

In Touch



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*From the desk of
the Executive Director..*

When Joshua was taking over the rein of leadership from Moses his mentor, God tells him, "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or terrified; do not be discouraged.." The message itself speaks volumes about the challenging task of Joshua. Entering into the promise land - flowing with milk and honey; to fight with the powerful inhabitants and crossing of the almost overflowing Jordan river.

We are told that 'do not fear' appeared 355 times in the Bible and 'strong' for 254 times. God feels that these words are important for His people who are on the move, who are taking up new challenges and who are wanting to invest more. NEICORD desires to move toward new and challenging areas of the ministry. That is why we are taking up the challenge of "Child Sponsorship Project" and launched during Dr. I. Ben Wati's visit.

We invite and encourage each and everyone to spare just Rs.2/- per day to enable poor children to reach their God given potential. With just Rs.650/- per month you can sponsor a child and help change lives.

Thank you

Rev. Dr. H.M. Songate

LAUNCHING OF "CHILD SPONSORSHIP" PROGRAMME

NEICORD launched its "Child Sponsorship" Programme on the 1st of December 2010 at NEICORD Office, Laitumkhrah. The Executive Director, NEICORD shared the vision of child sponsorship for the poor children starting from the state of Meghalaya.



The "Child Sponsorship" programme was launched and blessed by the founder of NEICORD Dr. I. Ben Wati, in presence of the Staff, Church leaders and Government Dignitaries.

He encouraged everyone present in the occasion from the book of Nehemiah and to lead a life of POLC i.e. Prayer and planning, Organizing systematically, Leading and Control by the power of the Holy Spirit. Children Sponsorship Programme will be for the welfare of the children in the areas of education, health and overall development of the children.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEICORD BANQUET IN AID OF CHILDREN OF TYRNA VILLAGE



26th October 2010, NEICORD organized a special banquet to raise fund for poor children of Tyrna Village. The Banquet had the blend of tribal delicacies of Naga and Khasi tribes. The smoked boil pork with bamboo shoot and turumbai (khasi food) was relished by the people. A brief programme was conducted before the dinner. Special song "I have a dream", was presented by Ms Ferilin Marbaniang where children pictures were displayed. Two little sisters Ms Talitha and Ms Rhoda also favoured the people with a special khasi number. There was a brief presentation on the children of Tyrna

Village. Thereafter, the Executive Director spoke on the need to sponsor under-privilege children. He showed a newspaper clipping which showed that there are more hungry people in India than in Sudan.

He emphasized that child sponsorship meant not only providing formal education to children but also providing subsidy for the poor family, annual health check-up, clothing and improved living environment i.e. an overall long term development of children living in poverty. He shared that sponsors in return will receive the joy of sharing someone in need. Sponsors will be able to correspond with the child and receive the child's annual progress report, greeting cards signed from children and they can also visit the child. The crowd was favoured by gospel songs by the New Life Ministries' Praise and Worship group.



ECHO CONFERENCE, UMIAM (6th – 8th October 2010)

1st ECHO conference for India was organized jointly by ICAR, ECHO and NEICORD in Umiam, Meghalaya for the NGOs and Government who works for improving sustainable agricultural practices vis-a-vis research and various implementations. 52 representatives from different NGOs of North East India and states like Rajasthan, Jharkand and Delhi participated in the conference. The purpose of this conference was to exchange knowledge between agricultural practitioners based on innovative application on improved methods of cultivation. The Resource persons were from ECHO, ICAR and EDGE

Outreach. Topics on "Technological option in Agriculture for Enhancing of Livelihood option for Tribal Farmers", "Integrated farming system an option for Livelihood for Food Security", "Leaves, Shoots and Hearts, Sustainable upland farming", "Farmers – Managed crop Improvement", "Simple research methodologies and why they are important for your Agricultural work" were discussed in various sessions. Seed swap exercise benefited the participants in understanding of the seeds cultivated in different places and to try them in their own regions. The conference helped the participants to learn qualified agricultural packages of practices.



PROJECT RAPHAEL EXPOSURE TRIP, KOLKOTA

(6th -10th November 2010)

An exposure trip to Kolkata was organized by Project Raphael, where 59 representatives from different partner churches of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland participated. They were accompanied by 5 NEICORD staff. The Objective of the trip was to give Church leaders first hand information about HIV/AIDS i.e. (a) to see how the implementation of prevention and care are taken up, (b) how the high risk groups including



Participants outside the Scepter Centre



At Free Set Ministry



Participants listening to Director, Arunima Hospice

the women, children, orphans etc were taken care of, (c) to help the church leaders to get ideas on how to develop the right strategy and right program as per their required needs.

The team had two days of exposure visits to various organizations. The team visited five Organizations i.e. 'Street Children Ministry' which is a day care centre for the street children, 'Arunima Hospice', a residential and day care support centre for PLHAs, 'Prostitute Children Ministry', a centre for the prostitute's children,

'Free set ministry', a bag and T-shirt manufacturing business for women out of prostitution and 'Missionaries of Charity'. Presentation on Human Trafficking was shown to the team by 'Justice and Care Ministry'. The team was encouraged with interactions and meetings with the poor and at risk groups and learned the importance of advocacy. The team was greatly challenged to come out of their comfort zone and reconsider their services to the people in need as a church with an unconditional love of Jesus.



Justice and Care ministry in session



Participants' sharing and interaction

"It is so challenging to see theory in practical"
~ Mizoram Pastor

"I am ashamed to be called myself a pastor. I have wasted so much of my time in my comfort zone"

~ Pastor Churachandpur

"This trip has fully transformed me"

~ Core member Manipur

"All Christians should change the way we look at HIV positive people. This is the message that I am going to take back to my Church"
~ Core member Manipur

UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✂ **Training on Stigma and discrimination and Peace Building:** NEICORD in collaboration with CRWRC will be conducting training on Peace Building, Stigma on the 7th - 9th of December 2010 for the staff and church leaders. The facilitators for the training are Nancy TenBroek and Rev. Roy Berkenbosch.
- ✂ **Advent Christmas:** NEICORD staff will celebrate advent Christmas on 16th December 2010 at Nehru Park, Barapani. The staff are looking forward to a blessed time of fellowship and sharing.

NEW ARRIVALS



Mr. Samuel Jesupatham
Program Director



Ms. Ladly Khanam
Support Staff/Janitor

SHGs STEPPING TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE IN PATHARKHMAH, MEGHALAYA

This year two SHG federations were registered under the Society Act in Patharkmah Community Development Project. Two of the SHG Federations have their offices i.e. one in Barigaon Village and another in Warmawsaw Village. The office land was donated by the communities. However, the Bari Gaon Federation Office construction was contributed by the SHGs and Warmawsaw Federation Office was sanctioned by the Block Development Office, Jirang.



Inauguration of SHG Federation Office in Barigaon



Meeting of SHG Federation

The Federations together joined hands and organized a programme on "World Literacy Day" on 8th September 2010. They invited all the SHG members, Village Headmen, school students, teachers, school principals and church leaders to participate and encouraged them to eliminate illiteracy from their villages.

To encourage continuing literacy skill for the SHGs and the community as a whole, the Lawei Phyrnai Federation has set up a community Library at their Office in Warmawsaw.



ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE IN PATHARKHMAH

After a lot of training programmes and exposure visit on SRI and SALT, 53 farmers have started practicing System of Rice Intensification (SRI) under the Food Security Project in Patharkmah, a new technology of rice cultivation. A farmer named Gauri Makri, harvested 105 kg rice from the 20grams of rice seed sowed. The other farmers too are expecting high yield in the harvesting season of December.



34 farmers have adopted Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) as the alternative method of Jhum cultivation. They have planted Nitrogen Fixation Tree (NFT) in rows to prevent soil erosion and increase soil fertility. They planted permanent crops like banana, orange, lemon etc and seasonable vegetables in between the rows.

STAFF RETREAT (19th-22nd October 2010)

2 days Staff retreat was organized for Head office NEICORD staff at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. The Resource person was Mr. Lipok Wati who took session on 'Serving God' from 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 2. He emphasized on serving God in all situations, sacrificially, blamelessly, with integrity, with a very pure motive, with love and serve to nurture. His session also included John 15: 1-8 "Jesus the true vine". The Executive Director and Programme Director also lead in devotions. The staff also had a time of outing and fellowship.

