**MISS SANGYUMONGLA LONGKUMER**, GS

**MR. IMTISUNEP AIER**, President



**IMPACT TEAM**



**TOWN**



**CHANDMARI**



**AG**



**LERIE**



**NEW MINISTERS' HILL**



**MINISTERS' HILL**



**MERHÜLIETSA**





**PHEZOUCHA**



**BAYAVÜ**

# COMBINED SERVICE



# OJANG RATET

- **LANLIA**  
well done, favoured by God
- **LETET**  
Resolution
- **MESÜLIYIM**  
Land of eternal life
- **NONGMESO**  
Motivate or excite

OJANG  
RATET

GRACE UPON GRACE

# OLONG RATET

## SEMTAK NOK

**Tetezü:** Teti külemi senzüba mulungtok pur, mapa ajak nung yariteper nisung.

**Teratet:** Nok aika liaka koba aremlongen, kitakludak aser yataenta ajak nung semer jajaba nok dang Semtak nok ta ajar. Anungji taküm nüngdak ajak nung mulungtokpa, tatsüktalem aser tasentapak ajak nung khuret tongzüktepa yaritepba nisung ka dang, Semtak nok ta ajar.



# *Excited for* EXCITATUR



GRACE UPON GRACE

LET NO ONE  
*despise*  
YOU FOR YOUR YOUTH,  
BUT SET THE  
*believers*  
AN EXAMPLE  
**IN SPEECH,  
IN CONDUCT,  
IN LOVE,  
IN FAITH  
and  
IN PURITY**

1 TIMOTHY 4:12



SURELY  
**goodness**  
and  
**mercy**

shall follow me  
all days of my life,  
and I shall

**dwell**  
in the house  
of the  
Lord forever."

PSALM 23:1-6



I am the *vine*,  
you are the  
*branches*.

IF A MAN REMAINS  
IN ME AND I IN HIM,

he will bear much  
*fruit*;  
apart from me  
you can do  
*nothing*.

JOHN 15:5



CUT HERE.....

## Cover interpretation

*The art is a conceptualisation from John chapter 1. In the beginning the word was with God and the word was God. The path signifies Jesus as the way and also the true light. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, but it is through Grace that we are saved.*



cover art by :  
**JUSHONG SHIU**

