

# *The Ecumenical Family*

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MOVING  
IN THE  
SPIRIT:



CALLLED TO  
*Transforming*  
DISCIPLESHIP

**CHECK IT OUT...**

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*Editorial.....* 

## **CELEBRATING 40 YEARS – BEING CALLED TO TRANSFORMATIVE DISCIPLESHIP IN THE SPIRIT!**



**A**lmost in every decade, the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism - *Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad* of the World Council of Churches organizes a Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. In the present decade, this conference was organized from 8-13 March 2018, in Arusha, Tanzania. The theme of the Conference was, ‘Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship’, based on the text, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25).

As the English Congregation, we celebrate our birthday on Pentecost Sunday every year. This year we celebrate 40 years of the life of the English Congregation. Forty years as a span of time is a very significant period. Forty years marked the nurture and formation of the Hebrew people, before they settled down in the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. Having been born on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1978 (Pentecost Sunday), we indeed have been dependent on the grace of God to form and mould us. Now however, we need to reflect more seriously on the importance of milk and honey in our lives. This milk and honey could be said to be the presence, power and peace of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Hence the importance of the theme – Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship.

As the concept note of the Arusha Conference puts it, the first part of the theme, with its reference to Galatians 5:25 – “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (KJV) – is profound in its very simplicity. As we discern together the signs of the times, it is evident that despite the chaos of human disunity in which we live and witness today, there are many signs of the Holy Spirit giving life and creating hope.

Moving in the Spirit brings the notion of pilgrimage, of an on-going journey of all believers, led and guided by the Holy Spirit. This is a pilgrimage that is characterised by constant hope for a transformed world of justice and peace and a commitment to renewal in Christ. This theme offers a prophetic message amidst the complexities of today’s world.

The second part of the theme calls us to transforming discipleship. We are called to be disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, to whom we witness and whom we proclaim as we move in the Spirit. How we understand the phrase “transforming discipleship” carries three profoundly different and yet closely related meanings. First, we are called to live a life that transforms the very notion of discipleship as it is often understood. Discipleship is not merely a sense of being in a loving, friendly relationship with Jesus, but also an active engagement in continuing Jesus’ mission in the world. Discipleship, therefore, is “missionary discipleship.” Second, such discipleship is one that is constantly transforming disciples as they open themselves up to Christ’s influence in their lives and to the formation that takes place in the Christian Community. Such discipleship shapes us into people who reflect the Lord Jesus in our actions, words, and attitudes. Third, such discipleship is one that is a commitment to transforming the world that is so full of injustice, pain, and suffering. It calls us to put a theology of the cross into practice. It calls us to spend our energy and even offer our lives for the transformation that the Kingdom promises.

What will it mean for us, as individuals and churches, to be transformed in the power of the Holy Spirit? What will it mean to join the Spirit in transforming and healing a broken world? These are the questions which we have to ponder and act upon. ■

*[Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad is presently the General Secretary of National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and is stationed at Nagpur along with his family. He was also the first Pastor of the English Congregation.]*

**REFLECTIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP**  
**“IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK IN THE SPIRIT” (GAL. 5:25)**



*- Rev. Dr. H. Vanlalruata  
Pastor, E.C.*

***We live by the Spirit.***

**H**uman nature, with which all of us are born, will not enter into the kingdom of God unless it is changed. This change is called being born again. And what this means is that the Spirit of God creates something new; He takes out of us the heart of stone that rebels against God, and He puts into us a new heart which trusts God and follows His ways. Or to put it another way, the Holy Spirit establishes Himself as the new ruling principle of our life. When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ into our life, we are a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17). Therefore, the life we have in Christ is owing wholly to the work of God's Spirit, and we have no ground for boasting at all. We live by the Spirit.

***We walk by the Spirit.***

“Walk by the Spirit” means do what you do each day by the Spirit; live your life in all its details from waking up in the morning until going to sleep at night by the enabling power of the Spirit. But what does that mean, practically speaking? How do we “walk by the Spirit”? Walking in the Spirit is what we do when the desires produced by the Spirit are stronger than the desires produced by the flesh. This means that “walking by the Spirit” is not something we do in order to get the Spirit's help, but rather, it is something we do by the enablement of the Spirit. It is something the Holy Spirit enables us to do by producing in us strong desires that are in accordance with God's will. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, and your mind. There are only two ways to walk: walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh: the choice is yours. You need to make the choice, the decision, the initiative, to empower God's will in your life.

***Produce spiritual fruit.***

Your life should be more than a flurry of activity. You were meant to produce spiritual fruit. Paul uses the imagery of fruit trees to illustrate this. What you want out of a fruit tree is fruit. In the Christian life, what we want is spiritual fruit. Spiritual fruit is different from spiritual gift. When you come to Christ, God gives you one or more gifts to use in the body of Christ. You are unique. God has gifted you in a special way. Not everybody has every gift. But the fruit of the Spirit should be manifested in every life.

When rightly applied, everything you do will have meaning and purpose. The spiritual fruit of love, joy, and peace will be characteristics that fill your inner being. Patience, kindness and goodness will characterize your relationship with others. These inward and outward characteristics are the result of God's Holy Spirit at work in you. A spiritual transformation that takes you from spiritual rags to abundant spiritual riches.

***Watch your step.***

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. We must order our lives by the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If you walk in step with somebody, you don't run ahead and you don't lag behind. God's purpose runs through history and we are called to keep in step.

There are plenty of illustrations of those who were out of step. One of them is Peter drawing his sword in Gethsemane. You can spend time praying that God will order your steps. When you are in step with God, you will accomplish more. Ask the Lord to order your steps. Walk in harmony with God's purpose and plan. This is faith.

We are to avoid conceit, pride, provoking and envying. We must stop these, to avoid getting off track. Nail your sinful nature to the cross and keep in step with the Spirit. Your life will be exciting. You will find God's blessings in your life. AMEN ■

**REFLECTIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP**  
**BECOMING DISCIPLES, TRANSFORMING THE WORLD**  
**(LUKE 4:16-21)**



- Jacob Rasaily

Christian discipleship is the process by which a believer grows in the Lord Jesus Christ and is equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the challenges and trials of this life. To experience transformation in our personal life as well as to build movements of transformation in the lives of others, we need to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings and be in the Word daily, studying it, praying over it, and obeying it.

Luke 4:16, mentions how Christ took the initiative to visit the synagogue and read the Scripture, from the book of Isaiah 61:1-2, which was an important part of the synagogue service. The primary focus of this passage is the commission in the Scripture, "To preach the gospel" (Luke 4:18). In this passage of Luke 4:16-21, we can note the following observations: **1. "Preach the gospel"** – when translated from Greek to English is evangelize. **2. The encouragement in the commission.** "He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted" (Luke 4:18). Sin is the great heartbreaker. But Christ is the great mender of broken hearts. **3. The steps in the commission.** "He hath sent me . . . to preach deliverance to the captives . . . to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18). Sin enslaves, but Christ frees from the burden and enslavement of sin. **4. The enlightenment in the commission.** "Recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18). Sin blinds man and puts him in the dark. But Christ enlightens people through redemption so the redeemed can see spiritual truths in the Scripture and have spiritual perspective in life. **5. The easement in the commission.** "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:19) – the year of release. Every 49 years was the year of jubilee when the Israelites were to free their slaves and cancel debts. Christ's ministry would be like that for the soul.

Let's see how we can become disciples, who can bring lasting transformation in the world:

**1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38).** The disciple of Christ needs to focus on our Lord to please Him in every area of our lives, putting off self-centeredness and putting on Christ-centeredness.

**2. Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31-32).** We must be doers of the Word. Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God (1 Samuel 28:18), and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death (Philippians 2:6-8).

**3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8).** Our focus is not just producing fruit but to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit, and this fruit is the result of our obedience.

**4. Love for other disciples (John 13:34-35).** Love for other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family (1 John 3:10). Love is defined and elaborated on in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, showing us that love is not an emotion; it is action. We are to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests (Philippians 2:3-4). Jesus is our perfect example.

**5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20).** We are to share our faith and tell non-believers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. Often, we believe Satan's lie that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference. Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God. They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the 'accepted' way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share.

So, keeping these observations from the text of Luke 4:16-21, let us continue to persevere to become disciples who would experience lasting transformation in our own lives and who would eventually impact the lives of others as well and create the movement of Christ-honoring discipleship in our lives and the ministry. ■

*[Mr. Jacob is a missionary with India Campus Crusade for Christ (ICCC), and is pioneering CCC ministry in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, along with his family, after two years of studies in the International Graduate School of Leadership, in Manila, Philippines.]*

## REFLECTIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP

### GENDER AND GENERATIONAL INTEGRATION IN CHURCH



God created a family in the Garden of Eden, not two separate individuals. He made them male and female and called them Adam, not the first male. The husband-wife - *Sam N. Jacob* combo were of the same mind, same heart and they worked together for the same goal although they were created with different characteristics. The man was given the leadership position and the woman was given a complementary role. But the cunning Serpent brought in a wedge between the two and as a result both became losers. Man was consigned to hard labour and woman to servitude. The woman was told that the husband “shall rule over you.” Till then the husband and wife were companions and together they had dominion over the animals, birds and fishes. As a punishment after their fall, the woman was also brought under the dominion of the man. He immediately used that chance to give a name to his wife [Gen. 3:20] just as he had done to the animals before, and assumed the name ‘Adam’ to himself.

Thus the disintegration of family began with the entry of sin. Changes came in rapidly. When we see Cain and Abel worshipping God, they are on their own. They may have been verbally instructed about worship or sacrifice. Otherwise Abel would not have understood the form of worship that was pleasing to God. But they do not seem to have been worshipping together as a family.

As time went on, the firstborn son became the family priest. When the nation of Israel came into being, only males of thirty years and above, that too of a particular tribe, were allowed to be priests. Neither children nor women had any right to direct entry into the temple. That is the history we see till the coming of Christ.

Christ came to transform individuals, families, nations and the life on earth itself. During His earthly life, Christ raised the dignity of women and children. He had many women disciples. In the temple when children praised the Lord singing Hosanna, He appreciated and applauded them. And the religious leaders who objected were rebuked sharply by the Lord.

The formation of the Church marked a radical change from Jewish practices. This was not done by any consensus brought by the deliberations of the early church. The Holy Spirit presided over the formation of the church and continued to direct its functions. He led the early church to institutionalize Christ’s revolutionary changes and practices. Under the direction of the same Spirit, Paul declared that “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law” [Gal. 3:13]. So with the death and resurrection of Christ, the curse of Eden was annulled. The pre-fall relationship with God and between humans was restored. In the church man’s position as leader is maintained as in Eden. But he no more has dominion over the woman. Even in the leadership positions, women are placed as deacons or administrative assistants in the church. So once again they work together in the church as companions, not the rulers and the ruled. Moreover, the New Testament clearly states that all born again people, man, woman or child, are equally priests before God with Christ being the only High Priest. All the priests have been given the right to boldly enter into the ‘Holy of Holies’ to publicly worship God.

I suppose all the twelve Apostles chosen by Christ were younger than Him. That makes them under thirty and ineligible according to the Mosaic Law. Whatever be their age, it is clear that they were teachable young men and not people already set in their ideas and ways. Traditionally, Peter is pictured as an old man. But there is no biblical basis for that. John definitely was young.

Apostle Paul had taken young people like Mark, Timothy and Titus in his missionary team. Timothy was instructed to teach the whole church and also to bring order in the church at Corinth. Later he was instructed to train others who would in turn teach other people. There definitely was a chain of the teacher and the taught. But the criterion was not the age of the people concerned. This is clear from Paul’s instructions to Titus about treating men and women of different age groups. What was of primary importance was the spiritual gift and the calling.

The church is thus an integrated whole. There is no difference of man or woman and adult or child in it, as far as worship is concerned. All that matters is whether one is a disciple of Christ. Differences in gifts and responsibilities exist. This is for maintaining proper order and discipline in the church. Everything is to be done decently and in order [1 Cor. 14:40] under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. ■

*(Mr. Sam is a former E.C. Committee member. After entering Christian ministry, he is serving the Lord in various capacities, and currently resides in Bengaluru along with his wife.)*

REFLECTIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP  
**THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP: EMBRACING THE CROSS**  
**(MARK 8:34)**



- Hepuni Kayina

To be honest, there is a general antipathy even among avowed Christians to easily talk about the cost of discipleship. This is largely because the idea of discipleship immediately brings to mind the cost that it will extract and that one will have to endure, and who knows how dear it will be and the fear whether the cost will be too dear to warrant following even? The cost involves pain, rejection, disdain, suffering, self-denial, being labeled anti-social and a bigot. And possibly more. So, why are Christians called to pay such a steep and seemingly impossible price to follow Christ? What is the rationale behind such extreme self-mortification?

The questions appear legitimate if they are viewed from the perspective of earthly economics (the material welfare of humankind). Why give up the pleasures that this life offers? What is wrong in enjoying success and a full earthly life? The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:32 quotes Isaiah 22:13 when he affirms the same philosophy – ‘*Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die*’, that is, if there is no resurrection.

*“If there is no resurrection”.*

Without the fact of a resurrection, Jesus Christ would just be another great ascetic and we would be the most pitiable of all men to give up the world for the sake of being devoted to Him. Losers here and losers again in the hereafter because there is no hereafter deal in following a mere ascetic. What makes the entire difference in following Jesus Christ despite the self-denying cost is the reality of a resurrection! A resurrection to a life which “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him*”, – for eternity! The stakes cannot get any higher than this promise of resurrection, “*...knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you*” [2 Corinthians 4:14]. The cost of discipleship then is about giving up things that do not equip us for eternity, things that would rob us from partaking in the resurrection; an event, the likes of which the world has never seen and ever will see for a period that never ends!

However, paying the cost of discipleship is not merely about making a position statement just for the sake of being set apart, as merely to be seen as being opposed to the world just because the Christian world is diametrically different from the natural world. There is another good reason we are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus. This is enunciated in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18,

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

The truth is that when we stay faithful and remain adamantly obedient to Christ in the face of persecution or oppression, we die to this life but concurrently our inner self is being vitalized! What is this inner life? It is the image of Christ birthing in us as we imbibe and stick to

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His standards of life. Discipleship is the process that dismantles the old man and fabricates the new creation in Christ. Furthermore, adopting the ways of Christ through discipleship retrains us to become sensate and familiar to the life of the eternal image. Why is retraining necessary?

Remember how man was originally made (Genesis 1:26)? In God's image. This image got corrupted and misshapen by sin and we completely lost our divine DNA. Jesus was born in the image of man, who is the image of God, and in His entire human life He did not allow sin to ravage Him as it did us. He therefore is the first man to live His life to the end in a sinless state, as Adam and Eve and all their descendants should have. He is the first Man to fulfill the creation purpose of the Creator. Without the presence of sin we could also have chosen to be sinless like Jesus, but being born in sin, it is impossible for a sinner to be sinless except to be resigned to the inevitable condemnation of death. But because God loves His creation, He had a plan to still have His creation purpose in spite of sin. When we believe in Jesus, we get elected for eternal life, but in Christ and as we imitate Him, God recreates the image of the triune God of Genesis 1:26 for eternal habitation in paradise (Garden of Eden)!

I have been a witness to this amazing metamorphosis as believers take the path of discipleship when they make hard choices, losing earthly rewards yet attaining eternal and deeper perspectives and personality! I am reminded of two very recent instances involving two people I know very closely. One is a new convert who after coming to know the Lord decided to give up liberal ways of living even at the risk of losing his non-believing girlfriend whom he really loved and who questioned his love for her because he refused to live-in with her as they used to. Yet after suffering an intense and stressful period of a tumultuous relationship because of his convictions from which he refused to budge, he earned new respect from his girlfriend and in fact brought her around to seriously consider the tenets of Christianity. Today she is persuaded that true happiness is offered only by Christ! The other one is our own daughter who is pursuing her MBA degree in our university. She is going to be the only one in her class who has decided to graduate one semester later than her classmates. Not because she cannot, but because she would rather not do things that are unbecoming of a disciple of the Lord. It costs to be a disciple, but it is not a loss at all. Honoring the Master is never in vain. This very decision reveals the character of the Master conforming her to Him.

This is what discipleship accomplishes for us. Seen from this perspective, discipleship does not deprive but provides for us the image of Christ. Yes it weeds away the dross that would make us carnal, but it spruces up our rightful image after the DNA of the Eternal One! So from an eternal perspective, discipleship is no cost to us at all, in fact it wins for us a windfall!

And we embrace the cross because it enshrines all that is good and true and beautiful and eternal! We embrace it because it monumentalizes the highest ideals and values of life, and by doing so we allow the dynamics of sanctification to take place. And we shall not regret having done so, because we shall *"...be satisfied when we awake in His likeness"* [Psalm 17:15]. ■

*(Mr. Hepuni held the post of Joint Secretary in the E.C. Committee and has contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of E.C. He along with his wife and daughter are now with ELIC in China and are supported by the E.C. with prayer and finance.)*

**Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.**  
**- Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

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## Music Page

### PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS



- Silme Ch. Momin



1. I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.
4. My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.
5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
No turning back, no turning back.



**Written and Composed by:** This song is one of the loved songs by Christians today around the world. It became popular in the 1950s and still continues to be one of the most popular songs till date. It was written by an A.chik (Garo) man named Simon Kama Marak. Simon K. Marak was born in 1877 in Baroigaon village which is situated in the Kamrup area of Assam. He was a School teacher, Missionary and Pastor.



**The year of writing the song:** Simon was a very meek and patient person. He loved to sing as well as preach. The exact date of writing this song is not known. His daughter Onima K. Marak said that she heard her father singing this song since her childhood. Simon must have written this song between 1935 to 1945 while he was beginning to serve as Assistant Pastor. The song was printed in the Assamese hymnal in the 1960s, 1972 and 1978. He was one of the resource persons in Assam Baptist Convention Standing Committee in the year 1944.

**Reason behind the Song:** The reason behind the song is not clear. His daughter Mrs. Onima narrates that her father wrote this song to be sung during Gospel preaching when he was going to preach from place to place. He must have written this song remembering his early days as a believer, when he had faced many struggles and tragedies and how God had remained faithful throughout. Therefore he must have written this song with tear-filled eyes, remembering how God had saved him from persecution and hurdles, when he lost his first wife and his child. This particular verse in Romans 8:35 had touched him and it states "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"

**Translation to A.chik language:** The Christian Sadhu Magdola Garhwall, knowing very well that the song was written by a Garo man, started to sing it in Hindi and taught the A.chik people in different places like Tura, Damra and Resu during 1951. Thus the song became popular and it is assumed that one of the listeners translated it into Garo language.

**His last days:** He stayed in Jorhat from 1937. During his last days, he used to sing this song every morning. He went to be with the Lord on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1975. Though he is not with us today, his song is still alive with us.

Below is the chorus in Garo and Assamese:

### Garó

Jisu ni jaman anga jarikgen x 3 repiljawa repiljawa  
Asako wate chisolko de.e x 3 repiljawa repiljawa  
Darang watoba anga jarikgen x 3 repiljawa repiljawa



### Assamese

Jisure pasoot jaboloi lolu x 3 ghuri na jao ghuri na jao  
Honghar khon tyagi kruse kath tuli x 3 tewnor pass lolu  
Jodiu kunu mur logot nahea x 3 ghuri na jao ghuri na jao  
Teok akhoi nokori moi solile x 3 kiritipam kiritipam



**References:** Assam American Baptist Missionary, Report 1910; Assam American Baptist Missionary, Report 1913; A.chikni Ripeng (Friends of Garos) magazine issues of 1923, 1924, 1941 & 1951; Interview with Mrs. Onima K. Marak, Simon's Daughter, Neparpaty, Karbi Anglong, dated November 2017; ABDK Souvenir 2018. ■

*[Ms. Silme is a Committee member of E.C. and a Staff of Union of Evangelical Students of India (UESI), working among post matric students.]*

## Women's Fellowship Annual Retreat



## PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF A MISSIONARY SOCIETY



- Amenla Imsong

The word disciple in Greek is “mathetes” which means a “follower”. It also implies “one who learns” from a teacher. Therefore, a disciple is one who follows Jesus and learns from Him. Discipleship involves “the way” in which the disciples “follow” the master. In the New Testament, the term disciples referred to the “twelve” but it goes on to include all who believed in Him. Jesus called the disciples in order that after His death, resurrection and ascension, they would carry on His mission. The main task for Jesus in training the disciples was to initiate them into the nature of His Messiahship and mission. Jesus also taught them that suffering and death were a part and parcel of His mission.

Jesus’ ministry of calling, training and sending out disciples stands as a captivating historical phenomenon. In Jesus’ lifetime the call to be a disciple meant to count the cost of allegiance to Jesus; but this took various forms. The twelve were called to leave all – including family, profession and property – and follow Jesus in His itinerant ministry. The way in which Jesus, the Master led His disciples was not an easy one because it was the way of suffering and the cross. That is why all the Gospels, either explicitly or implicitly, talk about the cost of discipleship.

Discipleship and mission are considered to be two sides of the same coin. They are deeply interwoven with each other. As disciples of Jesus, we are sent to live, as our mission. As Christ was sent to us, we have been sent to the world around us. Today there are many mission agencies which aim at promoting the Gospel by educating the people and sending them out to win more souls. One such missionary society in India is Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB). It is a missionary movement of Indian Christians who want to personally share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with fellow Indians, particularly with those who have not had the opportunity to hear it even once. FMPB seeks to serve the church by calling young people to commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and His mission, by training them to teach and reach people groups. Over the years, FMPB has been successfully training many young people and sending them out into various mission fields and they are now actively participating in the mission of the church.

Not only is FMPB involved in training young people for mission, but is also involved in social activities like child care and vocational training. Many children’s homes and hostels are established all over India. These children are given education in the nearby schools and the expenses are met by the mission. FMPB works to provide a better future for the underprivileged children.

Many young people from other faiths have given up their faith practice and have accepted Christ as their personal Savior through the many life transforming camps organised by the FMPB and many have given their lives to be in His ministry. The seeds that this mission agency had sown many years back in different parts of India can be seen sprouting now. Those children who have been educated by the missionaries are now serving in different parts of India as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, influencing many from other faith communities into the Christian fold. FMPB has proved to be a great missionary society with a great vision in India. It has proved its worth by training disciples of Christ. The main goal of training and sending out disciples as co-workers in His ministry has been achieved.

We all have a task to perform, a vision to be fulfilled as believers. We can also be disciples of Jesus through small acts that can be performed by us. It may not require us to go out to other parts of the world, but through our little contributions and prayers, we can be a part of mission. ■

*[Miss Amenla was an active member of E.C. and is currently doing her doctoral study in United Theological College (UTC), Bengaluru.]*

**PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP**  
**WOMEN DISCIPLESHIP: GOING BEYOND TITUS 2:3-5**  
*We influence future generations by living for Christ today*



**W**hat is discipleship from the Christian aspect? Discipleship believes in what Jesus did on the Cross, following His doctrines and having faith in Him. The main function of a Christian disciple is to spread the message of love revealed in Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sin, and the free gift of Salvation/Soteria. When a person knows and has experienced the Grace of the 3 'R's, Redeem, Reform, and Reward, that person is ready to share the "Good News" to all, and this act is Kerygma/Proclamation. It does not matter whether that person is male/female.

Coming to the topic, the role of women in a family is very demanding. And so Paul instructs the elderly women to guide the young women to love all the members in the family, for which she herself should be a role model.

In the New Testament we come across many women disciples who were with Jesus (Matt.27:55-56; Luke 8:2-3). They were disciples from the cradle to the cross, from the cross to the tomb, from the tomb to the empty tomb, and carried the good news to the other disciples of Jesus. Mary mother of John Mark opened her house to the disciples when they were in Jerusalem. They prayed, interacted, and shared food together, which paved the way for the Gospel of Mark. The faith of Lois and Eunice, the grandmother and mother of Timothy, enabled him to be a true disciple, and he was commended by the brethren and called "my dear son" by Paul. Jewish society was male dominated and women were considered subordinates to men. In spite of this, a lot of women were able to be good disciples and role models.

Nowadays women have the freedom to move freely, and women disciples can move from house to house, not for gossip, but to interact with the people there in a friendly manner, gain their confidence, and bring them the "Good News" and advice them according to their need.

The women can be encouraged to meet in a common place for Bible study and pray for common causes. Thus they can be filled with the Spirit and be strong in faith. Young parents should be advised to follow few things:

- Make the children read the Bible daily and meditate upon it [use good devotional books] and pray as a family.
- Have dinner together and share the events of that day.
- Make them wash their plates and cups and let them learn the "dignity of labour".
- No harm in giving smart phone/mobile to the adolescents, provided proper guide lines and supervision are in place.
- Know about their friends [both sexes], teach the limit of friendship and explain the consequences when they cross the limit.
- Life is given by God. It is precious, so we have no right to end it at any cost [explain]
- Time is valuable, teach them to do their duties on time. Attend church service on time – 5 minutes earlier but not 5 seconds late, because we go to church to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords. I learnt this from my mother.
- Help the poor and the needy. Celebrate birthdays with the children in an orphanage and in old age homes, instead of throwing grand parties for your friends who will in turn reciprocate.

[Read Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 22:6 and explain.]

Be a **Lydia** – let your homes be open and hands be generous. Joy is greatest when sharing.

Be a **Dorcas** – use your talents however small it may seem to bring a smile on someone's face.

Be a **Hannah** – never cease to pray, it will never be in vain.

Be a **Rebekah** – never forget that true beauty lies within. Draw your man closer to God through your character.

Be an **Esther** – courageous and bold enough to stand for the truth, voice your opinion and fight for the good of others.

Be wise like **Abigail** – remember how each decision can turn your life around for good or bad.

***Words have great power – power to help, to heal, and to hurt, so use this power carefully.***

***One achieves things not just through service, but through extraordinary service.***

***"There is a cost involved with discipleship in moving from the crowd to the committed"***

**(Luke 14:25-15:2). ■**

[Mrs. Daisy is a Homemaker, involved in Theological Extension Study Programme (TESPRO) – Theology for the Laity. She is a former active member of E.C. and currently resides in Allahabad, along with her husband.]

## PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP

### “DISCIPLING” CHILDREN

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

*Proverbs 22:6*



- Anne Nduku

A disciple is a pupil. It refers to a person who accepts the teaching of Christ not only in belief but in life. Jesus' ministry on earth was focused on making disciples. He spent time with people of all ages including children, teaching, mentoring and modelling Christian life. In Matthew 19:13-14, when people brought children to Jesus, the disciples reprimanded them. They thought they were troublesome, a distraction, an intrusion and perhaps beneath Christ's dignity. Seeing the disciple's spiritual dullness and hardness, Jesus instructed them not to hinder the little children from coming to Him. He loved children and knew that it was not time wasted but time invested in their lives. In the passage, He states that the kingdom of heaven belongs to such i.e., it encompasses and is characterized by children. We need Jesus' perspective in order to make discipling children a priority.

In Matthew 18:2-5 Jesus illustrated humility through a child. He encouraged His disciples to humble themselves like little children so that they would enter the kingdom of heaven. Children have a natural desire to come to Jesus and learn about Him. They are quick learners, simple at heart and receptive to God's Word. The most important values are learnt during childhood, hence it is the time to lay a spiritual foundation in their lives and establish them in God's Word. In addition, discipling children raises a generation of God-fearing youth and adults who in turn disciple others, and make an impact in the society. If we fail to play our part, the world will alienate them from Christ by influencing their thought patterns, moral values and lifestyle. Therefore, believers need to be actively involved in discipling young ones and seek opportunities to be involved in their lives.

Discipleship is a process: It not only involves leading a child to Christ, but also mentoring them to spiritual maturity. Hence, it requires commitment, consistency and patience.

It is relational: In order to speak into a child's life, it is important to develop a close relationship. This way we create a safe environment where they can interact, ask questions and share their struggles.

It involves prayer: God is at work in the process of discipleship and transforming lives. As Christ prayed for His disciples, it is vital to constantly pray for a child's spiritual progress, protection and any other challenges they may face.

As mentioned earlier, a disciple accepts the teaching of Christ in life. In other words, God's Word is not only head knowledge but principles to live by. In order to raise children who are rooted in Christ, we need to teach them biblical doctrine right from a young age and impart an understanding of God's Word. We should wisely lead them to recognise sin and the need for the Gospel. They need to understand Christ's death and resurrection and be led to accept Christ's lordship over their lives. They need to be encouraged to cultivate a living relationship with God through prayer, meditating on His Word and seeking His wisdom for their lives. In addition, we should encourage them to practice God's Word by allowing it to shape their character and actions. Most importantly, we need to set the standard as children are good imitators and will keenly observe our lives.

When children are nurtured spiritually from a young age, they tend to overflow with Christ's love. It becomes natural for them to minister to others through their words and actions. Discipling children and imparting Christian values to them also leads them to progress and prosper in other aspects such as intellectually, morally, emotionally, socially etc.

We have been blessed to be a blessing and it is God's desire that many generations may be blessed through us.

Psalm 112:2 – Their children will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – And the words I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise. ■

*(Mrs. Anne is a former member of E.C., currently residing in Bengaluru along with her family. She is a Homemaker and is involved in Christian ministry as well.)*

**Sunday School Page**



- Gideon Lalmuanawma

*A boy with  
two fishes  
and five  
loaves —*

*Gideon  
8 yrs.*

*(Master Gideon studies in Class II in English Congregation School and is the son of former E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima.)*

**A DISCIPLE IS...**



- Abigail Lalawmpuii

**D**ISCIPLINED WITH GOD

**I**NTELLIGENT

**S**PIRIT-FILLED

**C**ONCERNED FOR OTHERS

**I**NVESTING HIS TIME FOR GOD

**P**RAYERFUL IN ALL THINGS

**L**EADING OTHERS TO CHRIST

**E**NJOYING GOD ALWAYS

*(Miss Abigail studies in Class VII in St. Joseph's Convent Senior Secondary School, Nagpur, and is the daughter of former E.C. member, Mr. Abel Gaikwad.)*

## Youth Page

### TRANSFORMED SOCIETY: I HAVE A DREAM!



- Isak L. Tochwawng

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, August 28 1963.

This excerpt is from Pastor Martin Luther King’s speech “I have a dream” which was a call for peace, equality and hope for a brighter future. Here he has appropriated it from the book of *Isaiah 40:4-5*.

Today I too have a dream for my society, but not limiting to equality or civil rights. It goes much deeper into the root of the decay of the moral standards of our generation, an evident lack of spiritual nourishment.

I dream of a society where the Holy Spirit is free to intervene and guides us as needed. Where we lay down our own agendas and plans, for His, constantly.

I dream of a society led by the Spirit and not emotions. Though emotions are God-given, it is a good servant but a poor master.

I dream of a society that doesn’t go to church, because it is the church, and where people stop helping the church, because they are being the church.

I dream of seeing the deep underlying thirst this generation seeks, fully quenched by an active relationship with Christ and a Spirit-filled church.

I dream of a society that so looks forward to the next world that it needs very little from this world. Because:-

- The less we need from this world, the more we can do for it.
- The less we need from this world, the more we can withstand pain in it.
- The less we need from this world, the more we can enjoy it.

It is written, we are not to expect to live trial free lives on earth (*1 Peter 4:12*). But when we live with the Holy Spirit and an eternal focus, we can live this life in abundance and joy.

I pray that we all shall be constantly led by the Holy Spirit to worship Christ in whatever our present circumstances to the fulfillment of *Colossians 3:1-5*: <sup>1</sup>If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ■

*(Mr. Isak was born in Nepal to Mizo missionary parents and is in full time ministry since 2006. He is an Associate member of E.C.)*

**Only Jesus Christ can transform a sin-stained society into a masterpiece of His grace.**

# Carol Service

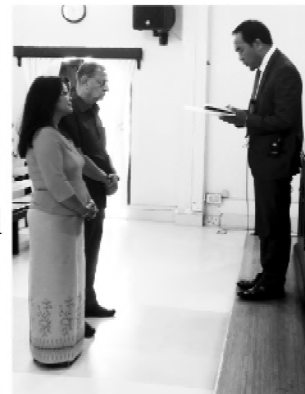


3-12-2017



....Farewell to our member-  
Mr. Jeremiya Narzary  
on  
1-4-2018

Welcoming of new members  
Lt. Gen. John Ranjan Mukherjee and  
Mrs. Linda Zopuii Mukherjee  
on  
18-3-2018







# Easter Service



1-4-2018



# Cottage Meetings



On  
14-4-2018  
at  
the residence  
of  
Ms. Lalremruati  
Khiangte



On 5-5-2018  
at  
the residence (office) of Mr. Asosii Loli

## E.C. HAPPENINGS

**I. SPECIAL SERVICES:** The following were the special services held over the past few months :

- a) **Advance Christmas Carol Service cum Sunday School Final Day Programme (3.12.17)** – Apart from Christmas carols, the highlight of the service was when members presented special numbers in different languages, representing the various states of India or country that they hailed from. It was very enjoyable. Pastor Vanlalruata gave the message. The Sunday School (S.S.) department distributed prizes for attendance, singing & memory verse competitions. The S.S. annual report was presented by Mr. Moab Badding. Christmas gifts were distributed to children of the Congregation who were below 12 years, as per our practice. After service refreshments were served.
- b) **Maundy Thursday Service (29.3.18)** – The service was chaired by former E.C. Pastor, Rev. Vanlalrova Khiangte who also brought God's Word to the Congregation. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Zauvi.
- c) **Good Friday Service (30.3.18)** – The Holy Communion service was chaired by E.C. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Vanlalruata who also gave the Good Friday sermon.
- d) **Easter Sunday Service (1.4.18)** – Once again Pastor Vanlalruata chaired the Holy Communion service and preached the Word of God to the Congregation. There were special numbers from different groups. The service was followed by a fellowship meal.

**II. BLESSINGS:**

- a) **BABY THADDEUS**, baby son of Mrs. Vanlalhruaii & Mr. Philip Walters, was born on 13.12.17. The Congregation along with the Walters is grateful to God for this precious gift.
- a) **DR. ANNA SKARIAH (d/o Dr. Mrs. Grace & Dr. P.C. Skariah)**, completed her MBBS course from Christian Medical College (CMC) Ludhiana. She is presently working in Ankola, Karnataka.

**III. BOARD EXAM RESULTS:**

The Congregation is once again thankful to God for His wonderful answer to our prayers. Hearty congratulations to –

**MASTER SAMSON BADDING – Class X** – who passed with **Distinction and Letter in 3 subjects.**

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**IV. NEW MEMBERS:**

The following persons were welcomed as members of the E.C.:

- a) **Ms. LALREMRUATI KHIANGTE** as Associate member on 4.3.18.
- b) **Lt. General JOHN RANJAN MUKHERJEE & Mrs. LINDA ZOPUI MUKHERJEE** as Full members on 18.3.18.

**V. FAREWELL:**

The Congregation bid farewell to **Mr. Jeremiya Narzary** on 1.4.18 and as per E.C. practice, he was presented with a Bible as farewell gift, by the Pastor. He thanked the Congregation in his brief farewell speech, and has since returned to his hometown in Assam.

**VI. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (W.F.) ANNUAL RETREAT (30.4.18)** – The Annual Retreat was held at the residence of Dr. Mrs. Grace Skariah from 10 am to 3:30 pm. The resource persons were **Mrs. Lalnunzawmi (Manuni)**, w/o our former Pastor, Rev. Dr. K. Lalrinkima) and **Ms. Lalremruati (Maremi)**, YWAM Missionary). The ladies were thoroughly blessed all round, with solid spiritual nourishment from the Word of God by the resource persons, tasty physical nourishment provided by different ladies and a lot of laughter through games etc. The W.F. is thankful to all those who helped, and above all to God for helping us to have this annual retreat this year as well.

**VII. THE CONGREGATION was happy to see Miss MANISA KAYINA** (d/o Dr. Mrs. Zawmi & Mr. Hepuni Kayina) when she joined us for Worship on 29.4.18 and 6.5.18. She enriched the services with her special numbers on both Sundays. She was in Aizawl for a short stay.

**BIBLE STUDY IN PROGRESS...****LEADER : ISAK L. TOCHHAWNG**

# BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Version: NKJV



Jaison Joshy

S	P	I	R	I	T	R	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E
T	W	H	O	F	D	S	R	Q	G	Q	R	M	Q	F
R	R	G	O	G	T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	L	M
E	T	F	T	H	E	J	G	H	L	W	P	N	J	N
N	Y	D	F	K	S	A	B	B	A	T	H	B	W	B
G	P	S	D	L	T	H	H	G	M	H	S	Q	E	P
T	S	P	Q	T	S	P	H	M	E	N	F	C	A	C
H	D	Y	W	R	C	G	J	K	Q	F	D	Z	K	V
E	N	D	S	W	V	B	A	P	T	I	Z	I	N	G
N	F	T	D	Q	B	F	K	M	R	S	F	F	E	S
E	G	R	C	X	N	D	L	N	I	F	G	S	S	D
D	H	W	V	S	T	V	W	H	E	G	H	D	S	G
V	J	Q	X	V	Z	G	U	I	D	E	S	L	E	H
X	K	L	B	Z	S	H	T	G	C	H	J	K	S	K
Z	L	M	H	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	R	S	J	L

Fill in the blanks with the missing words from Bible verses given below and find those words from the table above:

1. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His \_\_\_\_\_. [1 John 4:13]
2. that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be \_\_\_\_\_ with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being \_\_\_\_\_ and grounded in love... [Ephesians 3:16-17]
3. The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver \_\_\_\_\_ in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. [Psalm 12:6]
4. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our \_\_\_\_\_. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. [Romans 8:26]
5. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will \_\_\_\_\_ you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. [John 16:13]
6. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but \_\_\_\_\_ the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. [1 John 4:1]
7. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of \_\_\_\_\_." Then they immediately left their nets and followed Him. [Matthew 4:19-20]
8. At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the \_\_\_\_\_. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. [Matthew 12:1]
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. [Matthew 10:24]
10. Therefore be \_\_\_\_\_ of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. [Ephesians 5:1-2]
11. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_ them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the age." Amen. [Matthew 28:19-20]

(Mr. Jaison has been part of E.C. for a long time and after completing M.Tech in Computer Science, he is now working as Guest Lecturer in Mizoram University.)

## ATTENTION!

The English Congregation meets every Sunday for Worship at 10 a.m. in the English Congregation Church building, within the Synod Office compound, at Mission Veng.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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