

Principal's Desk



I am grateful to the CBCNEI Executive Committee for trusting and giving me the privilege to shoulder the responsibility of the College as the Principal from June 1, 2022. Prior to this new Office I have served the College for 32 years under seven Principals and I have learned many things from them. On my part, I know my limitations and yet I am trying my best not to do great thing but to do small thing in a great way.

The College started the current academic session on the 15th of June 2023 with the total enrollment of 412 students (BD-317; M. Th. – 68; D.Th. – 27). Besides this number we have 7 doctoral researchers who are directly registered to SATHRI and placed here as they are being supervised by the Faculty members of ETC.

I am not able to report the results of 2023 as results are yet to receive. But, in the history of the College, last year (2022) we have the best academic results. All 27 M. Th. graduates passed in First Division and almost half of those 71 B.D. graduates passed in First Division and the rest in high Grade Second Division. So far, 4 doctoral students have submitted their dissertations to the Senate and waiting for Viva Voce.

As expected and required, from August 1, 2022 onward I have travelled and visited several local churches and Christian organizations in Manipur and Nagaland for promotional works. I will continue to do that to other parts of the Council.

1. On October 17 & 18: As a member of Senate Commission visited to Shalom Bible Seminary at Sapormaina, Kangpokpi, Manipur for evaluation for affiliation.

2. On November 2 – attended Sesquicentennial Celebration of ABAM at Impur
3. On November 10 – attended and participated in 50 years of Clark Theological College at Aolijen, Mokokchung and as a mark of Golden Jubilee, during which CTC launched New Journal, *Sümedem – Journal of Communication and Cultural Studies* and the First Issue was released by me as the Principal of sister College.
4. On November 20, 2023 we observed ETC Day of Prayer. We visited 13 churches in Dimapur, Kohima and Tuli.
5. From November 24-26, 2023 I attended the Senate Convocation at Harding Theological College, Tura. During which, I am made as a member of Academic Council of the Senate of Serampore College.
6. ETC Foundation Day was observed on January 12, 2023. During the celebration, Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongphi was invited as Guest Speaker and Mr. Nshenthung, Vice President of CBCNEI as special guest who brought Greetings on behalf of the Council. We were all blessed.
7. From January 26 to 28, 2023 I attended Theological Consortium organized by CBCNEI at Trinity Theological College, Thahekhu and led a session discussing on Tribal Theology. This Theological Consortium was organized as a part of East-West theological enterprise between Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School and CBCNEI recognized colleges in NEI. The members from CRCDS are: Dr. Angela Sims, President of CRCDS, Rev. Paul Vick, member of the Board and Dr. Choi Young, Prof. of NT. From CBCNEI side there were 8 Colleges (Eastern Theological College, Trinity Theological College, Baptist Theological College, Manipur Theological College, Witter Bible College, Oriental Theological Seminary, Shalom Bible College, Harding Theological College) plus NECU attended the program.
8. I participated in National Seminar on Religion and Religious Fundamentalism organized by Trinity Theological College, Thahekhu, Dimapur and presented a paper on Saffronizing India.
9. On February 4 and 5, I visited Jalukie Town Baptist Church and Peren Town Baptist Church, Peren. These two towns and their neighbouring churches under the Zeme Baptist churches Council are earmarked to visit on ETC Day of Prayer on November 12, 2023.
10. From March 28-30, I attended Tangkhul Baptist Pastors Association annual conference at Kasom Khullen as resource person to their program and promotional work in between the sessions.
11. From April 19 to 23, 2023 I attended CBCNEI Executive Meeting and reported Principal's Report to the AGM at Mon, Nagaland.

In The campus:

1. On request, the Regional Manager of State Bank of India, Jorhat to help Eastside Public School Mr. Changkima has gifted 8 pieces of Computer and 2 Godrej Almerah to the School. We are thankful to him.
2. As there is shortage of power (electricity) in the campus the College is installing 250Kv Transformer with approximate cost of 15 lakhs.
3. The Team from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School, New York visited ETC on the 30th January 2023. We hosted them and organized a Cultural Evening. They were happy with it.
4. On February 16, 2023, we again hosted Mr. Paul Wood, Morna and William (Bill) Wood, children of Rev. J.M. Wood, former Principal of ETC during 1958-61. Paul Wood laid the Foundation Stone of Wood Research Wing and J.H. Thumra Memorial Archive building on the same day.

5. The construction of J.H. Thumra Memorial Archive (Ground Floor) and J.M. Wood Research Wing building is in progress. We have signed contract with Mr. Swaroop Sarma for the construction.
6. We have purchased 20 pieces of bench for the Chapel from ETC Day of Prayer offering collection.
7. We are facing short of Faculty Quarters and so we plan to construct one quarter during 2023-24 academic session. However, on seeing the rush of applicants to ETC we have given priority to extend Hostel facility in both boys and girls hostels.
8. Eastside Public School of the College is doing well. We will have from Nursery to Class II this year with total enrollment of about 170+ students. I am also happy to report that 4 of the M. Th. Graduates are joining EPS from May 2023.
9. Because of the heavy pressure of admission we have extended one Block in Narola Imchen Hostel (named after the first woman Principal since 2022); in that Block we have 8 rooms plus one common kitchen. This is so because 4 rooms are designed for research students with bathroom attached to each room.

Gratuity Payment: This financial year has been an exceptional year for the College during which several employees retired and few resigned. For example, Mrs. Renthunglo Kikon (resigned because she had to join her husband's ministry at Siliguri), Mr. Nayan Kerai (resigned for personal reason), Prof. Narola Imchen and Prof. Lima Jamir (retired by service), Mr. S. Vio (retired by service), Prof. Zhodi Angami and Prof. Marlene Ch. Marak (resigned as Zhodi decided to join Bible Society of India, Shillong). On approval by College Board the money amounting to Rs. 47, 69, 901.00 has been paid.

Faculty Status: Besides getting one from BCM, there has been pressing need to induct few more teachers in specific departments the College authority has appointed the following persons.

1. Dr. Lipoknenla Ozukum in the department of Communication with effect from June 1, 2023
2. Mr. Kharingsho Ahum in the department of Christian Ministry specializing in Christian Education with effect from June 1, 2023
3. On my request, the Baptist Church of Mizoram is deputing Rev. Lalmuanawma Renthlei (M. Th. in NT) as missionary teacher to ETC with effect from 1st June 2023.

Awards and Prizes

1. J.H. Thumra Fellowship (instituted by Tangkhul Baptist Churches Association) carries Rs. 60,000.00 per year to a deserving B.D. student.
2. Prof. Renthly Keitzar Memorial Award for Biblical Studies (instituted by Mokokchung Senso Laishir Telongjem) has a capital Fixed Deposit of Rs. 60,000.00
3. Prof. Renthly Keitzar Memorial Award for Old Testament (instituted by Ao Theological Association) has a capital Fixed Deposit of Rs. 1,50,000.00
4. Prof. O.M. Rao Award for New Testament Studies (instituted by his children) has a capital Fixed Deposit of Rs. 1,00,000.00
5. Mrs Romala I. Rao Award for Christian Ministry (instituted by her children) has a capital Fixed Deposit of Rs. 25, 000.00
6. Prof. Akheto Sema Award for Music (instituted by his family) has a capital Fixed Deposit of Rs. 1,00,000.00

The College, during the Graduation in April every year normally awards Meritorious Books Prizes to the best students who scored highest average in those specific Cluster like Old

Testament, New Testament, Theology and Ethics, Religion and Philosophy, History of Christianity, and Christian Ministry. The College also awards Scripture Prize to the one who scored highest average in Scripture Knowledge examinations, preaching competition is also conducted for the final year students and award Preaching Prize to the best preacher of the year. We also have ETC Prize which is awarded to a student who makes an outstanding contribution to the College in all aspects.

Meritorious Book Prizes

Old Testament	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
New Testament	: Miss Illi A. Ayemi
Theology & Ethics	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
History of Christianity	: Mr. Victor A
Religion and Philosophy	: Mr. Victor A
Christian Ministry	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
Scripture Knowledge	: Mr. Ramching Shinglai

Awards

Prof. Renty Keitzar Memorial Award for Biblical Studies	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
Prof. Renty Keitzar Memorial Award for Old Testament	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
Rev. Dr. O.M. Rao Memorial Award for New Testament	: Miss Illi A. Ayemi
Mrs. Ramola Indira Rao Memorial Award in Christian Ministry	: Mr. Chaimi Shimray
Prof. Akheto Sema Music Award	: Mr. Ramaso Longvah

The Rev. Henry Goldsmith Memorial GENERAL PROFICIENCY:

Mr. Chaimi Shimray (B.D.)
Miss Lenyangerla (M. Th.)

GENERAL PROFICIENCY of MA-HCD:

Miss Haipenle Kath

Prizes

Preaching Prize:

1. Mrs. Tabitha D. Shira
2. Mr. Daihpa Bum Hkrang Awng

ETC Prize: Mr. Victor A

Music Prize: Miss Illi A. Ayemi

For the needy students, we receive scholarship from Christian Education Fund, Kassel. This scholarship is normally awarded to those students who are academically bright but economically needy. We also receive a scholarship from Brewster Baptist Church which is meant for few M. Th. students.

Partners with ETC: (1) There are many individuals, local churches, Associations and Conventions who give financial contribution to ETC for specific projects; they cannot be named here. Among them, few of the following partners have been regularly giving the annual contribution for many years and their names are mentioned here:

Names	Amount
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Sirarakhong Baptist Church, Sirarakhong	Rs. 20,000.00
Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM), Impur	Rs. 30,000.00
Dimapur Ao Baptist Church, Dimapur	Rs. 1,00,000.00
Ukhrul Town Baptist Church, Ukhrul	Rs. 12,000.00
Peren Town Baptist Church, Peren	Rs. 50,000.00
Jorhat Ao Baptist Church, Jorhat	Rs. 20,000.00
Tangkul Baptist Church, Darogajan, Dimapur	Rs. 30,000.00
Angami Baptist Church Council, Kohima	Rs. 50,000.00
Konyak Baptist Bumeinok Bangjum, Mon Town	Rs. 50,000.00
Chakhesang Baptist Church Council, Pfcutero	Rs. 1,00,000.00
Phungyo Baptist Church, Ukhrul	Rs. 1,00,000.00
Zeme Baptist Church Council, Peren	Rs. 50,000.00

My sincere appeal to our dear patrons is to revisit to the figure and raise it a bit.

Partner with ETC: (2) The Wokha Town Baptist Church sponsors Dr. S. Ekonthung Ezung, Associate Professor in Christian Ministry (Pastoral Care and Counselling) by paying Rs. 35,662.00 per month for the last two years and our partnership will continue for longer time.

The College conducted its Graduation on the 30th of April 2023. During the Ceremony, Prof. Rev. Dr. Limatula Longkumer, the Registrar of the Senate of Serampore College addressed the graduands. Her address was very motivative, inspiring, and convincing. ETC has granted Certificate of Completion of Residential Studies to 4 Doctor of Theology (D.Th.) students, College Diploma to 26 M. Th. students and College Diploma to 64 B.D. students. The College has granted Degree of Master of Arts in Holistic Child Development (MA-HCD) to 9 students.

Conclusion

Let me testify that the centrally sponsored College of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) is doing very well. Each of the employee and student work with the plight of the Council and also with the commitment to promote the Council through Eastern Theological College. That is the reason why we are courageous enough to invite CBCNEI churches to invest your human and financial resources in us so that we will return biblically founded, theologically matured and spiritually established leaders to your church. Do not forget that this College is your mission field. We call to the generous individuals, local churches and Associations to come forward to work with us not because we are starving but we are doing great work and we want to partner with you for greater achievements. Our partnership will make a difference.



Prof. Dr Shimreingam Shimray
Principal

Dated: Jorhat June 15, 2023