

NEWSLETTER: November 2020

The impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic is worsening in Manipur - community spread of the virus is at its peak. People are dying but fortunately much less in comparison with the number of people infected. Most doctors are hiding while hospitals (Government's or Private's) are incapable of treating covid-patients. Every infected patient is advised to quarantine at their home and treat themselves privately as most patients taken in the hospitals are kept in isolation and hardly anyone comes out alive! Even as I write this letter, a good friend of mine, a former President of Churachandpur College has been put on a ventilator, unfortunately in the Government hospital as no home can afford ventilators – the last option!

Public gatherings in large numbers (churches, educational institutions, etc.) are still prohibited with no predictable time of re-opening them. Everything goes against my expectation of re-opening our educational institutions where the future of 6500 students and 240 teaching and non-teaching staffs are at stake! We have tried online classes but it did not work for most students. So, we gave up! It is obvious that we are living in uncertain times and with an extremely unpredictable future!

What is assuring and comforting in the midst of all these fears and uncertainties is that we have a sovereign resurrected God who loves us and is in control of every happening and of making all things work together for the good of his children.

What is most exciting in the midst of this turmoil is that the GOSPEL IS IMPACTING people in many unusual ways – some reassuring their faith in Jesus, some seeking and finding that certainty and salvation in Jesus for the first time and many recommitting to the cause of the gospel and to the church of Lord Jesus Christ.

What is really encouraging in the midst of these challenges is your prayers and gifts coming forth even when you yourself are facing the same or even worse challenges we have been battling.

1) Our 50 church employees (office staff, pastors, missionaries and evangelist) have been getting their full salary since the month of June. Our churches in Manipur should be able to take care of their workers without any help from outside now. Churches are closed except in remote villages, but they are ministering by strictly following SOP (Standard Operating Procedure). **Thank you for standing in the gap during our most difficult pandemic trying times.**

2) **The needs of our 400+ orphans at Covenant Children Home have been met because of your generous gifts.** We are keeping 30 children at the Home because we could not find foster homes or relatives for them. The rest of them are placed in foster homes or with relatives and we supply their educational, clothing and medical needs where they are. Food and shelter and other cares are provided by foster parents. This

has been how we administer CCH during this crisis. We have also reviewed and reduced the budget from \$14,000.00 to \$9,000.00 per month to come from USA supporters and increased the local support to meet the \$5000.00 balance. Currently we have sufficient funds to meet the needs of CCH for a couple of months ahead.

3) **I am happy to tell you that Agape Babies Home, a home of 20 orphan toddlers, lacks nothing even during this sinister Covid-19 Pandemic because of your love, concern, prayers and gifts.** We have sufficient funds stored up for the next few months.

4) **Thank you for your generous gifts which provided the basic needs of each of our 240 employees in September & October even when we had no revenue coming in due to the Covid – Pandemic and closure of schools.** These employees are of Rayburn College, Rayburn High School, Singngat High School and Covenant High School. My staffs were so happy to receive your gift of \$70.00 (Rs.5000.00) each in September! Again, for the second time, they were so surprised and excited to receive \$70.00 (Rs.5000.00) support from you in October! Thank you very much for helping me keep my 240 employees not starved for the last two months!

You might want to know that our educational institutions are all Christian institutions and totally dependent on fees paid by students. I have made several appeals to parents and students for help, but every appeal was like a cry in the wilderness. Certain “student unions” even boycotted some schools because they asked fees when classes are not held! Some parent’s organisations resolved and adopted NO SCHOOL so NO FEE policy. Unfortunately, we dare not ask fees! All private educational institutions in our State are facing similar challenges

So, I am encouraging my staff to praise and pray like King David to our Great Shepherd as in Psalm 23:¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In His Sovereign Grace.

Khen Tombing

Presbyterian Church in India (Reformed)

Covenant Children Home (orphanage)

Agape Babies Home (orphanage)