


VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 32

BAPTIST HERALD

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF MANIPUR BAPTIST CONVENTION

A photograph of a lighthouse situated on a rocky island. The lighthouse is a dark, cylindrical structure with a red lantern room and a cross on top. It is surrounded by massive, white-capped waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene conveys a sense of isolation and resilience.

STANDING
FIRM TO
THE END
MATTHEW 24:13

editor's note

TIME FOR ADAPTATION AND EMBRACING NEW METHODS OF DOING MINISTRIES

In our lifetime, we have never faced any challenge like the COVID-19 pandemic. It has caused enormous pain and suffering, disrupted economies, social life, mass transportation, work and employment, supply chains, leisure, sports, international and national relations, academic programmes, etc. Literally, the pandemic has disturbed everything. Our Churches, Associations, and our Convention have not been spared. We have all been affected and we are not sure if the 'life-before-COVID' situation would ever come back! We believe that the world as a whole has been permanently transformed by the pandemic. The pre-COVID-19 world is gone, replaced by a 'new normal'.

This 'new normal' situation calls for both flexibility and adaptation, embracing new ways of doing ministries and running our organizations. We have to adapt to this 'new normal' context. The closure of churches during the pandemic has forced churches to function in new ways of staying open and being church. Most of the churches have learned how to live-stream worships, sermons, worship songs, religious rites & rituals, etc. I have had the privilege of participating in some ZOOM worships/fellowships where the participants were not limited by geographical barriers. Now churches can worship together with their members who are working outside the state and pastors and preachers are spreading the Gospel through media. This possibility is something inconceivable before the pandemic.

Churches and Associations, we need to upgrade our Information & Technology system. We need to move in-pace with the evolving world and there is no excuse for us to resist this development. We have been waiting for months for the lockdown to open so that we can print the 'Baptist Herald' and distribute the hard copies to you all, but the situation is not permitting. So, the Cabinet decided to be more flexible and adapt to the situation, and bring out this

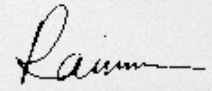


"THIS 'NEW
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newsletter in soft-copy format and distribute to you all. Looking at the positive side, sifting from hard-to-soft copy format has many plus points: Production cost would be minimized, Distribution would be easier and more people could have access to the newsletter, etc.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19).

May God bless you and keep you safe as you read this 'first of its kind' newsletter.



- Rev. Raimi Rimai



Three potted plants in white containers. The plants are green and leafy, arranged in a row from left to right, slightly overlapping. The background is a plain, light color.

BAPTIST HERALD

Baptist Herald is a quarterly magazine published by Manipur Baptist Convention as a printed magazine on a regular schedule with a rich variety of content. However, the pandemic outbreak has limited our resources, therefore, we are compelled to publish this issue only as a soft copy.

This publication is a package of powerful messages from veteran Christian ministers, series of bible studies, a report on the life and work of Rev. Dr. Wungnaoting Konghar (Former General Secretary, MBC), and an interesting psychological approach to grief.

Baptist Herald

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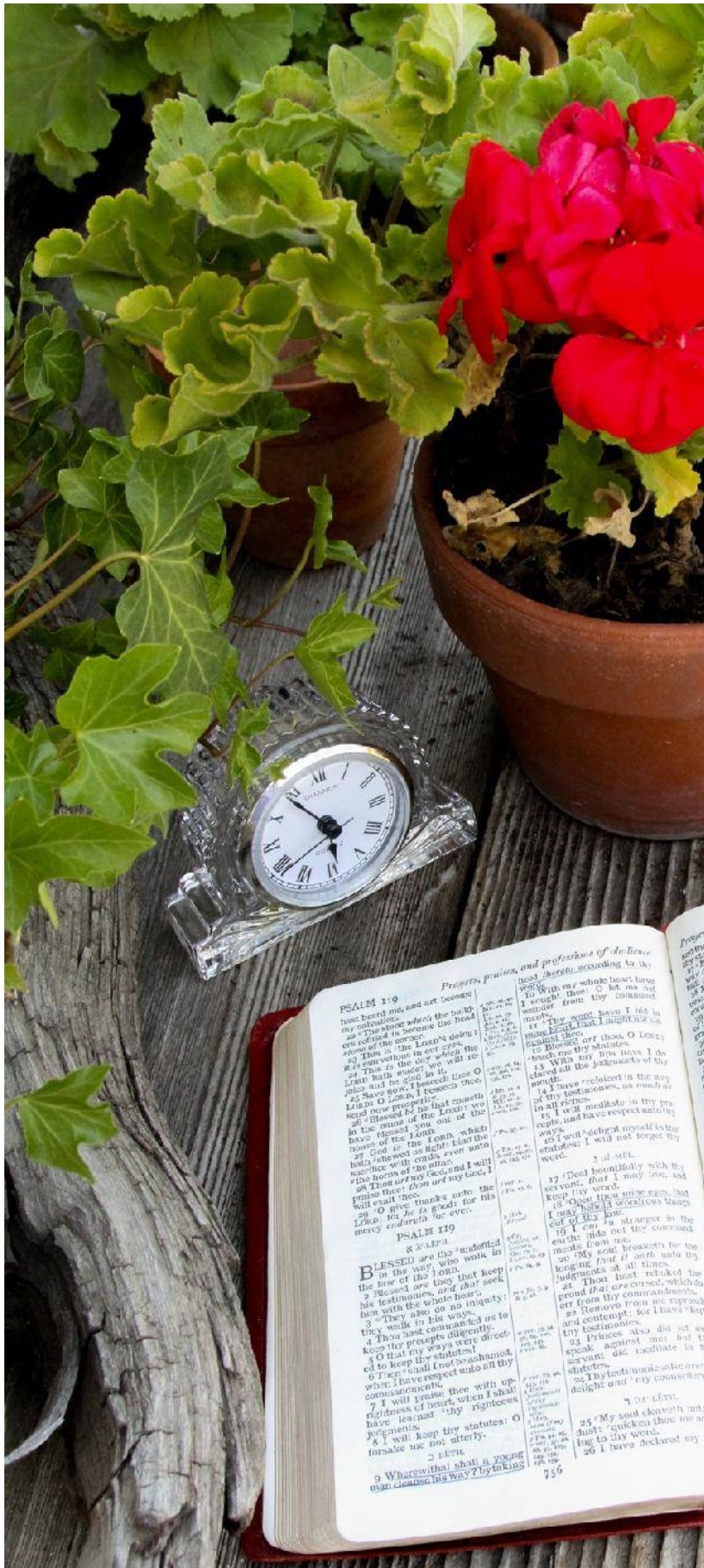
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Greetings

Rev. K. Losii Mao
General Secretary, MBC

Greetings from General Secretary, MBC.

Hello everyone, greetings from MBC to all the convention family members. The journal has been put on hold for some time due to the pandemic and transition period. I hope this periodical will find you in good health and safety under the mighty hands of our Lord God Jesus Christ.

We just experienced an unprecedented fear last year and everyone is hoping for a better outcome. Yet again, we are put into a situation of complete lockdown, giving rise to psycho fears due to Covid-19's second wave and the prediction of a more serious third wave on our land. For many, fellowship in the church is not possible. Many friends and family members have gone to the Lord. News has come that, in some places, decent funerals could not be performed for Covid-19 victims at their burial places. Indeed, this is very heartbreaking.

My own mom, aunties, uncles, sisters, and fast friends died during the Covid-19 lockdown and I was unable to bid farewell to them personally. We cannot freely visit even those who are still with us. This has shaken the nature of fellowship and the kind of service we are supposed to give to one another. Normal educational systems and business cultures are changing. It brings changes to the choice of things we buy, eat, where we go, what we do, and so forth.

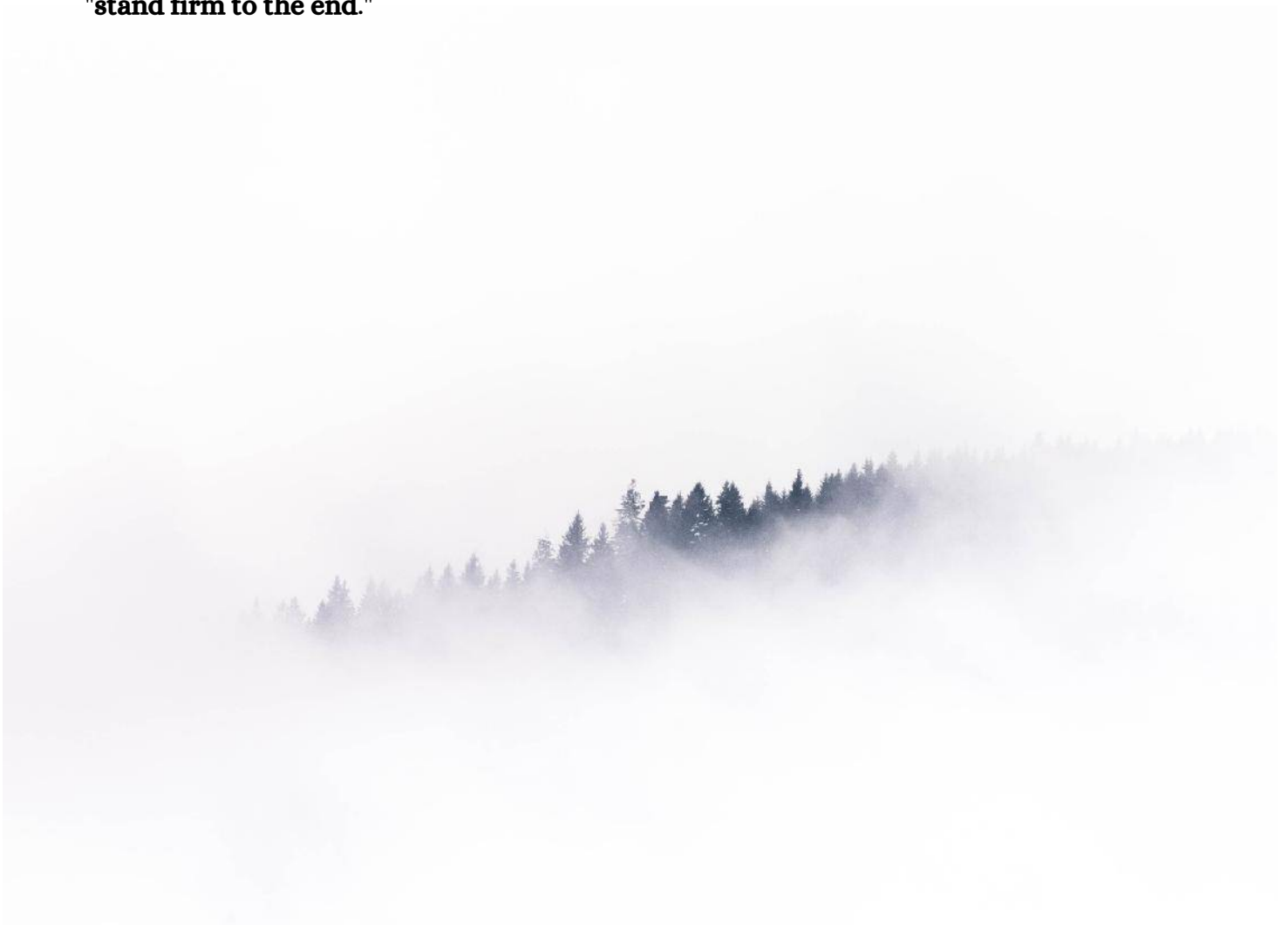
I should say, I am not in fear and yet it gives me a very uncertain future to look ahead to. I spend much of my time browsing the internet, looking for more information, trying to become a medicinal practitioner, a researcher pretending to find a solution, an e-knowledge counsellor. However, the more I browse, the more confusion and uncertainty arise.

"I spend much of my time browsing through the internet, looking for more information... the more I browse, the more confusion and uncertainty arise."

I looked up to the Scripture for guidance and comfort. The word of God says that believers should not be in despair. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 reminds me of the glorious hope that our dear ones who have gone before us will rise and meet the coming Lord first. That is a real comfort to me because I miss and long for them. My family members and I should be strong enough to stand firm until the end to meet them there, and so should all of you, my friends.

If you think you are standing, then take heed lest you fall. Pandemic and pressure should not stop us. Stand firm till last. Let us not be like the half-hearted Judas Iscariot who sold away his salvation for money, not to go back to our bad habits of dog's vomit or pig's mud. Be saved from the wrath of God (Rom. 5:8). Know that we are secured in our Lord's hand (Jn. 10:28). We are called to be saved daily (Rom. 5:9). "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). Be strong, for we are called to be strong in the Lord, my friends. I pray God gives us the strength to **"stand firm to the end."**

"The word of God says that believers should not be in despair. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 reminds me a glorious hope that our dear ones who have gone before us will rise and meet the coming Lord first. That is a real comfort to me because I miss and long for them."



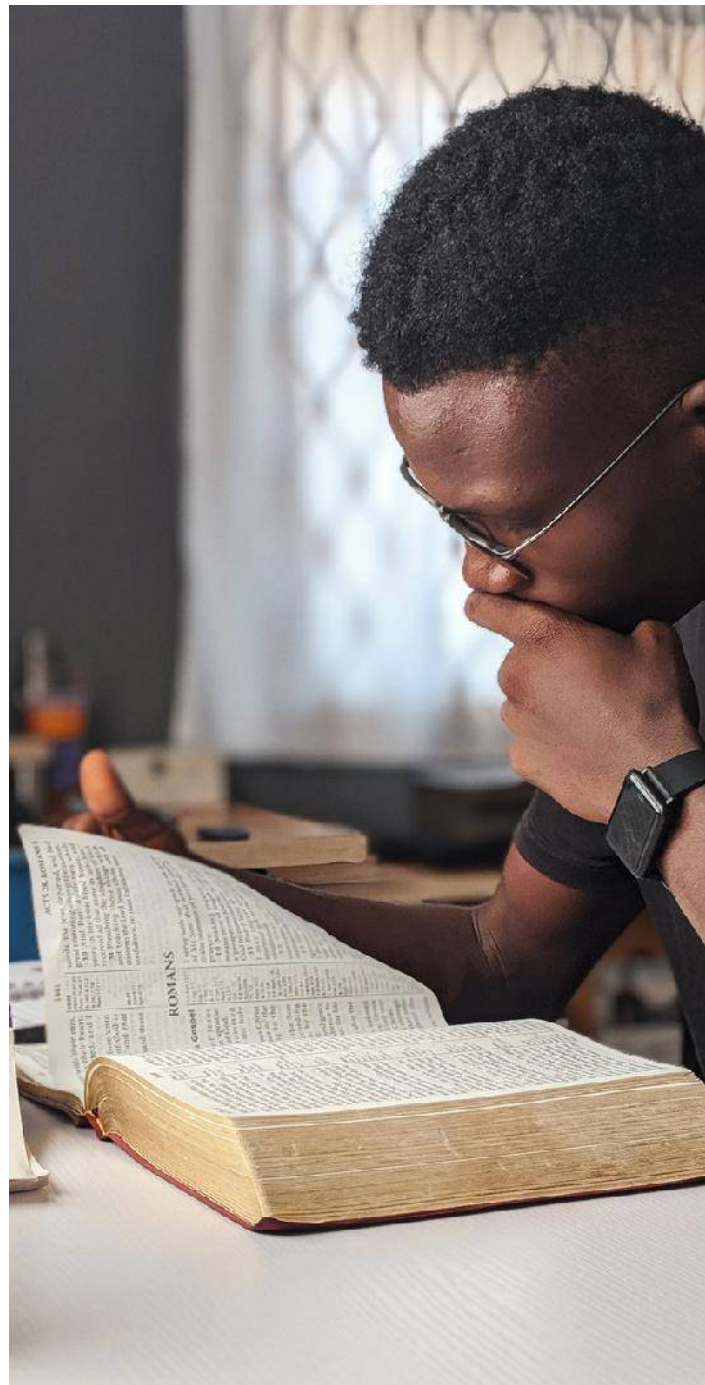
BIBLE STUDY METHOD PART-I

What is Bible study?

Bible reading is an essential part of the Christian's lifestyle but it is not Bible study. We can read the Bible without studying it. So Bible study is not the same as Bible reading. In brief, Bible study is the personal investigation of the meaning of the Bible, a personal struggle with the Biblical text in order to understand it better. And the ultimate goal of all Bible Study is APPLICATION, not interpretation.

Application

Since it is God's intention to change our lives through His Word, it is important to learn how to apply the Scripture to our lives. The Bible was written to be applied to our lives and a Bible study without personal application can be just an academic exercise with not much spiritual value. The Apostle Paul said that all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training the believer in righteous living (2 Tim 3:16). Regarding the importance of application, the Old Testament declares, "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:8).



Why Application is Necessary for Our Lives

We cannot truly get to know the Word of God unless we apply it to our life. The Pharisees and the Sadducees of Jesus' time read and studied the Scriptures but they did not apply them to their lives. Merely studying the Word of God without applying it could be dangerous because sometimes knowledge without love can make an intellectual person proud (cf. 1 Cor 8:1). What a person knows should find expression in what one does. James declares, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22). Our Lord himself says, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice (action) is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt 7:24).

We must also be aware that a Bible study without application can sometimes be dangerous because knowledge increases responsibility. "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" (James 4:17). When you start studying the Bible, God begins showing you areas of your life that need changing and calls you to greater responsibility.

Application is Hard Work

Application is hard work, it is not easy because it requires serious thinking and commitment from our part and also it is hard because Satan fights it fiercely. Also it is hard because application requires transformation, reformation and changes from us but most of us naturally resist change.

Preparation for a dynamic Bible Study

For a systematic and meaningful Bible Study, we need to make some basic preparation. We need to schedule our Bible study time: morning, night, daily, weekly, twice weekly, etc. We need to get the right tools and also need to keep a notebook to write what we have observed and discovered.

The Tools

1. A Study Bible
2. Different Bible versions (recent translations)
3. An exhaustive Concordance

"The Pharisees and the Sadducees of Jesus' time read and studied the Scriptures but they did not apply them to their lives. Merely studying the Word of God without applying it could be dangerous because sometimes knowledge without love can make an intellectual person proud"

4. A Bible Dictionary/Bible Encyclopaedia
5. A Topical Bible
6. A Bible Handbook
7. A set of word studies
8. Commentaries

A Basic Bible Study Library

1. A Study bible
2. Two recent Bible versions
3. An exhaustive concordance
4. A Bible dictionary
5. A topical Bible
6. A Bible handbook
7. A one-volume commentary

A More Advanced Bible Study Library

In addition to the Basic Library, add the following:

1. Additional Bible versions and paraphrases
2. A Bible Encyclopaedia
3. A set of word studies
4. Individual commentaries on Bible books
5. A Bible Atlas
6. Old and New Testament Surveys
7. Any additional books that interest us

Note: We can build up our personal or Church Library with the Bible Study Tools mentioned above.

Method No. 1: The Devotional Bible Study Method

The Devotional Bible Study method involves taking a passage of the Bible, large or small, and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows us a way to apply its truth to our life in a way that is personal, practical, possible, and measurable.

Tools

The Bible and a notebook

Note: This method can be used as part of our quiet times with God, it requires little investment of time and can be done without a Library.

"We cannot truly get to know the Word of God unless we apply it to our life."

EXERCISE:

Take your Bible and notebook and settle down in a quiet place. Always begin and close your Bible Studies with prayers.

Date: (Write the Date)

1. Select the Passage: (note the passage selected; for today's exercise, let us select Luke 12:22-26)

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

2. Pray for Insight on how to apply the passage to your life:

3. Meditation: (Paraphrase the selected passage)

I should not worry so much. God will take care of all my needs. Since God gave me my life, surely I can trust Him to sustain it. I can learn from the example of birds – they do not worry about the future. God takes care of them on a daily basis. And if God takes care of the birds, surely, He will take care of me! Besides, worrying will not do any good for me. Worrying will never really change the situation. So there's no use of worrying.

Note:

a. Command to Obey: "Do not Worry!" (v. 22)

b. Promise to Claim: God will take care of me! (v. 24)

4. Application: (How you will apply this passage to your life; for example)

a. I need to apply this lesson in the area of our family finances.

b. For next month (take one month at a time) every time the devil tempts me to worry about our family's expenditure, I'll resist that thought by quoting Luke 12:24 aloud.

5. Memorization: (Key verse of the passage)

"Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!" (Luke 12:24)

6. Assessment of Application: (Over the next couple of weeks, check if you are following the points you have noted in your Application).

(Bible Study Method – Part 2 will be in the next Issue)



CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID 19

Rev. Dr. Daniel Kashung
Executive Secretary,
STNBA



COVID-19 was initially reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on December 31, 2019. On January 30, 2020 the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency. On March 11, 2020 the WHO declared COVID-19 a Global Pandemic, its first such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza a Pandemic in 2009. The Pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life world-wide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the Pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty while the number of under nourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of this year.

We had heard it at a distant, saw on TV screen, but today it has become a nightmarish reality. Our trusted doctors, engineers, including ordained elders are being vanishing along with the wave. Before we could even imagine the second wave, the third wave has threatened us with untold miseries. We have heard the severity of black, white and yellow fungus, Church must wake up this hour to see if such wave resurfaces in our community what should be our response to the world at large. Should we just gaze with wonders and surrender ourselves along with our faith buried into this deadly disease? As we read through Hebrews 10:23f "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day is drawing near".

"The Church is meant to look for lost souls, to uplift someone in dire needs, help one another, and encourage one another."

Are we courageous enough to visit COVID-19 patients in the hospitals? Are we prepared to face more challenges coming up as waves come one after another? Is our faith in Him who promised consistent?

Where is our faith in the midst of Pandemic? Could we open COVID care centre and help out the groaning souls? We have heard that non-believers have opened free COVID care centres and lives are being saved. There are some rich Churches in the southern part of India taking bold step to help the poor people.

Is our Church prepared to give proper services on Sundays? Why should we not conduct worship services on Sundays? Why are Pastors not brave enough to visit the COVID-19 patient's family? All because we are yet to be educated in COVID-19 cases.

We have received COVID-19 awareness programme in many occasions. We may see through the media, through WhatsApp, YouTube and so on. Yet, we are not prepared, which means we are not COVID-19 educated. We receive so many fake and faulty information and without verifying the facts, we forwarded without considering the actual happenings. We are yet to be media educated too.

Now, there are many rumours spreading across the globe not to take vaccination as there are adverse danger of life-threatening factors. World Health Organisation, local authorities, administrative units have laid steps of measures for safety rules, precaution and mitigation through website but unfortunately many of our Church leaders are not well equipped with such applications. Having learnt all these factors, let us underline some hard facts to be the challenges of our Church today.

1. It is advised to all Pastors/Church elders to call up every single Church member staying outside and get information of their daily life, pray for them and assure them the blessings of God, comfort them and encourage them through the scripture.

2. Get confirmation of every member of the Church and extent maximum help to those who are infected by the virus. Pastors may visit putting on 'PPE KIT'.

3. The Church and village together can form task force for regulation of the COVID-19 happening in the local area.

4. COVID-19 vaccination should be initiated and get every member vaccinated in time. There is no danger of adverse side effect of the vaccination as rumoured. It is a must to take the vaccination by every citizen to safeguard our future.

5. Church must maintain proper health and sanitation programmes known to the members for stable mental and physical health ground.

"We receive so many fake and faulty information and without verifying the facts, we forwarded without considering the actual happenings."

6. *Church worship can be done by groups minimizing the number of attendances, maintaining SOP. The Sundays can be a busy day and spend meaningful four- or five-times worship with different groups/localities/families made as convenient. We may even arrange chain prayer programme by family wise through the day.*
7. *People can work, may go to the field and yet can participate in chain prayer by preparing prayer list served to them.*
8. *May prepare group Bible study in between with minimum member maintaining SOP.*
9. *Our Church must pay special attention to those students returned due to COVID fear and naturally will face a number of social events. Are our Churches prepared for the worst?*
10. *We can arrange digital Church services. There are many who enjoy digital service yet there may be Pastors, who are not equipped with the technology.*
11. *Our Church must acquire as much requirements as the need of the hour, the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for safety of the people. We may even link up with doctors and get ready for any eventuality.*
12. *The Church must continually pray for all members and even acquire emergency equipment and for good.*

"Preventive measures be followed strictly by knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions."

Conclusion:

The end time has been predicted in the Bible, which is taking place all these years with earthquakes, cyclones, wars, diseases and pestilence. When all these happened, we know that the Son of man is coming very soon. I believed God has given us good spirit to help one another. Church, let us wake up from slumber and self-realise the reality. If challenges may forgive and forget and may even prepare for worst and blessing. Pressurise the Government for facility and prepare to have any new wave coming into our society. We all must be Corona Virus educated. Preventive measures be followed strictly by knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions. We should by no means hide if we suspect ourselves of any infection, we must get tested if uncertain and follow advice provided by our local authority.

Compassion

REV. DR. SUT KHAN THANG
MISSION SECRETARY, MBC

“The 20th century has been marked by cynicism, selfishness, greed, and the desire to please, all without changing the status quo. In the 21st century, we must resurrect solidarity and compassion” Oscar Arias Sanchez, President of Costa Rica.

Definition: The definition of the word Compassion is as follows:

(i) Merriam Webster Dictionary: “Sympathetic consciousness of other’s distress together with a desire to alleviate it.”

(ii) New Oxford Dictionary: “a sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.”

(iii) In Greek *splagchnizomai* meaning “to be moved as to one’s innards.” A person’s innards represent the seat of the wants, tender emotion or feeling.” It specifically symbolizes the higher viscera: the heart, lungs, and liver, signifying compassion out of the depth of one’s character.

The term originates from the parable of Good Samaritan found in the tenth chapter of Luke. Today, it can be referred to a person who helps others in a random act of kindness. Jesus quoted “... Love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev. 19:18) which is called OT “Golden rule.” He further says, “... do to others what you would have them do to you” (Mat 7:12). Compassion gives us the ability to understand someone else’s situation and the desire to take action to improve their lives. Compassion flows at the heart and is the mark of a Christian.

I. It is a willingness to help when someone need help

“But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity/compassion on him.” (v.33)

According to various Bible scholars, what makes this story very compelling is that Jews and Samaritans are historically enemies. Jews don't talk to Samaritans as they consider them renegades. And this enmity is returned by the Samaritans.

Here, the term 'compassion' in the act of the Samaritan overcomes the racial prejudice against Jews. The Samaritan's love was obvious in his willingness to inconvenience living and to make generous and costly sacrifices for the other man's good. Racism has no place in charity.

"Is it not to share your food with the hungry, and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" (Isa. 58:7). A noble woman opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy (Pro 31:20).

II. It is a willingness to take risk on behalf of others

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then, he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him" (v.34).

The traveller most probably hated the Samaritan, and he knew the dying-man may still hate him after he recovers. Activist Martin Luther King Jr. says on this parable the nature of the Good Samaritan's concern ... 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?' Be kind and help even to those who hate you.

Albert Schweitzer Lutheran theologian, organist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician France says, "Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate." It is written: "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Mat 5:44).

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate."

III. It is a willingness to take rigid decision for further care

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. (It cost about one twelfth of a denarius to live for a day. So the Samaritan's gift exceeded the man's need many times). 'Look after him' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have (v.35).

"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Mat 6:3,4).

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invite me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Mat 25: 34-36).

Most of us help someone because we expect a reward of some sort. We return a lost wallet and expect the honour to reward us. However, the Samaritan's act towards the traveller was nothing but an act out of pure kindness. So, we are reminded to carry out the same principle by helping someone in need.

In fact, it is a heartiest compassion that can drive someone to go extra miles because in all activities, they can see the radiance (handiwork) of God. Proverb says, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done" (19:17).

"Biblical orthodoxy without compassion is surely the ugliest thing in the world" Francis Schaeffer, American Evangelical theologian. As the law expert replied Jesus from the parable that the neighbour who has compassion for the man who fell into the hand of a robber is none other than the Samaritan. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). This conveys an idea that is practically mission to all servants of the Lord.



"Biblical orthodoxy without compassion is surely the ugliest thing in the world"

Conclusion: The parable exhibits sacrificial love to the unwanted or deserted one who is left alone in a critical situation of distress, suffering and pain. Moreover, when everyone practices this order portrayed here the Lord shall be pleased because he knew the purpose of His mission and invited all of us to participate and get involve into the ministry.

Be a pal to the enemy, friend to the lonesome, kind to the harsh, helps the helpless, and be a hope to the hopeless. The profound difference of compassion between divine and human is so clearly illustrated. In regard to our services, what kind of compassion do I possess? Author and Science journalist Daniel Goleman says, "True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it."

Jesus foreknew human knowledge and understandings are so limited and imperfect; teaching and instructions are inadequate. He wants all of our whole beings actively participating in His service without making lame excuses for we are transparent in His sight and nothing can be hidden from Him.

COPING WITH LOSS AND GRIEF DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

*Ms. Kathembui Khaute,
Assistant to General Secretary, MBC*

The global coronavirus outbreak has led people to experience a new reality that is marked by grief and loss. As a result of the pandemic, weddings, concerts, meetings, travel plans, school events, and more have been effected. In the face of an uncertain future that we have no control over, it has forced us to process both individual and collective grief.

All of us are feeling a sense of unease and sadness because of the disruptions to our normal routines and rhythms. Thousands of lives have been lost, due to covid-19. There is no right or wrong way to feel after losing someone. The shock and disbelief that accompany an unexpected death are frequently followed by a sense of numbness. Anger, regret, sadness, and depression are also common. The fact that because of coronavirus, you were not present at the death can add to the sense of unreality.

In a world that appears to be turned upside down, you may not experience grief in the same way that you would under normal circumstances. Remember that grief is an individual experience, and that everyone reacts differently to it.

Coping with the death of close friends or family members is one of the most difficult undertakings. When we lose a partner, sibling, parents, families or relatives, we might experience great grief. Grief is a normal reaction. It is an emotional torment. During this moment, a person may feel a wide range of painful and unexpected feelings. Grief may have an impact on your physical health, making it harder to sleep, eat, and so on.

Loss is an unavoidable aspect of our lives. However, we might still be in shock and perplexity, which can lead to lengthy episodes of melancholy. The melancholy usually fades with time. Every person reacts differently to death and has a unique grief coping strategy.

"When you are mourning, it is crucial to communicate your sentiments, even if you are not comfortable talking about them..."

"...Grief shouldn't be experienced alone. FaceTime or Zoom allow you to connect virtually with others for support, even if you're not able to physically meet."

According to studies, most people who have social support and good behaviours may recover from loss. It may take months or years to recover from a loss. Some people may have to deal with their grief for a longer amount of time. They believe they are unable to carry out daily chores. Individuals experiencing extreme sorrow may benefit from the services of psychologists and other mental health experts who specialise in grieving.

Seek help if you've experienced a loss or are grieving.

The grief of loss can frequently force you to retreat from others, leading to isolation. Face-to-face support can help you heal after a loss. When you are mourning, it is crucial to communicate your sentiments, even if you are not comfortable talking about them under regular circumstances. Sharing your loss might help to lighten the load of sadness. But it doesn't mean you have to bring up your loss every time you see your friends or relatives. It may take some time to recover from the death of close friends and family members. However, the following strategies can assist them in processing and coming to terms with loss:

Turn to family and friends

Have a discussion about your loved one's death to help you comprehend what occurred and remember your friend and family member. Even though you are strong and self-sufficient, now is the moment to depend on others who care about you. Rather of avoiding them, be with them and spend time with them face to face. People don't always know how to help, so tell them what you need, whether it's a shoulder to weep on or assistance with funeral preparations. If you don't have somebody with whom you can connect, it's never too late to start a new relationship.

You can also ask your friends and family to share their memories and experiences with you... Grief shouldn't be experienced alone. FaceTime or Zoom allow you to connect virtually with others for support, even if you're not able to physically meet.

COVID-19 may deprive you of the physical presence of loved ones as you grieve, but you can still maintain an emotional connection with people who will support you during this difficult time.

Grief is a natural reaction to loss, but the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many aspects of the normal grieving process into chaos. Even if you haven't suffered a direct loss, don't dismiss your feelings as being unrelated to grief.

Whether you are dealing with job loss, financial insecurity, loneliness, or a general sense of anxiety about coronavirus, the emotional upheaval caused by coronavirus may trigger feelings of grief and loss. How you deal with your emotions is influenced by a variety of factors, including your overall resilience and social support systems.

Allow yourself to feel your emotions

You may experience a wide range of feelings, including grief, guilt, and anger. All of these emotions are normal, but it is critical that you recognise them when they occur. If you are feeling trapped with these emotions, it may be beneficial to consult with a psychologist or other expert who can help you manage with your sentiments and return to your usual life.

Allow yourself to mourn and treat yourself and others with kindness during this difficult time.

Participate in a support group

Sharing your sorrow with others who have suffered similar losses might be beneficial. It gives you a "we" sense, letting you know that you are not alone in your struggle.

Find solace in your faith

Spiritual activities that are significant to you, such as prayer, meditation, or visiting to church, might provide consolation. Talk to members of your religious community if you are having doubts about your beliefs as a result of your loss.

When you're grieving and it doesn't seem to be getting any better

The pain of losing a loved one never goes away completely. However, it should not be kept for an extended length of time. If your anguish is persistent and intense, preventing you from continuing your life, you may be suffering from complicated grief or significant depression. Complicated grieving is similar to being in a deep state of grieving. If you do not feel better with time, your sadness is worsening.

Symptoms of complicated grief

- Feeling as if existence has no purpose
- Extreme rage or remorse about your loss
- Avoiding things that remind you of your loved one
 - Imagining that your loved one is alive
 - Death denial or disbelief
 - Intrusive thoughts

"If your anguish is persistent and intense, preventing you from continuing your life, you may be suffering from complicated grief or significant depression."



"It's ok to talk to
someone,
It's ok to share.
Mental health is
as important as
physical health."

Consult a therapist or a grief counsellor

If your sadness is too great to take, seek the help of a mental health professional who has expertise with grief therapy. An expert therapist can assist you in overcoming overwhelming emotions and difficulties to your mourning process.

How Psychologists can help

Psychologists are trained to assist individuals cope with the dread, guilt, or worry that often accompany the loss of a loved one. If you need help dealing with your sorrow or managing a loss, go to a psychologist or other qualified mental health practitioner. A psychologist can assist people in developing resilience and techniques for overcoming obstacles. Psychologists utilise a range of therapies, the most popular of which is psychotherapy, to help individuals function better in their lives.

If your loved one's death was unexpected, violent, or particularly upsetting, complex grieving might manifest as psychological trauma or PTSD. You may have been traumatized if your loss has left you feeling powerless and dealing with feelings that won't go away. However, with the appropriate advice, you can make adjustments and move on in your life. If you are suffering the signs of complex bereavement or depression, speak with a professional as soon as possible.

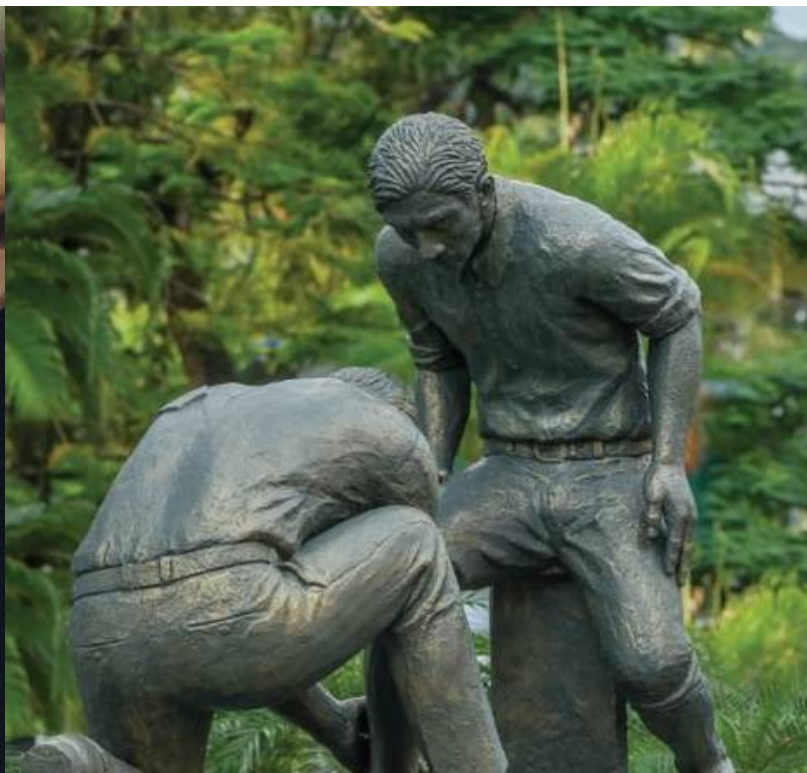
FOUR DOMAINS OF LEADING LIKE CHRIST

Rev. Raimi Rimai,
Youth & Education
Secretary, MBC

A friend gave me a book, *Leading like Jesus Revisited: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Time* [1] and introduced me to an on-line leadership development program called “Lead Like Jesus Encounter”. This on-line program was a highly interactive, deeply reflective, six evenings (6:00 - 9:30 PM every night) leadership development workshop that challenges conventional leadership and offers a practical model based on the greatest leader role model of all time, Jesus Christ. So, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, I was blessed to participate in this on-line program. Reading the book - *Lead Like Jesus Revisited* and joining the workshop inspired me to write this article. So, the concept of this article is from the *Lead Like Jesus* book and from what I learnt during the on-line program.

Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry listed heart, head, hands and habits as the four domains of servant leadership. The four domains demonstrate how a leader’s internal motivation (heart) is affected by his/her leadership theory (head); also explain how a leader’s behaviour (hands) impacts his/her followers, and how a leader must practice disciplines (habits) that will sustain his/her personally and professionally, in order to have a long-term positive result.





THE HEART OF A SERVANT LEADER

Most of the books and articles on leadership focus on the leader's behaviour and try to improve leadership style and methods. They focus on changing from the outside. Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry teach that leadership begins on the inside. They say that leadership is a heart issue. The important question is, will a leader be more concerned to his/her self-interest, or will s/he serve the interests of others? A leader motivated by self-interest will prioritize his/her personal agenda and his/her security and position above those affected by his/her actions. Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry say that three distinctive patterns mark the difference between self-serving leaders and servant leaders: (1) how you handle feedback, (2) how you handle successor planning, and (3) your perspective of who you think leads and who follows.

Self-serving leaders tend to dislike feedback. They identify their self-worth and security with their public image and see feedback, especially negative feedback, as a threat to their position. Servant leaders understand that their position and authority are on loan to those they serve; therefore, they are more likely to see feedback as a gift rather than a threat.

"SELF-SERVING LEADERS TEND TO DISLIKE FEEDBACK."

Servant leaders develop their followers and plan for leadership succession. A wise leader realizes that his/her leadership position is only for a short term. The legacy of a leader is not only determined by what s/he accomplish while in his/her role but by the long-term impact on the organization and in the hearts of his/her followers.

Who leads and who follows? Authentic leaders are chosen by their followers and so, leaders must learn how to share leadership with their followers. Pat MacMillan in

The Performance Factor agrees, stating that in a team context:

It is critically important that the team ‘accepts’ their leader that they support and respond to the team leader’s efforts to provide direction, coordinate the collective work of the team, and set the tempo of its pace . . . Leaders who must rely on positional authority and autocratic style to achieve their ends seldom see the levels of performance shown to leaders who see their role as one of service and support. [ii]

Self-serving leaders think they should lead and others should follow. Servant leaders respect the wishes of those who have entrusted to them a term of responsibility and authority.

Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry use the acronym EGO (Edging God Out) to describe the self-serving leaders who replace God as their primary audience and their source of security and self-worth. Such leaders suffer the negative effects of pride and fear in their leadership. Leaders controlled by pride or fear separate themselves from God, from other people, and from themselves. They compare themselves to others, and they distort truth into a false sense of security and fear. On the other hand, servant leaders also manifest another form of EGO. However, instead of ‘Edging God Out’, they will ‘Exalt God Only’ through humility and God centered confidence.

"Self-serving leaders think they should lead and others should follow."

Humility is a characteristic common to great leaders. Earl Creps says that “Humility is the discipline of decreasing the scale of my own story until it fits inside the Jesus story, until he defines me rather than my defining him.” [iii]

Thom Rainer did a research among pastoral leaders and discovered that the pastors of breakout churches were part of a category he called the Acts 6/7 Leaders (his highest leader ranking). Rainer identified one key difference between his top two levels of leadership, stating:

We noticed another distinct break between Acts 5 leaders and Acts 6/7 leaders. Confidence is evident in both groups. But the Acts 6/7 leaders displayed an unpretentious humility with their confidence. We would often hear phrases such as “When I came to the church . . .” among the Level 4 and 5 leaders. They were eager to tell us about their accomplishments. . . . We saw no less confidence in the Acts 6/7 leaders, but their confidence centered more on what God was doing in their lives and less on their own inherent abilities. [iv]

"... people look to their leaders for vision and direction"

There are two key roles that make up strong servant leadership: The visionary role, and The implementation role.

Humility in a leader, when combined with a strong will to accomplish his/her vision, increases the possibility that his/her leadership efforts will be received well by others. The humility and confidence or heart perspective of highly effective leaders is a strong attraction to those they are trying to lead.

The Head of a Servant Leader

The head issues of a servant leader are those that deal with his/her beliefs about leadership and influence. How can a leader both lead and serve? There are two key roles that make up strong servant leadership: (1) The visionary role, and (2) The implementation role.

The traditional top-down pyramid hierarchy of leadership still applies when it comes to vision casting. Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry state that people look to their leaders for vision and direction. The leaders may involve experienced people in shaping direction, however, the ultimate responsibility for ensuring and maintaining a vision remains with the leaders and cannot be delegated to others.

There are three key elements of a compelling vision: (1) A significant purpose, (2) A picture of the future, and (3) A statement of clear values.

A leader needs to be able to answer the questions: What business am I in? And, what direction am I heading in and why? For example, in a leader's personal mission statement, s/he should identify what s/he believe God has called him/her to do, and how that sense of call will impact each area of his/her life and his/her leadership. Clarity in his/her personal vision will help a leader cast a vision for his/her organization, check confusion and misunderstanding and gain support from his/her followers.

The second element of a compelling vision is to project a picture of the future. What will the future look like if things work out as planned? Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry say that a vision or view of the future is an on-going, evolving, hopeful look into the future that stirs the hearts and minds of people who will never see its end or limit.

In line with this, Burt Nanus says that “there is not a more powerful engine driving an organization toward excellence and long-range success than an attractive, worthwhile, and achievable vision of the future, widely shared.” [v]

The third element of a compelling vision is to identify one’s key values. Values determine how people behave within an organization. Values determine what is most important and what should be given priority. Leaders constantly experience tension as their values conflict with the demands placed upon their time or as they deal with others who attempt to redirect their focus. To determine priorities and to avoid value conflicts, a leader should identify core values and place them in priority order. Then, during periods of value conflict, it will be easier in decision making. In a similar manner, an organization can avoid drifting away from its vision by selecting and committing itself to core values. Jesus’ non-negotiable values in priority-order are:

1. Love God with all your heart, soul and mind.
2. Love your neighbour as yourself.

Once a leader has cast vision and gained alignment with the vision from his/her followers, s/he must turn their attention to implementation. In this second phase of leadership, the leader must turn upside-down the traditional top-down pyramid so that the leader closest to the action becomes responsible for the leadership decisions and the ministry actions of the organization. When people are given significant responsibility, they become owners of the vision. The process of shifting top-down to shared-leadership is called “teamwork.”

The Hands of a Servant Leader

The hands of a servant leader are the leadership behaviours s/he uses to develop his/her followers. An effective leader remains closely connected to his/her followers as they move along their journey of leadership. Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry identify four learning stages that a leader moves through to reach leadership effectiveness on any task: The novice stage, the apprentice stage, the journeyman stage and the master/teacher stage. To accelerate the development of a follower, the leader must match his/her supervision style to the developmental needs of the follower.

"...A
LEADER
SHOULD
IDENTIFY
CORE
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AND
PLACE
THEM IN
PRIORITY
ORDER."

The first stage of task development is the novice. A novice is a person who is new to a task and therefore needs basic information such as: what, how, where, when, and why. The novice usually blends a high level of enthusiasm with a low level of competence. The goal of the leader supervising a novice follower is to give him/her direction so that s/he can gain confidence and skill in the task.

The second stage in task development is the apprentice. An apprentice is a person in training who has not yet mastered the information and skills to work alone. Apprentices need instruction, practice, and evaluation. They need to be assured that they are meeting the expectations of the leader, and be corrected when they are not meeting the expectations. Apprentices need someone to help them place their success into perspective so as not to become overconfident. They also need both encouragement and direction as needed to avoid becoming discouraged by early failure.

The third stage of task development is the journeyman. Journeymen are people who have acquired well developed skills in performing a task and have progressed to a point where they are capable of independent work assignments. However, journeymen occasionally become cautious, lose confidence, or have a diminished level of enthusiasm for their job. Journeymen need their leader to give them an assignment and to encourage them as they perform it. If the journeymen need direction, in most cases they will ask for it.

The final task learning stage is the master/teacher stage. The master/teachers have developed their skills to the level that they no longer need direction or supervision. Their competence and personal initiative produce excellent results as they function independently. They have both the wisdom and the insight to teach others. Master/teachers need affirmation and autonomy from their supervisor.

Effective leadership in the hands category of servant leadership will result in a strong leader-follower partnership. The sequence of moving from being a novice to becoming a master/teacher is a process whereby the follower receives instruction and encouragement appropriate to his/her developmental level from a leader who modifies his/her leadership style for the sake of both accomplishing the task and investing in the personal development of that follower.

The Habits of a Servant Leader

Blanchard, Hodges and Hendry identify five key habits that Jesus used to help him stay on track with his mission and to counter the negative forces in his life: (1) Solitude, (2) Prayer, (3) Study and application of Scripture, (4) Accepting and responding to God's unconditional love, and (5) Involvement in supportive relationships. These five habits help a leader to maintain a servant perspective. So, these habits should be continuously followed if we want to be effective leaders.

In addition to having a concept or model of leadership such as servant leadership, other factors also determine leader effectiveness. A leader needs to understand how his/her style of leadership impacts the culture of his/her organization. Also, a leader needs to understand the role of emotional intelligence and what developing teams can do to make him/her more effective.

Obtaining the desired results is very important in effective leadership, because leadership with solid character, sound relationship skills, straightforward communication and strategic vision, but no results is ultimately ineffective. Results may not be the only thing, but they are indeed something. On that ground alone, Jesus Christ was the greatest leader in history. The organization He founded, the Church, has achieved result far beyond what anyone could have imagined at its beginning, two thousand years ago. Jesus' leadership lasted for a term of just three years and that too was about two thousand years ago, yet, the Church is still growing, expanding, flourishing and even getting better every year. The Church's lasting legacy makes Jesus the undisputed leadership champion of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be servant of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45). And he also expects us, his followers, to do more than what he did. "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father" (John 14:12-13).



In conclusion, effective leadership is inspiring a group to accomplish its mission for the good of others and the glory of God. And Jesus' method of leadership is the best and the most effective method. Jesus was a servant leader who symbolized this classic principle: "If you take care of the people, the people will take care of the mission." Furthermore, Jesus expected his disciples to lead like that too, and today, he is expecting us to follow his method and lead like him.



References

- [1] Ken Blanchard, Phil Hodges and Phyllis Hendry, *Lead Like Jesus Revisited: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Times* (Nashville: W. Publishing Group, An Imprint of Thomas Nelson, 2016).
- [2] Pat MacMillan, *The Performance Factor: Unlocking the Secrets of Teamwork* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001), 97.
- [3] Earl Creps, *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006), 73.
- [4] Thom S. Rainer, *Breakout Churches* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 59.
- [5] Burt Nanus, *Visionary Leadership* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1992), 3.

A BRIEF REPORT OF REV. DR. WUNGNAOTING KONGHAR, THE FORMAL GENERAL SECRETARY OF MBC

It is a joy and honour for me to write a brief report of my activities from November 2020 - March 2021. This is a part of my last report presented to the MBC General Assembly, on April 21st 2021, as the General Secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention.

For your kind recollection, having been approved by the Executive Council and Assembly, I was officially installed as the General Secretary of the Manipur Baptist Convention at Gaililong Baptist Church, Tamei, Tamenglong on January 30, 2011 during MBC Annual General Assembly by Rev. S. K Hokey, the former General Secretary, MBC. Consequently, I took over as the General Secretary, succeeding Rev. Dr. Vumthang Sithou, on February 1, 2011. It has now been 10 years, and three months running since I joined the Convention. I would like to express my earnest thanks to MBC for having confidence in me and choosing me to lead the great Convention.

I also take this privilege to introduce Rev. K. Losii Mao, my successor, who is taking over as the new General Secretary of MBC from 21st of April 2021. Rev. Losii, as I know him, is a very committed, dedicated and a humble servant of God. It is my hope and prayer that under his able leadership the Convention will be united and will grow from strength to strength. I would like to sincerely appeal to you all to extend your full cooperation and support to him as he is prepared to lead and serve the Convention. I have certainly enjoyed working in MBC as its General Secretary in many respects. Over the past ten years, I have received moral and prayer supports, encouragements, respects, love and regards from so many individuals, Churches and Associations which I really don't deserve to receive. In fact, I have gained much more than what I have given to the Convention. I also have had the experience of being accused, alleged, slandered and attacked from many individuals, Churches and organizations that I have never encountered in my life before. In short, I have come across more storms than sunshine during my tenure here in MBC. It is because, I believe, we live in a world that is not loving, but chaotic-full of suffering and pain. Martin Lloyed-Jones rightly says, "The first thing we have to realise is that the Christian life is a warfare, that we are strangers in an alien land, that we are in the enemy's territory ..."

As I look back, I cannot but thank God for giving me the strength and His grace to sustain and finish my term amidst trials and temptations. I still cannot understand how I could come this far. Over the past years, I took the decision not to blame anyone in my life, as the saying goes, "Never blame anyone in your life, 'Good people give you happiness, bad people give you experience, worse people give you a lesson, and best people give you memory,'".

I do believe that my joining in MBC is not by chance or by accident. God has a special purpose for me to serve Him through the Convention. Unlike Paul, I cannot say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race ...” (2 Timothy 4:7). But I have done the best I can which I think, would be good for the Convention and for the extension of His kingdom. If something good has been accomplished, it is done by God and my team. If there are mistakes, they are done by me only. To be very honest, I have many regrets, but I don't have any remorse. I have not done to hurt anybody intentionally, and I have not taken any decision deliberately which will be harmful for the Church and Convention.

The MBC, as I envision today has many prospects and a hopeful future awaits us.

The Theme of the Convention for the year 2021-2022 is: “Stand Firm to the End”.

A. Few Activities of the Convention:

1. Farewell & Induction of New Office Staff

Ms. Khambi, Legacy Home Cook and Miss Fiona Goimei, PA to General Secretary were given formal farewell by the office on November 2 and December 17, 2020 respectively. We sincerely appreciate and value the service they have rendered to the Convention. We wish them all the best.

Ms. Kathembui Khaute, the former Office Assistant was installed as the new PA to the General Secretary w.e.f 1st of February 2021. She was warmly welcomed back to the Office

2. MBC & STNBA joined Staff Retreat

MBC and STNBA Staff and families had a joined Retreat at New Chadong village on November 18th, 2020. We deeply appreciate STNBA and the Volunteers for the delicious food and wonderful service they had provided.

3. Pre-Christmas Celebration

The residents of MBC Compound celebrated Pre- Christmas on December 2nd, 2020 with a grand meal. I had the privilege of sharing Christmas Message.

4. Book Releasing Program

Rev. Dr. Koningthung Ngoru, a prolific writer's Book releasing program was held on December 4th, 2020 at Penaching Baptist Church, Chandel. I had the privilege and honour to release two of his Books in the presence of MBC Secretaries and many other Church leaders.

5. MBC Office Reopening

MBC Office reopened on January 12th and had a Staff Fasting Prayer program on the 13th of 2021.

6. Church Dedication

All the MBC Secretaries and Staff attended the New Church Building Dedication of Sidim Rangailong Baptist Church (MRNBA) on January 16th, 2021. It was very encouraging and challenging for us to see that only 12 Baptist houses could build such a beautiful sizeable pucca building Church. The Church happens to be the Church of Rev. T. Karang and was dedicated by me.

7. Association Centres Visited

During the year 2020 (November) and 2021 (March), the MBC Secretaries were able to visit the following Association Centres / Headquarters and had fruitful consultation and fellowship with Association Secretaries and Staff: MBCA, MRNBA, TNBA TBA, GBCA

8. Promotional Consultation for the Association Leaders

Promotional Consultations on Church Administration and Fund Policy were organized for the Association leaders and Pastors of MRNBA (March 22 & 23), TNBA (April 14 & 15) respectively at MBC Training Hall. The Consultation was beneficial and fruitful.

9. Consultation of All the Executive Secretaries & Finance Secretaries

In continuation of the previous consultations on the theme, 'MBC Yesterday (Past), Today (Present) and Tomorrow (Future) which were held from August 17-18, 2017, November 4, 2017 and February 15, 2018, a fourth consultation for all the Executive Secretaries and Finance Secretaries was held on March 10th & 11th of 2021 at Shalom Hall, MBC.

10. Heirok Baptist Church Orientation Program

Attended Heirok Baptist Church (CRBCA) Orientation program as a Resource Person on February 6th, 2021.

11. MBC Day Of Prayer

Every year MBC observes First Sunday of February as MBC Day of Prayer. This year MBC Secretaries and Staff observed MBC Day of Prayer on February 7th (Sunday), with eight Churches of STNBA.

12. ABA's New Church Administrative Building

Attended ABA's New Administrative Building Dedication program as an officiating Minister. All the MBC Secretaries and staff were invited to grace the program. A big congratulation to ABA for being able to construct such a beautiful office building.

13. Dorcas Compassion Home Foundation Day

I was happy and honoured to have been invited to the Dorcas Compassion Home's (DCH) Foundation Day celebration as a speaker. DCH is a special ministry of MBC Women Department for the marginalised Widows.

14. Four Tribes Leadership Seminar & Fellowship

Church leaders of KRBCA, CRBCA along with Kharam and Koireng Church leaders gathered together on March 19th at Upper Kom Keirap for leadership seminar and Fellowship. I was delighted to be part of them as the Resource Person giving speech on, "Identity on Christian Leadership".

15. The MNBA 75th Anniversary of Christianity cum 60th years Leadership Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

MNBA invited me and my Secretaries to attend the Platinum and Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Association as a Speaker and Guests of honour respectively on March 30th, 2021 at Machi. We were warmly accorded with gifts by the Association and the local Church.

16. Kangpokpi Christian Hospital (KCH) Centenary Celebration

Kangpokpi Christian Hospital celebrated its Centenary on March 31st, 2021 on the theme: "The Lord has done Great things for us" (Psalm 126:3). We were happy that the MBC Secretaries and staff and many Association Secretaries and Pastors could attend the centennial celebration to thank and praise God for the marvellous thing He has done for us.

B. OBITUARY

THE FOLLOWINGS ARE THE CHURCH LEADERS WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD DURING 2020-2021:

1. REV. HEPUNI MAO (MBCA)
2. REV. K. BONNY (CBCA)
3. REV. POUKHAM GONMEI (RNBA)
4. REV. R. BARNABAS KONGHAY (STNBA)
5. REV. ST. ANGAM (STNBA)
6. REV. THANGKHOLET KIPGEN (TBA)
7. REV. SHANGKAN THUMRA (TBCA)
8. REV. Y. HAOKIP (KBC)
9. REV. DR. MANGKHOSAT KIPGEN (KBC)
10. REV. JAMLET HAOKIP (KBC)
11. PASTOR LIMMINTHANG ZOU (KBC)
12. PASTOR LALMINTHANG SINGSON (KBC)
13. PASTOR HB NGAMDAL (ANBA)
14. PASTOR AMAR KHADKA (GBCA)
15. PASTOR LANU RELNEISAN (ABA)
16. PASTOR HL. THANGJALAL (ABA)
17. PASTOR POUNINGREIYANG RIAMEI (RNBA)
18. PASTOR KAHAOSAN VASHUM (TBCA)
19. PASTOR AS. WUNGKHAYAI (TBCA)
20. PASTOR MK. MAHAK (TBCA)
21. PASTOR RANGNEISHING JATUNG (CRBCA)



Conclusion

In conclusion, I am thankful to God who knows all my shortcomings, limitations and failures but still chooses me to serve Him and has led me this far. If I were left to myself, my faith would utterly fail and I would not have been able to stand. I am grateful to Him for his faithfulness although I am not always faithful to Him.

I am also thankful to my colleagues and staff (past and present) who stood by me, worked with me, travelled with me, laughed with me, prayed and suffered with me. Lastly, I am thankful to all the MBC Associations, Institutions and Churches for their unwavering prayer, moral and financial supports and encouragement to me and the Convention till today.

To Him be the Glory Forever! Amen.

MBC YOUTH & EDUCATION SECRETARIES' RETREAT, 2021: A DIARY



By the grace of God, the MBC Youth & Education Secretaries' Retreat 2021 was conducted at CBCNEI Headquarters, Guwahati from 26th – 28th of February 2021. Altogether, fourteen Youth & Education Secretaries (The Team) participated in the Retreat Program.

Friday, the 26th Feb. 2021:

The Team reached the CBCNEI Headquarters, Guwahati, on the afternoon of the 26th of February and spent the rest of the day shopping. They had the arrival-dinner with Pastor Willinbou Pammo and some of the Church leaders of Manipuri Church Guwahati (MCG). MCG is a Church where the Baptist believers from different tribes and communities of Manipur worship together. It is an associate member of MBC.

Saturday, the 27th Feb. 2021:

The Team had a blessed and interesting learning-and -teaching experience on Saturday, at the Conference Hall of CBCNEI. There were four main sessions:

1. Rev. Boipu Serto, the Mission Secretary of CBCNEI took an inspiring session focussing on the Leadership lessons from Apostle Paul. The Team members were refreshed and re-affirmed their commitment to the great task they were called for.

2. Rev. Dr. Koningthung Ngoru, the Chairman of MBC Education Committee, took an eye-opening session on “Cultic Movements”. He spoke on the dimensions, the reality, the danger and the presence of cultic movements in our churches today.

3. Rev. Raimi Rimai, the Youth Secretary of MBC led a special prayer session. The Team prayed for MBC and all the associations under MBC, for MBC Youth & Education departments, for the Association Youth & Education departments and for all the youths of our land.

4. Mr. Sailo Aimol, the MBC Youth Consultant took a session on “Business as Mission” (BAM). This was a new concept for most of the Team members. BAM is about real - profitable and sustainable businesses, which is intentional about the extension of God’s Kingdom and impact on people & nations. It is focused on holistic transformation and the bottom lines of economic, social, environmental and spiritual outcomes; and concerned about the world’s poorest and least evangelized people groups.

In the evening, Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai, former Mission Secretary of MBC & CBCNEI and his family invited the Team for prayers and dinner. They served special food items not commonly found in Manipur.

Sunday, the 28th Feb. 2021:

On Sunday, the Team divided and attended ten different Churches/Fellowships in Guwahati. The names of the churches/fellowships and the speakers are given below:

Church/Fellowship Speaker

Aimol Church	Rev. Lamneimang Vaiphei
Anal Church	Mr. Powlhring Pashel
City Fellowship Church	Rev. H Kaisanglun Gangte
Kuki Worship Service, Guwahati	Mr. Kaigoulun Lhouvum
Liangmai Church	Mr. Kadalung Newmai
Manipuri Church Guwahati	Mr. KR Bilong
Mission India Bible College	Rev. Dr. Ngoru Koningthung
Poumai Church	Mr. Liba Hopeson
Rongmei Church	Mr. S.K. Gaichuimei
Tangkhul Baptist Church Guwahati	Rev. Reisangmi Shinglai

In the evening, the Team joined the Graduation Ceremony of the Indian Institute of Theological Studies (IITS), Guwahati. The Youth Secretary and the Chairman of Education Committee took part in the Ceremony.

Monday, the 1st March, 2021:

The Team flew back to Imphal on Monday, the 1st of March. Over all, it was a blessed and wonderful Retreat.

The Team would like to express special gratitude to God for everything, to the MBC Council for approving the Retreat, to the Associations who had sent their youth & education secretaries, to Rev. Boipu Serto for making all the arrangements, to CBCNEI for the facilities, to all the ten churches/fellowships that opened their doors for ministry and for their hospitality, to Rev. Dr. Jolly Rimai and family for their hospitality, to the Retreat Speakers and to all those who had made this Retreat Program a success.

This type of activity is helpful in the holistic development of leaders. Therefore, the Team recommends that the Convention should continue to organise such Retreats every year and urge the Associations to continue to send their youth & education secretaries as part of their leadership Development program.



U P D A T E S

NEWLY APPOINTED
GENERAL SECRETARY
AND STAFF, MBC

**There has been changes at the MBC
Secretariat.
We would like to keep you in the loop.**

GENERAL SECRETARY, MBC



**Rev. K Losii Mao,
General Secretary, MBC**

Rev. K Losii belong to Mao Community. He is a faithful member of Mao Baptist Churches Association (MBCA). He began his theological journey - BD at UBS, Pune after completing his Bachelor's degree in B.Sc. He also successfully completed his M. Th in Missiology at SAIACS, Bangalore.

EXPERIENCES

- Worked in a Community Project under World Vision of India
 - Served as teacher - warden
- Principal at Mount Gibeion Higher Secondary School (MBCA, sponsored school)
 - Sunday School Teacher
 - Pastored at Mao Baptist Church, Imphal
 - Pastored at Mao Baptist Church, Kohima
- Rendered Service to MBCA in Various Capacities like Council Chairman, Sub-committee Secretaries, Constitution Drafter, Holy Bible Committee Member, Bible Revisor, etc.



Family of Rev. K Losii Mao

From L to R

Rev. K Losii Mao, Mochoyia L Kriichena, Mavahrii L Kriichena, Modoyini L Kriichena, Neli Komuni (Wife), Maniu L Kriichena



Ms. Kathembui Khaute is the New Assistant to the General Secretary, MBC. She is married to Mr. Somboi Khaute who belong to Vaiphei Community. She is one of the faithful members of Vaiphei Baptist Churches Association.

After graduating from Patkai Christian College, Dimapur, she ventured out to pursue her theological study (BD) at Eastern Theological College (ETC), Jorhat. She rendered her service as the Assistant to General Secretary, MBC from 2014-17 soon after she completed her BD. During her service as PA to GS, she also completed her Master's in Peace Studies at ETC, Jorhat.

Additionally, she has also completed her studies in Master's in counselling and psychotherapy at TMA Institute of Counselling, Kerala.

Ms. R Ngak Oi belong to Koren Community. She is also one of the faithful members of Kamu Koireng Baptist Church which is under Sadar baptist Association (SBA). She is the newly appointed cook of Legacy Home.



PHOTO



GALLERY



HANDING OVER OF FILES BY REV. DR. WUNGNAOTING KONGHAR (OUTGOING GS) TO REV. K LOSII MAO (INCOMING GS)



MBC SECRETARIAT: CABINET SECRETARIES, MBCCCI PASTOR, AND STAFF WITH THE OUTGOING GS AND THE INCOMING GS



TEAM OF MBC DELIVERING SO2 CONCENTRATOR AND MEDICAL KITS TO KANGPOKPI CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, A PROJECT INITIATED BY MR. LANUTEMSU, REV. BOIPU SERTO, AND SUM KOM

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD

Prevention starts with awareness. Be informed on how you can protect yourself and others from novel coronavirus:

- Self-isolate if you're feeling sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face

Concerns about your health?
Call Health Link 811.

alberta.ca/covid19

IT'S GREAT TO GET OUTSIDE, BUT PLEASE DO IT SAFELY.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 6 TO 10 FEET FROM OTHERS WHEN IN PUBLIC.

WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY.

COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW.

AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES OR YOUR FACE.

SELF-QUARANTINE IF YOU ARE SICK.

For more information: Call 1-866-408-1899, or 7-1-1 for people with a hearing impairment.

THE 200TH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & 41TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MBC HOSTED BY MONSANG NAGA BAPTIST CHURCHES ASSOCIATION, MNBCA



REV. DR. W KONGHAR FAREWELL PROGRAM



**INSTALLATION OF REV. K LOSII MAO AS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF
MBC BY REV. VUMTHANG SITHLOU (FORMER GS, MBC)**



NEWLY APPOINTED MBC HONORARY OFFICERS 2021-2022



**PRESIDENT: REV. SR ONESIMA (ANBA)
VICE PRESIDENT: LUNKHOLAL KIPGEN (TBA)
RECORDING SECRETARY: JAOJIANLUNG TIAMEI (RNBA)**



STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

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