



Mission Update

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KINGS CARAVAN 2.0

Journey to the Land of Raising Sun

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THRIVING TOGETHER

Cultivating a Church Community that is Both Spiritually Fulfilling and Financially Sustainable

Traditional forms of giving to churches, such as individual plate donations, have seen a recent decline, leaving many churches struggling to cover increasing costs.

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CHERRAPUNJI

The Rain-soaked Paradise Earths Wettest Wonders

Cherrapunji, a village in southern Meghalaya, is located on the Shillong Plateau. Officially known as Sohra, the name "Cherrapunji" is believed to mean "land of oranges." Cherrapunji is famous for having one of the highest average annual precipitation levels in the world, measuring about 450 inches (11,430 mm).

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Faith

Vs

Fear

The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1: Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **Simply put, faith is facing the uncertainty of the future.** We all prefer to be in control, but when we are forced to give up control, we automatically employ faith. A simple example is traveling in an airplane. Many need to learn about the physics behind flight or the intricacies of flying an aircraft. Still, we have no issues flying in a plane and entrusting our lives to the pilot. We have confidence that the pilot is well-trained and knows what he is doing, and though we cannot see where the airplane is heading, we have the assurance that it will take us to our destination. Looking at another example, the fundamental principle behind "branding" that companies spend millions on is faith - that the people will buy their product in return for the hope of consistency and quality. In summary, we employ faith regularly, knowingly or unknowingly.

However, given a chance, we would rather be in control than exercise faith. Man's quest for control goes back to the initial days in Genesis. In those days, the earth seemed to be under man's control, but heaven wasn't, and they wanted to build a tower that reached the heavens. God, in turn, confused them and worsened their control. Interestingly, God demanded faith even before sin crept into the Garden of Eden; God wanted Adam and Eve to employ faith to stay away from the Tree of Good and Evil. While disobedience was the action that led to sin, unbelief was the cause. From the early days, Satan continues to tempt God's children who stand in faith to take back control. Let us pray that the Lord will increase our faith and help us to resist Satan and his schemes.

Faith is the currency using which supernatural transactions occur. Jesus said that faith as small as a mustard seed can be traded to move a mountain. The disciples understood this power of faith and hence asked Jesus to increase their faith. The author of Hebrews goes one step further and says that without faith, it is even impossible to please God. How do we handle ceding control to our God? Do our personal experiences with God strengthen our faith, or do they drive us back to reboot our faith, like what happened to the Israelites in the desert? How often do we ask God to increase our faith? Most importantly, does our faith manifest in our behavior and response to God?

Interestingly, fear also has the same definition as faith- **fear is also facing the uncertainty of the future.** Hence, fear can replace faith when trials come if one is not careful. In Hebrews, chapter 11, the author, after defining faith, gives examples of people who lived in faith or, in other words, conquered fear using faith. All those warriors of faith can be classified into three groups. One employed faith to **run away from something** (e.g., Israelites from Pharaoh at the Red Sea), and the other used faith to **run towards something** (e.g., conquering the promised land). The third did neither and **stayed still**. They all employed different tactics to deploy faith.

At the Red Sea, while running away, the Lord asked Moses to stop crying and go on the offensive, i.e., to stretch out the staff. Often, when the oppressor comes, we forget that we need to resist the Devil and go on the offensive like Jesus did using God's word, prayer and fasting. On the other hand, while running towards the promised land, the Lord wanted them to make sure that the ark of the covenant of the Lord went ahead of them. Without the remembrance of the ark of the covenant, the Lord knew that the blessings would not last.

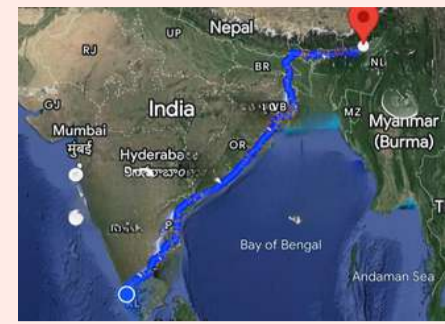
The ultimate level of faith can be seen in another group of people in Hebrews 11 who neither cared about the oppressor nor the blessings on earth. Still, their faith was so big that they didn't mind waiting for their eternal reward in the coming age. **Which of the three groups do you belong to?** I pray that the Lord will increase our faith and help us switch our fear with faith, knowing that our Lord is in control in all circumstances and situations.



"Faith and Fear both demand you believe in something you cannot see. You Choose!"
Bob Proctor

KINGS CARAVAN 2.0

Journey to the Land of Raising Sun



The Kings Caravan 2.0 embarked on its journey from Kochi, Kerala to Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on May 13, 2024, to launch its campaign against drug abuse in North East India. The initiative aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of drugs on society, individuals, and families. Various activities such as street plays, skits, demonstrations, music programs, and seminars will be organized in collaboration with local authorities to combat the negative impact of drugs in the states.

Equipped with a built-in stage, sound systems, generator, and other necessary facilities for conducting awareness programs, the caravan traveled through Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, and Assam before reaching Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on May 18. Although the truck initially encountered some technical issues, they were promptly resolved, allowing the Kings caravan to resume its journey and successfully reach its destination Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh as planned.

The King's Caravan 2.0 was warmly welcomed by Pastor Shajet Thomas and his team of RBIM (Revival Blessing International Ministries) in Arunachal Pradesh on May 18, 2024. The youth wing of RBIM will be spearheading a series of impactful initiatives to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. These efforts will include organizing seminars, street plays, and other events throughout Arunachal Pradesh.



Milestones

The truck was purchased in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in October 2023 and subsequently transported to Kerala for bodywork construction.



The truck received in Kerala was dedicated by Pastor Benny John, Regional Overseer of the Church of God, Kolkata, in the presence of Pastor Babu John, Senior Pastor of Faithcity Church. It was then sent for body construction work.

Body construction work was completed in Kochi, Kerala. This includes the installation of a sound system, generator, and other operating systems, as well as design work. The project was completed on April 2024.



The King's Caravan was inaugurated on April 28, 2024, by Pastor Y. Reji, Assistant Overseer of the Church of God Kerala state, in the presence of Pr. Giby Rapheal & Sis. Gracy Baby



Arunachal Pradesh



Arunachal Pradesh is called the Land of The Rising Sun. This is because it gets the first sunrise in the country. Arunachal Pradesh is also known as Land of the Dawn-Lit-Mountains. Dong Valley, in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh, is the small village that receives the first sunrise.

The issue of drug addiction in Arunachal Pradesh has reached alarming levels. A wide range of illicit substances, including marijuana, opioids, synthetic drugs, and prescription medications, have permeated the state, affecting both rural and urban areas. Individuals from various backgrounds are falling victim to addiction, with the temptation of drugs, peer pressure, and curiosity often leading to experimentation that can quickly escalate into full-blown addiction, wreaking havoc on lives and communities.

Several factors contribute to the growing problem of drug addiction in Arunachal Pradesh. Socioeconomic challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and limited educational opportunities create an environment that is conducive to drug abuse. A lack of awareness about the risks and consequences of drug addiction also plays a significant role in the issue. Furthermore, the easy availability of drugs through illegal networks and cross-border smuggling further exacerbates the problem, highlighting the need to address both the supply and demand sides of the issue.

In conclusion, the prevalence of drug addiction in Arunachal Pradesh is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach to tackle effectively. By addressing the root causes of addiction, raising awareness about its dangers, and cracking down on illegal drug networks, we can work towards creating a safer and healthier future for the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

THE TEAM



A dynamic team of youths from Faithcity Church enthusiastically embraced the challenge of designing King Caravan 2.0. The team meticulously curated every aspect of the project, from selecting the vehicle to designing the stage, sound system, generator, wiring system, and other automatic operations. They also carefully chose the color scheme and sticker design to ensure a cohesive and visually appealing final product.

Team: Shalvin James, Joel Lal, Sam David, Sanjay George, Abib George, Issac Paul, Dugles Peter, Ashil Rajan, Ruben Varghese



During their journey, the team had the opportunity to visit the Church of God in Kolkata. Pastor Benny John, the Regional Overseer of the Central Eastern Region, prayed for the King's Caravan to have a safe journey to Arunachal Pradesh.

INSPIRING OTHERS TO SEE THE FUTURE



"Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter". Proverbs 24:11
Kings Caravan was the brainchild of the great visionary late Pastor P.R.Baby, Founder of Faithcity Church, Kochi.

The inaugural Kings Caravan 1.0 in Kochi, Kerala, successfully organized over 250 programs on drug abuse, helping hundreds of individuals and families overcome their struggles. P R. Baby Foundation has taken over his vision.



John Alex
Director
P R. Baby Foundation



THRIVING TOGETHER

Cultivating a Church Community that is Both Spiritually Fulfilling and Financially Sustainable



Traditional forms of giving to churches, such as individual plate donations, have seen a recent decline, leaving many churches struggling to cover increasing costs. Donations and tithes can be inconsistent for churches, as is common for any nonprofit organization. The unpredictable nature of individual donations makes it difficult for churches to accurately forecast their financial future.

To combat this uncertainty, churches must explore alternative sources of income to create a more stable and secure budget. It is essential for ministries to move beyond the reliance on member tithes and seek out additional revenue streams to maintain financial stability in the face of these challenges.

By diversifying their sources of income, churches can ensure they have the necessary funds to carry out their mission without constantly worrying about funding shortages. This approach requires a balance of traditional and innovative revenue streams to support the work of the church effectively.

Ultimately, the financial health of churches relies on the increased income of their members. Therefore, church members should consider engaging in sustainable income-generating activities to support their church community and ensure its continued success.

In the April 2024 Mission Report, I emphasized the remarkable success of the Tent-Making ministry and its pivotal role in fostering self-sustainability in rural initiatives by actively engaging young people within the church community. This innovative approach goes beyond mere spiritual entertainment, as it empowers and mobilizes youth leaders to take on more meaningful roles within the church's mission.

Through this strategy, we can witness a notable increase in the level of engagement and ownership among young people, leading to a shift in their perspective on life and a greater emphasis on the value of serving others. By equipping and involving youth in decision-making processes, we may be able to tap into their natural idealism, enthusiasm, and energy to positively impact the church community.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that this success is not universal, as many churches continue to adhere to traditional practices where elders make key decisions and assign tasks to youth without empowering them with responsibilities. This approach has resulted in a decline in youth attendance, directly impacting the overall mission and growth of the church.

Moving forward, it is imperative for churches to embrace a more inclusive and empowering approach that encourages young people to explore tent-making ministries such as venturing into businesses and entrepreneurship projects. By doing so, we can create a more dynamic and sustainable church community that thrives on the active participation and leadership of its youth.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Arunachal Pradesh alongside Shalwin James, a dedicated member of Faith City Church who is involved in business in Itanagar. During our visit, we had the privilege of attending Sunday worship at Pastor Shajet Thomas's RBIM (Revival Blessing International Ministries), which boasts a vibrant congregation of over 300 energetic youth. The church is known for its lively, Spirit-filled worship services, insightful teachings, and warm fellowship that take place every Sunday, all of which are led by the youth. Additionally, the church organizes regular meetings at various locations throughout the week.

Pastor Shajet's ministry extends beyond the church building, as he oversees numerous house churches in Itanagar and other parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Pastor Shajet also operates a business that distributes educational books to support his ministry. He is passionate about exploring new income-generating business ventures and is open to collaborating with others in this endeavor. Through his business, Pastor Shajet has provided employment opportunities for several young individuals and offers free hostel accommodations to students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Pastor Shajet actively encourages the young members of his church to pursue business ventures and other income-generating activities to support themselves and contribute to the church's mission. He emphasizes the importance of financial independence and involvement in outreach initiatives within the community.

During a meeting with the youth of the church, they enthusiastically shared the various income-generating activities they are currently involved in. For instance, one student is successfully managing a football turf court and gymnasium, with ambitious plans to expand to other locations with the support of friends. Another student proudly owns an ice cream parlor and is eager to extend their business to other areas within the city. Some are also dedicated to the field of physiotherapy.

In addition to these entrepreneurial pursuits, these industrious individuals are also pursuing higher education and engaging in various other endeavors. Shalwin, for example, is actively involved in overseeing a chain of bakeries in Itanagar and is in the process of launching new restaurants in collaboration with church members. The ultimate goal is for church members to eventually take charge of all business activities in both urban and rural areas, all while serving as shining examples of Jesus Christ to their customers and clients.

Pastor Shajet also shared his inspiring vision of establishing educational institutions, hospitals, and similar programs in the future to further support the church and its mission. His visionary ideas and the dedication of the church members serve as exemplary models that other congregations can emulate with appropriate modifications. May God bless him and the entire community as they continue to work towards their noble goals.

Dr. P J George

Former Director,
Centre for Human Resource
Development, Sam Higginbottom
University of Agriculture, Technology
and Sciences

**PRAYAGRAJ,
UTTAR PRADESH.**



“Christian mission is not to preach Christ, but to be Christians in life. There.”

ALEXANDER SCHEMANN

CHERRAPUNJI

**The Rain-soaked Paradise
Earths Wettest Wonders**



It also holds the record for the greatest total single-year rainfall, with 1,042 inches (26,467 mm) in August 1860–July 1861, and one of the highest one-month total rainfalls, with 366 inches (9,296 mm) in July 1861. This heavy precipitation is due to the village's location on the southern edge of the plateau, where the saturated summer monsoon air rises up the southern slope, cools rapidly, and releases large amounts of condensed water.

Sohra, as the locals refer to Cherrapunji, has become a popular tourist destination due to its stunning waterfalls, living root bridges, and caves. The Nohkalikai Falls, standing at 1,115 feet (340 meters), is one of the tallest waterfalls in India. Other beautiful waterfalls in the area include the Dainthlen Falls, the Seven Sisters Falls, and the Wei Sawdong Falls. The Mawsmai caves, with their unique formations and fossils, attract spelunkers from around the world. Many strong living root bridges have been constructed in the region by twining the secondary roots of the Indian rubber tree by hand. Some of these remarkable bridges have stood the test of time, lasting for more than 500 years.

The village serves as a bustling trade center for the area's agricultural products. Oranges, pineapples, and various other fruits from neighboring villages are prominently featured in the vibrant Sohra market. Cherrapunji, once the capital of the independent Khasi states, relinquished its title to Shillong in 1864. Today, it remains predominantly inhabited by the Khasi people, who are predominantly Christian and adhere to a matrilineal social system where family names and ancestral descent are passed down through maternal lines.

Meghalaya, a state in northeast India, was officially formed on January 21, 1972. It was created by separating two districts from the state of Assam: the United Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills, and the Garo Hills. Cherrapunji, a village in southern Meghalaya, is located on the Shillong Plateau, approximately 35 miles (55 km) southwest of Shillong, the state capital. Officially known as Sohra, the name "Cherrapunji" is believed to mean "land of oranges."

Cherrapunji is famous for having one of the highest average annual precipitation levels in the world, measuring about 450 inches (11,430 mm).



Shaping the Future

Transformative Leadership Development

Since 2019, we have been diligently working in the challenging terrain of Garo Hills to make a positive impact on community development. Located in the remote region of Meghalaya state, Garo Hills presents unique obstacles that we have been determined to overcome. One of the major challenges we faced was communication, as the rural population predominantly speaks local tribal languages.

Our primary goal has been to build a strong team of A.chik people (Garo) who can effectively engage with the local community. Education has been a key focus area for us, as the literacy rate in Garo Hills is as low as 40%. Additionally, we have been actively involved in the health sector by organizing free medical camps for students, women, and children. We also conduct awareness programs on the harmful effects of drug use within the community.

Our efforts have yielded positive results, as we were able to train two youths from Garo Hills in Kerala, who are now working as community workers with us. We have successfully established a team of A.chik leaders who are dedicated to community development work. These leaders will undergo training in Kolkata at the Church of God Central Eastern Region Training Centre and at the Faithcity Centre in Kochi to enhance their leadership skills.

THE FAITHCITY A.CHIK FOUNDATION TEAM

Hebilson R Marak, Hardingson A Sangma (South Garo Hill district)

Riksan Marak, Kerin C Marak and Primpston N Sangama (East Garo Hill district)

Rekbath D Momin, Anil Marak (North Garo Hill district)

Activity Coordinator for Pentecostal Children's Education Fund (PCEF) & P R. Baby Foundation : Rajesh Thomas

Meghalaya State Coordinator: Pr. Sijo M George



Recently, Pastor Benny John, the Regional Overseer of the Church of God Central Eastern Region, ordained three individuals to work specifically in Garo Hills. This recognition highlights the progress we have made in our mission to uplift and empower the community in Garo Hills.



Sunny Thomas
Director
Pentecostal
Children's
Education
Fund



I Can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

Mother Teresa

