



# IMA Newsletter

For Private Circulation only

## The Joy of Christmas

### From the General Secretary's desk

Christmas season brings us joy in our celebration. The birth of Jesus was a joyous time in the midst of trouble, fear, cry and anxiety. It is an act of experiencing the impossible made possible (Luke 1:37); peace in peaceless situation (Matthew 2:16-18); hope in the midst of hopeless situation (Luke 2 10,18). This act of experience is possible when it is centered in Joy: Mary sang, "And my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior" (Luke 1:47), the wise men rejoiced with exceeding great joy (Mat 2:10) and the Shepherds were rejoicing, praising and worshipping God (Luke 2:20). The celebration of Christmas need to be centered around the experience of joy and not a mere feeling of happiness.

The joy of Christmas celebration leads to express our love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters who are in need. It is an occasion to choose new friends and share the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ. We thank God for the God-given Vision and Mission to the ministries of India Missions Association (IMA) and the way God is accomplishing the mission is marvelous to our eyes, Praise God!

We praise God for the blessed year 2022 where we uniquely experienced God and His presence in every process of our ministry. The following are some key highlights of God's blessings of this year at IMA, from April - Dec 2022.

- The smooth transition of leadership in IMA in March 2022.
- The initiation of facilitating the training department in five-member mission organisation.
- The Blessed India Missions Summit at SAIACS and the new partnerships developed.
- The joining of 17 new mission organisations with IMA
- The unique training programs like Bandhu Seva, Stations of Generosity, Women's empowerment conference, non-Formal training for native church planters.

### VALUES OF IMA

- To be guided by the Word and the Spirit.
- A visionary and catalyst of Indian Missions in national and multi-lingual teams.
- Strive to be a model in management excellence, financial accountability and transparent in operation and statutory compliances.
- Caring and building leaders in missions both present and future.
- Advocating excellence in ministry performance.
- Enriching indigenous leadership and finance.

### MISSION OF IMA

- To be an association for organizations and churches in Indian missions.
- To be a facilitator for cooperation, partnership and networks.
- To be a challenging voice in the church for increased commitment to missions.
- To be an initiator for training, workshops, consultations in new avenues.
- To disseminate information for prayers and creating awareness on main issues.
- To connect people in churches and missions both locally and globally.
- To be a catalyst in evolving in corporate vision, strategies & ethos.
- To empower missions in management excellence.
- To establish mutual accountability.

### Vision of IMA

*We want to see people from every people group, villages, town and city to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and be discipled so that they worship God in India and beyond.*

...From the General Secretary's desk-

- Caring for the missionary over 150 families affected by Covid-19.
- The clear focus on the Way forward mission in IMA for the next five years (2023 - 28)
- The farming initiatives in the vision city of IMA at the Hyderabad campus.
- Building a Blessed relationship with the member missions and visiting them regularly.
- The initiation of the Prayer movement in IMA particularly empowering the women.
- One of our staff was dedicated and supported as a missionary by a church in Hyderabad.
- The renewal of FCRA for the next five years.
- The first initiative of facilitating a Christmas get-together with 32 missionary / pastor beloved families who were bereaving for the loss of their spouses during Covid- 19 in the last two years.
- The partnership of three churches in Hyderabad in mobilizing the church to be missional.
- The enhancement of partnership between the Mission Board of the Presbyterian church of India, Synod of Mizoram and IMA.

We praise God for the blessed opportunities to serve God in various facets of ministry in 2022 with the team of 15 staff members. This team is a unique team of various cultures and social diversity. We are One in the family driven by the Kingdom values and strive to press on towards fulfilling the goals of the vision and the mission of IMA. On 16.12.2022 we had a unique Christmas celebration of our staff with their families remembering the purpose of Christ coming into this world to re-establish the broken relationship with the Heavenly Father and reminding ourselves to remain in the Joy of salvation.

We thank each of you for your prayers, advice, support and encouragement in joining us in the missional journey of fulfilling the vision and the Mission of IMA. We will not slowdown in our zeal for God, His Word and His mission to see that people from every people group, village, street in the city and town of our country will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and be disciplined into community of believers, so that in every nook and the corner of our country people will worship One and the Only God who is worthy of all of our praises and glory ( Rev 7:9).

## Non - Formal training



We praise God for the Non - Formal Training for the church planters of **Isua Khrista Kohhran Ministries (IKK), Bhandara** from 24th Oct to 28th Oct 2022 at the **Vision City campus, IMA Hyderabad**. A total of **12 missionaries** participated (9 men and 3 women), where the following topics were taught and discussed: Understanding God, Understanding Mission, Bible Study methods, Understanding Bible- the authority and inspiration of the Bible, building Christ like character. The facilitators for this training were **Rev. Prakash, Mr. Zoramma, Mr. J. Lalrinawma and Rev. Dr. Isac S Raja**.

The training was facilitated in Hindi as the trainees were basically from the rural context doing ministry among the poor and uneducated on the outskirts of Bhandara, Maharashtra. This non formal training program is for two years, whereby every four months the same trainees will come back. The training curriculum was designed based on the need assessment of these trainees in their life and ministry. The training was well taken and Mr. Denis, IKK Director expressed his appreciation of how the training has been facilitated with practical experienced facilitators.

We praise God for this opportunity given to facilitate this training effectively in a Non - Formal context with more interactive session both in pairs and in small groups.



## IMA Women's Prayer Conference



Resource persons and participants of the IMA Women Prayer Conference

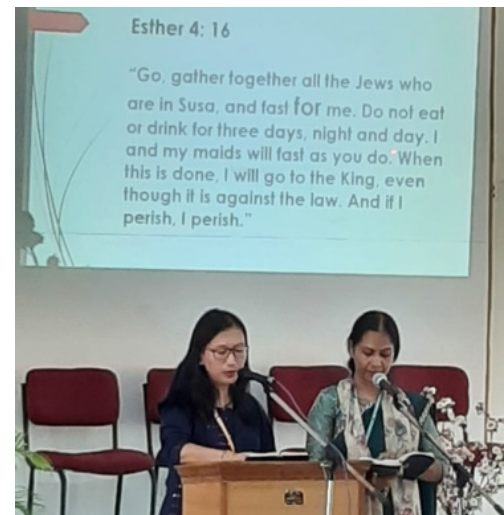
IMA Women's Prayer Conference was organized from 14th - 15th October, 2022 at Vision City, IMA Campus, Hyderabad. There were 59 participants from 15 churches and organisations who prayerfully attended this conference. It was an enriching experience for all the participants, resource persons and organisers. The theme of this conference was "Empowered to Witness" (Esther 4: 16). The resource persons were **Dr. Hannah**, who spoke on "Empowerment in prayer", **Rev. Dr. Kamala Chiranjeevi**- Empowerment for Involvement and **Mrs. Bethel Zhimomi**- Empowerment to Witness. Throughout the sessions, **Mrs. Jaya Prakash** did a commendable job in translating to Telugu as majority of the participants spoke Telegu. Praise be to God for all the women of faith who turned up for this conference.



Mrs. Jaya Prakash and Rev. Dr. Kamala Chiranjeevi



Mrs. Zubeni Bagh leading one of the morning devotions.



Mrs. Bethel Zhimomi exposing the theme of the conference.



## Christmas Get-together...

with families of ministry workers who stepped into glory during the pandemic.

We praise God for the opportunity given to us to be with the bereaved families of missionary and pastors who stepped into glory in the last two years (2020 & 2021).

The IMA vision casting team met in June 2022 for the first time in Hyderabad, where God put this burden in the hearts of the core team members. As a result of much prayer and God's clear direction, we planned this Christmas get together with the families on **27th Nov 2022 at the Bethel House of Worship, Chandanagar, BHEL, Hyderabad.**



### The Purpose of Organising the Program:

A lot of missionaries, pastors and evangelist were infected and affected during the pandemic, and lost their lives too. They left behind their loved ones, particularly their spouse and children. When it was felt in the core team meeting that with Christmas approaching, the bereaved families will definitely miss their spouse / father / mother, the need to initiate Christmas get - together was realised.

We praise God for the Bethel House of Worship who hosted the entire program. When we shared this vision to **Ps. Peter Samuel** along with **Bishop. Ravi Jesupaul**, it was wonderfully orchestrated, and we had a blessed time with **138 members** inclusive of the **32 bereaved families.**

Ps. Peter Samuel shared the Word from Matthew 2:16 & 17 correlating with his own experience of bereavement and the call of God in his life. It was indeed a powerful message from the Lord expressing the Joy, Hope and continuous Trust in God for further enhancement in the ministry.

In our Lord's wonderful provision, the church together with the IMA team at Hyderabad facilitated each bereaved family in cash and in kind. There were around 10 couples from the Bethel church who came forward to share the gifts. The Christmas advance celebration ended with a fellowship dinner where a strong support system was facilitated between the Bereaved families and the church / IMA team.

This is just the beginning and God willing, the desire to continue sharing the warmth of Christmas will be witnessed each year.

We thank our Almighty God, and we also thank everyone who took part in this gathering and enabled the bereaved families to feel the warmth of Christmas and assurance of not being alone in this world. We thank the worship team and volunteers from Bethel church who helped us in every possible ways.

**It is encouraging to hear testimonies from some of the Beloved families of this get together...**

Thank you so much for inviting us for the meeting. God really consoled us through your prayers and gifts. So strengthening.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to visit you and your fellowship. We deeply appreciate your concern and prayers.

**Shobha Rani**

We were so blessed to be a part of the meeting which took place in Bethel Church. We are grateful from the bottom of our hearts for the support you have provided us. In addition, we thank you for your constant prayers. Please keep praying for our family. May God bless IMA abundantly.

**Manchala Kavitha and family**

I lost my father who was a full time pastor, due to Covid- 19. We never thought that we could be part of the gathering of bereaved family at Bethel Church. It was one of the happiest times in our lives as we were felicitated, prayed for and even gifted an amount of ₹. 5000/-

**Sunny's Mother and Sister**

My father was a full time pastor at Agape Church when we lost him to Covid- 19. His sudden departure from our lives traumatised us, but you all welcomed and helped us. Thank you for helping us to come to your church and upholding us in prayer as well as your financial support.

**Achari, Dammaiguda**



**Felicitation of the families**

## Mobilizing Church for Missions

Holy Fire Church, Rajeev Gruha Kalpa,  
Hyderabad.

God enabled us to journey with the Holy Fire Church, Rajeev Gruha Kalpa, in the month of November 2022 in mobilizing the church for missions. As a result of this mobilization:

- 32 young people committed their life and accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.
- Each member (100+) committed to pray for Indian missions daily for 10 minutes being the least.
- About 18 people expressed their desire to go for a short term mission in a nearby mission field.
- 8 people committed their lives to serve the Lord in full time Ministry.
- A faith promise of ₹ 2.5 lakhs commitment was made to support mission work in the church.
- IMA has taken the responsibility to continue helping the church in all these needs.



## Enhancement of partnership

...with the Synod Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram.



We praise God for the opportunity given to us (Rev. Dr. Isac S Raja, General Secretary and Mr. Zoramthanga, Director of Missionary Training, IMA) to visit the 99th Synod meeting 2022, and some important places and field of the Mizoram Synod from 6th to 11th Dec 2022.

The following are some key learning moments for us in the Synod Meetings, visiting the various activities of the Mission Board and also in the two churches where we shared the Word of God and the ministry of IMA:



Firstly, the Mission is completely done by the Church whereby, the nucleus of the church is mission. And this is very much evident in the church of Mizoram.

In addition, the Theological education is integrated with mission along with the church in Mizoram. The various components of training both in formal Theological education and the Non - Formal Theological education is facilitated with greater importance and well-structured program.

Third, the Masih Sangati is the mission to reach out to the people outside the Mizo community with the gospel. The church is clearly focused and passionate to take the responsibility of discipling the migrants who enter into Mizoram for various reasons. A policeman at the airport distributing the Word of God to the people who enter into Aizawl is an amazing testimony. It was reported by the Moderator, Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram that over 11,000 people were personally discipled through the Masih Sangati (2022) indicating the Missional aspect of the church in Mizoram.

Fourth, the holistic development of the community in the mission field is a big concern of the Mizo church. The Mission Development Training Centre (MDTC) and Synod Multipurpose Training Centre (SMTC) involves in the training of the evangelists, Native Missionaries in the wholistic development of the community. They are trained and taught Carpentry, Electrical, Computer, Plumbing, Poultry, Kitchen gardening, Dairy along with the church planting skills which has proven to be quite effective.

Fifth, the legacy of generosity of the Mizo church is a unique model. The missional nature of this church is clearly exhibited in the generous giving to the Mission of the church. The models of Handful of Rice, various marketplace mission groups like the Business community, the Auto men fellowship, the Police men fellowship are some rare examples in mission engagement in Indian Missions. The empowerment of women in the church is so powerful that they lead in the mission engagement in Prayer mobilisation, Short - Term mission field visits, Resource mobilisation through Handful of Rice. At present, Mission Chicken, Mission wood are real examples of the generous life style of Mizos in Indian Missions.



Sixth, the Mizo church has produced exemplary leaders in the church, in the Missionary engagement and in Theological education.

Seventh, the natural gift of singing by Mizo people with their traditional dance in worshipping the Lord is amazing to witness. The unique choir in each church of Mizoram (Aizawl) is missional.

Eighth, the empowerment of both the clergy and the laity in church leadership is another uniqueness in Mizoram. It was wonderful to witness the way decisions are made meticulously for the Mission of the church in the Synod meeting every year.

The massive mission work is done from the centralised office at Aizawl in monitoring the ministry in all 18 mission fields: Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Jharkhand, Kolkata, Odhisa, Siliguri, Arunachal North, West and East, Karbi Anglong, Barak Area, Assam, Tripura, Home Mission North and South, Nepal, and Cambodia.

Our hearts are filled with praises and gratitude to God for the way His church is greatly manifested among the entire community of people both within and outside the church at Aizawl.

The following are some of the highlights of our visit:

- The Synod meeting lasted for six days culminated in the Ordination service and the Holy Eucharist.
- A well-structured Admin office at Aizawl monitoring the entire operation of the Mission.
- The visit to Aizawl Theological college/ Missionary Training College /Hindi Bible Training school and Hospital indicates the mission to the whole man / woman.
- The visit to two Presbyterian churches in Aizawl (at Chanmari & Mission Vengthlang) gives an overall understanding of the Missional nature of the church.

### The way forward in our partnership with the Synod Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram:

- The urge to see this missional model of integrating the church and mission to be disseminated.
- The partnership to be enhanced in facilitating consultations and Summits on the legacy of Church and Mission
- To connect mission organisations with the Mizo church for mission engagement outside Mizoram.
- To further enhance the effectiveness of training in Masih Sangati focused on specific strategy like Neighbours, Professionals and Migrants.
- To facilitate exchange programs or deputations to church / Mission organisation in professional work / Mission work / Leadership responsibilities.

We praise God for this blessed partnership between the Synod Mission Board of the Presbyterian church of Mizoram, Mizoram Synod and India Missions Association. We are also thankful to the leaders of the Mission Board for their generous giving financially and also deputing their missionaries to IMA for many years.

To God be the glory great things He has done!

### Proposed Programs for Jan- Mar, 2023

1	Trauma Healing counseling
2	Non - Formal training for the rural native church planters
3	Women Empowerment Seminar
4	Station of Generoristy
5	Advance Mission Leadership Training (AMLT)
6	Bandhu Seva ToT
7	Missional Church Mobilisation
8	Research Christian presence
9	Net-work Think Tanks
10	IMS Follow up Net- works.

Please pray for the upcoming programs of IMA, that God may grant his wisdom to all the organizers to understand the times and plan accordingly.



## Prayer Concerns

- We praise the name of our living God for enabling each one of us to step into a new year 2023.
- The IMA family bids farewell to our Editor, Mrs. Bethel Zhimo and seek your prayer support for her family as she pursues her Doctorate in Theology under SATHRI, Senate of Serampore. She joined the office of IMA in January 2019 and served till December 2022. During her four years of involvement in designing and publishing Newsletters, Journals and other related works at the IMA office, the Sumi Baptist Church Zunheboto, Nagaland, graciously extended financial support. IMA is grateful to SBCZ and praise God for their ministry at home and beyond. We do believe that the church will continue to support servants of God even in the coming years.
- Please pray for the building construction of the IMA Regional Office in Bengaluru.
- Let us continue to pray for all the member missions of IMA, that we may all be effective in extending the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for God's protection upon the lives of IMA staff and their family throughout the year 2023.



Mrs. Bethel Zhimo with her family



The plot of land for IMA Office in Bengaluru



## IMA Staff and family Christmas Celebration

16th December, 2022, Vision City Hyderabad

IMA Staff and family had a wonderful Christmas celebration on 16th Dec. at Vision City IMA Campus, marking the end of working days for the year 2022 and thanking God for all the lessons learned and accomplished missions the entire year. After a hectic year of everything going offline, this evening was surely a time to retrospect and celebrate the coming of our Lord.



## New Board Members

The IMA family welcomes the new board members, and believe that under your guidance, IMA will experience greater heights in building the kingdom of God.

1. Rev. Dr. Andrew Semp- **Chairman**
2. Rev. Vijay Mohod- **Vice Chairman**
3. Rev. Augustine Mathur- **Treasurer**
4. Rev. Dr. Rajasingh Elias
5. Rev. Dr. Kamala Chiranjeevi
6. Rev. Edwin Ponniah
7. Rev. Paul Radhakrishnan
8. Bro. Pranab
9. Bro. James Rangland
10. Dr. Prabhusingh
11. Rev. M.M. Prasad



## Unreached Peoples Group

**Gujjar** are nomadic people who live in temporary homes and travel with their animals from place to place. They are a shepherding community and mostly isolated People Groups who are outcasts from society.

Most of them are deprived even of the basic necessities of life. The primary occupation of the Gujjar is animal husbandry and some of them do agriculture. Their subsistence is primarily derived from selling milk and milk products. They are religiously and linguistically diverse and categorized as Other Backward Classes in some states. Their staple cereal diet comprises maize, wheat and rice.

### Key Statistics

**Population:** 1,015,000

**Primary State:** Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Rajasthan.

**Primary Districts:** Multiple districts

**Primary Religion:** Muslims, Hindus

**Languages spoken:** Gujjari, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi

**Christian Percentage:** 0.01%

**Alternate Names:** Bakarwal; Dodhi; Goor; Gujar; Gujri; Manhas



Let us pray for God's intervention upon the lives of people who are yet to hear about His love.



Vision city campus is now open for facilitating training, conferences, consultations for the member missions at subsidized costs and we encourage the member missions to make use of these facilities for their staff retreat and other meetings.

We are also opening up for the CEOs of the member mission organisation to spend time with their families for rest and recuperation.

For more details, kindly contact Bro. Sagar (Campus Supervisor) +91-9618505378

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