

MANIPUR THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

KANGPOKPI MISSION COMPOUND- 795129

Editorial team:

Mr. Thangpu Haokip & Mr. Kelly Monsang



PRINCIPAL

Greetings
from Principal's desk

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours" (Luke 2:14)

The Christmas narrative resounds with the expectation of peace. The heavenly choir that sang at Jesus' birth declared, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (Luke 2:14). As we come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon our land. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength.



College Picnic

The essence of the Christmas story is revealed in Mary's experience with the angel Gabriel when she was told that she would 'with child'. Mary questioned, 'How will this be?' Then she was told about the power of the Holy Spirit and that "For with God nothing is impossible". (Luke 1:37) It's a message of tremendous hope as we celebrate this Christmas amidst war and turmoil in our land, personal challenges with relationships, illness and finances, greed, pride, anxiety, anger, envy and lust, all of which God can change with the same power which Mary experienced, and which caused Jesus to rise from the dead. That's the real message of Christmas from Jesus,



Cultural Day

the Saviour of all mankind.

Christmas is the sublime commission that has been given to each of us: "to take Christ's peace into our hearts and our homes, so that it will radiate from there to every part of the world." Christmas, then, is about peace and giving and love—God's love for us and our love for Him and for each other.

On behalf of the Manipur Theological College faculty, staff and students, wishing every one of you a season full of light and laughter. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity! May all that is beautiful, meaningful and joy be yours this season and throughout the coming year!

Merry Christmas!

Blessing and Peace

Rev. Dr. Kennedy Poumai

Editorial

It's December again – a season of festivities and celebration. It's time to set up the Christmas tree and put up the lights. It's time to be grateful for God's marvelous gift of his Son and rejoice in the gift of salvation that has brought to the world. It's also time to revel in the music and singing and the dancing, and not forgetting the feasting.

Alas! This year, for many in our place, it has become a time like no other when the Christmas bell may not ring, where there won't be the usual merry-making and rejoicing. The months-long conflict is yet to see the light of day anytime soon. But it is not only those affected by the ethnic conflict for whom Christmas season is going to be gloomy. There are many who have lost loved ones, many more who are going through life's struggles and carrying hurts in their hearts, albeit unknown to others. For them too, the season will be no different from others.

"Peace" was the tidings brought about by the angels to the shepherds out in the fields on that dark, silent night near Bethlehem. The One to come was also described as the "Prince of Peace" by the ancient prophet Isaiah. Indeed, peace is what the world needs right now. Peace is what our land needs more than anything else. And peace is what the broken-hearted could do with more than the dazzling music and hearty feasts.

What, then, is peace? And how may one find it?

Let the One – the Prince of Peace himself – tell us! As recorded by the beloved John, the Prince says thus: "Peace I leave with you... I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27 NIV). Remarkably, there are at least two kinds of peace – peace according to the world and peace which Jesus alone can give. On another occasion, Jesus spoke oddly about peace: "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division" (Luke 15:21 NIV). Strangely enough, but surely, these two verses suggest that peace can be a much misunderstood concept.

The philosopher Baruch Spinoza said of peace as: "Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice." And thus, to those who won't be indulging in the season's festivities – of Christmas carols, dance and feasts – owing to the present conflict, to those whose memories are still afresh with the pain of missing a loved one, or to the rest of us who carry unspoken hurt inside, may we be reminded that even in the midst of the turmoil and heartache, we can still find peace; the kind of peace which the Prince himself can give us, not the peace as defined by the world, but the kind of peace that passes all human understanding – the heavenly peace. We may find it by finding the Prince; we may have it if we have him in our hearts irrespective of our circumstances.

Peace be with you!

Thangpu Haokip
Editor

COLLEGE EVENTS (June-December)

The College reopened for a new session on 14th June, 2023. Like many in the region, both students and staffs alike were directly or indirectly affected by the ongoing situation in Manipur. Few of our faculty members had to



Kitido martial arts display



Inauguration of volley ball court



Traditional buffet



Relief camp

relocate their residences and numbers of students were compelled to either discontinue their studies or transfer to other seminaries and colleges. However, despite the challenges still around us, the year kicked off with another promising academic session with mixture of emotions and expectations. The following have been the few notable events which took place during the period of June-December 2023.

COLLEGE RETREAT: The college retreat day was held on 16th June, 2023 as a preparation for the new academic session, and as a day to acknowledge our reliance on God's grace for the plans ahead. The speaker for the day was Rev. Dr. Hutten Wilson, Executive Secretary, ANBA who encouraged the students as well as the staff from the Word of God.

FRESHER'S MEET: On 24th June, 2023, a day of welcoming new faces to the campus was held. Newly admitted students to the Bachelor of Divinity (Orientation and First Year) and Master of Theology programs were accorded a befitting welcome into the community which was marked by numerous singing, choreography and other exciting activities.

LITERARY MEET: The annual Literary Meet was organised on 18th August, 2023 under the theme "Knowledge Liberates: Celebrating our Freedom". The occasion was celebrated across two sessions with various competitions such as extempore speech, public speaking, quiz, debate, quartet, dumb charade, stand-up comedy, drama and others.

MUSICAL NIGHT: For the first time in its history, MTC witnessed a much anticipated "Musical Night" on the eve of 28th August, 2023 with much enthusiasm and pulsating displays of musical talent from various individuals and groups. The evening was marked with a coveted Musical Talent Hunt, where only the best of the bests artiste among the community contested for the prestigious award.

COLLEGE PICNIC: MTC community including students, staffs and families went to Jamning Valley Resort, Katomei, Senapati District for an annual picnic day on November 4, 2023. It was truly an unforgettable experience for everyone young and old. The wide stretch of the valley along with the greenery all



around provided everyone with a refreshing respite from academic stress and hectic schedule. The community made most of the day by engaging in various fun games and activities summed up by a feast at the end of the day.

CULTURAL DAY: Manipur Theological College celebrated a vibrant Cultural Day on the 10th of November 2023 under the theme "Harmony". In line with the said theme, all cultural activities and presentations were based on the idea of the importance of harmony in the fusion of cultures and various tribal groups. The day was graced by the presence of Dr. Alyson Abonmai, popularly known as Gospel Cowboy as the Chief Guest, who also inaugurated the college's volleyball court

named Alyson's Court after him. The community was also blessed to have Mrs. H. Seveine, Mrs. Muishim Maring and Mrs. Neijathem Lunkim as the Guests of Honour during the evening session. It may be mentioned that, at the moment MTC is bestowed with a truly diverse community of more than fifteen tribes/cultural communities from different parts of North East India. At least ten of the tribes prepared their traditional cuisines which were enjoyed by guests and community members as part of the Traditional Buffet organized on the day.

STUDENTS' PRACTICAL MINISTERIAL TOUR:

Recognizing the importance of experiential learning in theological training, the students of MTC undertook what is called Practical Ministerial Tour to various churches and relief centres in and around Kangpokpi district during the third and fourth weekends of November, 2023. Students were assigned into several groups, each under the supervision of a faculty member, and sent out to take the message of the Word of God to different places. Notable mention during this tour would include visits to several relief camps and the distribution of relief materials to the people at these camps who have been displaced from their villages as a result of the ongoing ethnic conflict in the state.



GAMES AND SPORTS: The 70th MTC Annual Sports Meet was held from 6 - 9 December, 2023 under the theme "Bridge 'Em All". The opening day of the Sports Meet saw the presence of Rev. Lamkeng Lhouvum, Mission Secretary, KBC as the Chief Guest and Dr. Thangiangul Khongsai, KCH as the Guest of Honour. Various games and sporting events were conducted during the Meet wherein the entire community participated enthusiastically and had a memorable time of celebrating God's gift of sports and good health. The closing ceremony of the Sports Meet was graced by Mr. Paominthang Hmar, CAO, KCH as the Chief Guest and Mrs. Mariabuliu Pamai, Principal, School of Nursing, KCH as the Guest of Honour.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:

Besides academic and physical and social activities, the college under the advisory of the Worship Committee regularly engages the students and community in various spiritual activities. These include regular morning chapel services and evening vespers, faculty-led tutorial fellowships and occasional fasting sessions where both students and faculty lead and share in the worship to keep ourselves spiritually connected with the Lord and His Word. Part of these spiritual exercises includes the Pre-Christmas Celebration wherein the community celebrates the Gift of

Christmas together before the college breaks for winter vacation. This year's Pre-Christmas Celebration was held on the evening of 11th December and marked by a solemn time of worship together, community feast, and gift exchange besides others.

NEWS

1. The college community shares in the joy of the families of its faculty members Mrs. Gaicham Gonmei, who was blessed with her first child, Ms. Sophia on 22nd July, 2023, and Mr. Kelly Monsang, with a second child (a daughter), on 2nd December, 2023. May God grant good health and continual blessings upon the families, especially the little ones.
2. We have been blessed by the presence of our friends from our partner University – Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong – for a period of one week (5 - 11 November, 2023). The team was here on a mission trip to visit the relief camps under Kangpokpi district. They held prayer fellowships and worship services with the inmates of various relief camps who were victims of the on-going crisis in Manipur. The team also handed out various relief materials to the camps. May God bless and continue to use them to be channels of blessing to many more.
3. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program offered at MTC in collaboration with United Graduate School of Theology, Hoseo University, Republic of South Korea is conducting its Module 3 Residential Classes from 18-22 December, 2023 with Dr. James Swu as the resource person.



ADMISSION NOTICE
MANIPUR THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
 Affiliated to the Senate of Serampore College (University)
 Applications are invited from committed young men and women for theological training for the Academic Session 2024-2025
We offer: B.D., M.Div., M.Th., and D.Min.
 Last date of application form submission for B.D. and M.Div.:
 20 February, 2024
 Last date of application form submission for M.Th. and D.Min.:
 5 May, 2024

Date of Entrance Test

- B.D. & M.Div. : 28 February, 2024
- M.Th. : 14 May, 2024
- D.Min. : 30 May, 2024

Contact
 Principal: 8730860642 / Vice-Principal: 6009564456
 e-mail: mtckangpokpi@gmail.com
Application forms can be had from the college office or downloaded from www.mtcedu.in

- Kindly Pray for:**
1. The ministry of teaching and training future Christian scholars and church leaders at Manipur Theological College.
 2. The all-round development of the college.
 3. The urgent need for at least 3 (three) faculty quarters.
 4. Displaced and affected students of the college for their studies and various needs.
 5. Individuals, families, sponsors, churches and various organizations who are our partners for the constant growth and development of the college.

