

# IUGO

A quarterly Newsletter Publication of the Naga Christian Fellowship Mumbai

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Naga Christian Fellowship Mumbai, post-pandemic, buzzed back into life with greater vigour. Its culture and traditions including Connect, Annual Camp, Potluck, and the ever-lively Sunday School sprung back to life louder. And all was well with the soul once again. This edition carries glimpses of all the blessings of God to NCFM from June 2021 to May 2022. May we all recall the blessings!

In this edition, Pastor Hamyan Phom shares an extract Be Intentional to Walk with God from his sermon series Intentional Living. His piece is spiritually encouraging in upholding our communion with God; and psychologically tactful in dealing with the distractions and temptations of the technological age. As much as it sheds light on God's words, it prepares the mind to look at life and our ways of living with purpose and intentions, nudging our minds to stay focused and determined within the realm of Christ's teachings and the commandments of God.

IUGO, in this edition, has a lot more in the form of alumni reminiscing their days in Mumbai and their blessed association with NCFM, inspiring words from Core Leaders, the journey of Naga Belly Kitchen, among other things. A joy to read it would be. Not to mention the twinkling sketches of the Sunday School children and the photo series besides the yearly Report.

God as the anchor of our hope worked wonders to and through NCFM and beyond. In the tempest of life, did not God deliver? New hopes have broken like the morning sun anew. Ever the merciful, o God, NCFM is Thine! May God bless us all evermore!

*By Shaokhai Mayirnao*



### *Editorial Team*

Wungram Raikhan  
Lumreiphi (Alum) Raikhan  
Shaokhai Meyirnao  
Lanbangliu Lulu Kamei

*"NCF Mumbai exists to Reach the people, Equip the believers, Ascertain the church and Prepare to disciple the nation through all we do"*

*\*Iugo is a Latin word, meaning connect or bind*

# Pastor's Desk... *Pastor Hamyan Phom*

Dear believers in Christ Jesus,

I bring warm greetings in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Through this Column, I intend to share an extract from the sermon series

'Intentional Living' which I took up in church a few months ago.

*'Be Intentional to Walk with God'* is one of the sub-topics that we studied and meditated upon.



Intentional walk with God requires **3 important components**.

## 1. It requires our Genuine Love for God

Biblical passages, such as Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37-38, Mark 12:30, command us to love our Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind and with all our strength. Like this is the First and Greatest Commandment, it is also the foundation of genuine love for God. For 'God is love' (Agape), love as it is cannot be less than Agape; it ought to be as genuine as it gets in the likeness of God as love.

Likewise, I believe, as parents, we do not love our children just simply or thoughtlessly. We love them so dearly. Our love for each other is intentional. We live, eat and sleep together under one roof. In such relationships, we share, help and uplift each other. These genuine expressions and feelings of love more or less fulfil the commandment expressly instructed in Agape.

On the other hand, we say we love God. But do we really love Him? How genuine is your love for God? Do you really love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? To love God genuinely is to love Him with our whole being. Putting Him as number one above all else. Loving Him more than our wife or husband, children, our brothers and sisters; more than our wealth, jobs and properties. Loving Him at all times and in every situation of life. God loves us so much even though we do not deserve it. His great love for us is manifested through His son Jesus Christ. (John 3:16).

Therefore, in walking with God, we ought to love Him intentionally with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. If the intention is true, not only the authenticity of love for God is plausible but aligns with God by naturally keeping/obeying God's commandments. Love God intentionally and genuinely to love others like God does.

## 2. It Requires Faith

Genesis 5:21-24 talks about Enoch who had unwavering faith in God and walked with God with reverence, fear and obedience till the end. Also, Hebrews 11: 5-6 testify the faith of Enoch and the reward for shouldering unwavering faith in God. For his exemplary and unwavering faith, 'God took him' and did not let him experience death. It also tells that it is impossible to please God without faith (v.6).

Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. The whole Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews talks about the great examples of faith. We can see the heroes and heroines of faith. They earned reputations or they were commended for their faith. In our intentional walk with God, we need faith.

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### 3. It Requires Intimate Relationship with Him

The Bible testifies that Enoch walked with God faithfully. For his entire life, he walked in close fellowship with God. He lived a life that pleased God.

The phrase “walked with” God means to have a good cooperative relationship with another person. In other words, Enoch “got along” with God. He knew God well and spent time with Him. It takes time to get to know someone and it takes effort. For instance, we will never know the person well just by saying ‘hi’, ‘hello’. One cannot build a relationship without both quantity and quality time. True and intimate relationship does not happen instantly. It requires time and effort. We need to interact with him/her, walk, eat, play and have fun together. Share our problems, encourage each other, help and support each other. Likewise, if you want to walk closer with God, you need to intentionally set out time to walk with Him.

#### How can we set out time for Him?

Like ‘each to his own’, one may formulate one’s own mechanism. There are a number of ways to set out time for God to be in His service. This mechanism may differ from person to person. However, there are certain fundamentals that ought to form the foundation of our thinking and plan of actions. Three of such fundamental points are highlighted below.

- 1) Study God’s Word and meditate on it daily.
- 2) Prayer is communicating with God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says

*“... pray without ceasing...”*

Many times, this continual prayer changes us, bringing us in line with God’s will.

- 3) Obeying God’s commands is to walk with God.

To do so, one must keep in step with Him. In other words, this is being obedient to God’s words and doing His will.

When we walk with the Lord, we draw closer to Him with all our heart. He becomes our focus. Our heart longs for Him. Our heart seeks His presence. Our desire to have fellowship with Christ, and to be like Him, will grow while our worldly desires will decrease.

When we walk with God, our life will be different. *“Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.” (1 John 2:6).* The result of walking with God is fruitfulness. When we abide in Jesus, we will produce fruit. (John 15:5)

So, to walk intentionally with God, we need to Love God First because this is the first and greatest commandment. Secondly, it requires faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Thirdly, it requires intimate relationship with God through studying His Words, through prayer and our daily obedience in His words and doing His will. When we live intentionally, being intentional to walk with God, by fulfilling all these, the result will be fruitful. Let me wrap up with two famous sayings:

*“Smart men walked on the moon, daring men walked on the ocean floor, but wise men walk with God.”*  
—Leonard Ravenhill

*“Those who walk with God, always reach their destination.”*  
— Henry Ford

*God Bless!!!*

## CORE TEAM'S CALL & COMMITMENT IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING



### **Akali Chopy (General Secretary)**

It has been an exciting journey and an immense joy serving the Lord by being part of NCF Mumbai. As I continue to be part of the Core Team I'm truly honoured to be able to work with such young and energetic teammates all the while being guided by the Church Elders and our Heavenly Father. I have learned so much from each one. I am grateful for this opportunity again to be part of this amazing team and serve our God in His Church.



### **Kenneth Jezreel (Praise & Worship Core Leader)**

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." John 4:23 NIV. Holding on to this heavenly calling, I hope and pray in my tenure as the Praise & Worship Core Leader that the Lord Jesus will be the centre of all our worship. I am grateful to God for the members of the worship team who have been encouraging in all aspects of worship. May we fix our eyes on Jesus in the coming days and I pray that the Lord Jesus give us the grace to do so! Amen. Praise the Lord!



### **Vekutulu Chiero (Finance Core Leader)**

Being a part of the finance team at NCF Mumbai in the past three years was a great learning experience, and I am blessed beyond measure. I am delighted. It is my great desire that I will keep striving to glorify God. May I continue to have the will to build His Kingdom and share His Love through serving the Lord!



### **Redinokdang Lemtur (Outreach & Evangelism Core Leader)**

Since the start of my role as a core leader last year I have been enjoying serving the Lord and the church. When my tenure was coming to an end, God really spoke to me to once again continue as a Core Leader and that I can do much more than last year. So here I am continuing as a Core Leader of the Outreach and Evangelism. I am looking forward to serving God and the church and to starting a new chapter.



### **Grace Nesaraj (Prayer Coordinator)**

Praise Jesus, I had always wondered as a child whether God would hear ALL my prayers. When my Dad taught me that I can ask ANYTHING in prayer, naturally I was skeptical. Over the years, the LORD has patiently taught me to trust Him more and more, because JESUS is the High Priest forever, who has set up His throne of grace to hear my every petition. I began to exercise faith in Jesus and love in prayer, for myself as well as while interceding for others. When offered a position as Prayer Coordinator in NCFM, I knew the works of Jesus would continue. Thank God for mountains moved, kingdom of darkness pulled-down and prayers answered.



### **Media & Networking Core Leaders**

#### **Wangkheyong Shangkey**

Even though I am new to this field, I am very hopeful about learning from our elders and my team and in taking up this responsibility, and giving it my best. I feel immensely blessed to be a part of the team to serve God.





**Deepa Lama (Hospitality Core Leader)**

Last year I was the Hospitality Assistant Core Leader and by God's grace this year I am Hospitality Core Leader. Through this opportunity, I myself am looking forward to growing as a leader in God's plan. Looking forward to serving the Lord. Thank you.



**Visano Mekro (Sunday School Core Leader)**

It gives me immense joy to be serving the Lord as the Sunday School Teacher. I commit to willingly give my all in this service to the Lord.



**Nchumbemo Ezung (Maintenance Core Leader)**

I am grateful and blessed for the opportunity given to me to serve as the Maintenance Core Leader in Naga Christian Fellowship Mumbai. As I take up this leadership, I commit to serve the Lord with my best of capabilities and I am looking forward to learning and working together with the team.



**Helito Achumi (Working Youth Core Leader)**

I am thankful for the opportunity given to me. It is a pleasure working with the family of NCFM. I never imagined that one day I will be a part of NCF family to serve humbly with passion, encouraging and motivating people. Hoping and praying to work with all that I got from life to lead the Working Youth Fellowship. May God strengthen and help us in all our undertakings!

**Alum Raikhan  
Treasurer**



**Imlinukla  
Family Fellowship  
Coordinator**



**James Lana  
Convenor, Pastoral Team**



**Lipokwati Lemtur  
Member, Pastoral Team**



**David Nesaraj  
Member, Pastoral Team**



**Reisang Muinao  
Member, Pastoral Team**



**Rinzat Lungran  
Member, Pastoral Team**



**T**o describe my experience in NCFM is a houseful of memories. But to walk us through the whole experience may not be possible in this

small section. Therefore, we'll open the door to a certain room which holds a special place in my heart - the children's ministry.

I was naive, inexperienced and unskilled in teaching children. Yet because of leaders like Pastor Hamyan and other elders who saw the potential in us and gave one the opportunity, I was able to grow. As I look back and reflect on what the Sunday school department was like, I remember the eager, inquisitive children, ready to learn, almost never missing even a single Sunday. Some of them attending two, three services in a day. The fact that the children were present in church every Sunday is because their parents encouraged and pushed them. They were the backbone, always being supportive, and never failing to be appreciative. Pastor and sister Lima were there to guide and instruct all along. It was because of them that I was able to come out of my comfort zone many a time and grow.

It really was a joy and an honor being able to be a part of the children's ministry, encountering and experiencing all these. I did teach but in fact, I learnt much more.

Like the elders keep saying, "NCF is a leadership producing factory." As I walked out of that door, I gained experience, my love for children grew much more and so did my wonder for Christ.

It was hard to leave Mumbai and relocate somewhere else but I am also happy to share that I am serving in the children's ministry again and NCFM, you play a very big role in it. I am here because of how you've shaped me.

### **Thejavinuo (Jaja) Rio**

*(Jaja is now doing her MA (Eng. Literature) in English And Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)*

**G**reetings to all in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

I am very thankful for this opportunity to share a short write up of my stay in Mumbai and experience with our NCF Church, Mumbai. When I first came to Mumbai in the year 2016, I was a bit apprehensive. However, on attending my first NCF service I was so happy and relieved on meeting the friendly and cheerful congregation.

The interactions among all the members after every Sunday Service over delightful and tasty refreshment further strengthened the bond of friendship. NCF Mumbai was for me a Home away from where I could find joy and peace.

NCF annual camps has been a huge blessing. I met new friends during these annual camps and they have been a constant source of support and blessing. It is a joy and also relaxing to meet the NCF family members every Sunday after hectic weekdays.

Spiritually I was very much blessed through the sermons, testimonies, worship songs and all the activities of our NCF Church. I would not have been able to survive in the City for 6 years without the help and guidance of our NCF Mumbai family members. I will forever cherish the blessings and memories of NCF Mumbai.

God bless NCF Mumbai under the leadership of our beloved Pastor Hamyan!!

### **Sashimar Aier**

*(He works with Bank of Baroda and now transferred to Mokokchung Branch, Nagaland)*



# The Journey of Naga Belly Kitchen in Mumbai

*Naga belly kitchen* is a humble business venture by two Naga ladies.

It caters to people who understand and appreciate the authentic tastes of the Nagas of the Northeast India.

The owners were working in Mumbai prior to the pandemic lockdown: *Miss Aren Lengkumer* as a Flight Attendant and *Miss Juliet* as a Fashion Consultant with Forever New. Misfortune in the form of COVID 19 struck and both of them were rendered jobless. It was during this dark period that they discovered their hidden talent, shared their passion in cooking and started to cook and cater Naga food from home. They started receiving positive feedbacks from their customers. Encouraged by these feedbacks, they decided to expand their venture and today they are delivering authentic, tasty Naga food to customers all over Mumbai.

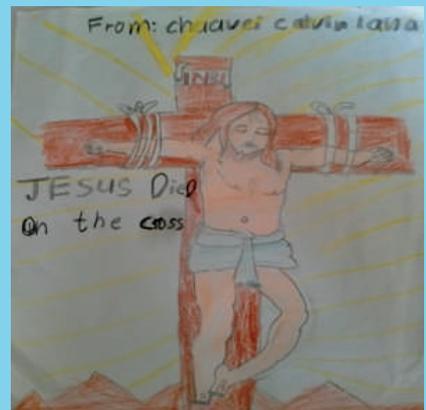
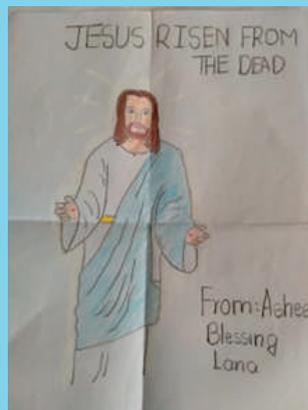
Their love for Naga food and passion for cooking combined with the never give up attitude have thus helped them in founding the Naga Belly Kitchen.



# Kids Zone



Children making beautiful cards for their mothers on Mother's Day



children drawing their favorite events from the Bible



Kids and the mothers performing a choreography on Father's Day



Words of appreciation for our Pastor on Pastor's Appreciation Day



# Our Moments



*NCFM Working Youth Monsoon Trekking at Devkund Water Fall*



*Freshers' Welcome cum Cultural Sunday*



*NCFM Family Fellowship Outing At Kharghar Hill, Navi Mumbai*



*Family Fellowship At Homes*





Pastoral Team on Pastoral Sunday



Christmas Outreach at the Slum



Aditya Francis Dcosta was baptized and became a full-fledged member of The Naga Christian Fellowship Mumbai



As an act of obedience to Christ's mandate, Deepu Lama, Deepa Lama & Moamenla Anar took Water Baptism on 16th April 2022, administered by brother Lipokwati Lemtur, thus becoming full-fledged members of the NCFM



Commemoration of Good Friday remembering Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross



Observing 35th Year of God's Faithfulness



Choral Competition on Advent Christmas : South Mumbai Connect bagged the First Prize, Navi Mumbai Connect (Second Prize), Family Fellowship & other combined Connect team (Third Place)



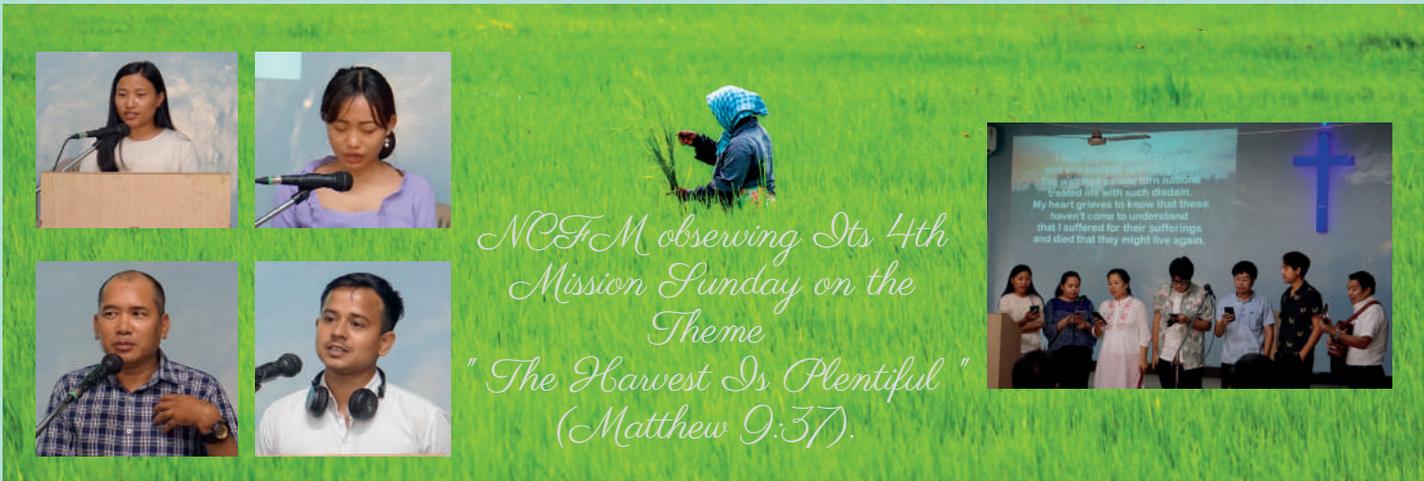
*Christmas Celebration*



*Christmas Outing Cum Picnic At Manori Beach Malad*



*Eve's Sunday honouring our beautiful women on the Theme : Fearfully & Wonderfully Made*



*NCFM observing Its 4th Mission Sunday on the Theme "The Harvest Is Plentiful" (Matthew 9:37).*

*I have sown seed on fertile soil and the best of the harvest has been reaped but with such disdain. My heart grieves to know that these haven't come to understand that I suffered for their sufferings and died that they might live again.*



*Mother's Day Celebration on 8th May 2022 On The Theme "Heart Of A Mother" Rev. Clever Lungleng, Former Pastor Of TBCM was the Speaker of the Day.*



*Super Women of NCFM Organizing An Amazing Programme On Adam's Sunday Honouring The Men Of NCFM On The Theme : "Just As You Are ". Dr. Meriyani Thakkar was the Speaker of the Day*

# REPORT

June 2021-May 2022

Dear Believers in Christ,

Greetings from the Naga Christian Fellowship Mumbai!

It brings me immense joy to share with you that June 2021 – May 2022 has been a very meaningful and fruitful year for NCFM, a year filled with God's abundant mercies and love experienced throughout! During the Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown, through the use of technology and other resources we were able to meet virtually regularly and continue growing together as a community in Christ. All praises to our Almighty Provider who has enabled us to conduct our regular Sunday services, Bible studies, Connect Fellowships, Bible Quiz and many other such activities, which we believe were instrumental in building up the body of Christ.

With the gradual lifting of the COVID restrictions in the state, following all precautions, we were able to organize in-person Church service from the month of November 2021 with Pastor's Appreciation Day being the first programme, which was followed by many other Church activities/programs like reopening of Sunday School classes, Working Youth Monsoon Trekking, Cultural cum Freshers' Sunday, Christmas Outreach programme, Christmas Outing cum Picnic, Connect Fellowships, Mission Sunday, Adam and Eve's Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Every year as a part of its annual Christmas Outreach programme, NCFM reaches out to various civil organizations and individuals like Redlight Areas, Orphanages, Old-Age Homes and Slum Areas to provide health and support in whatever capacity it could. For the year 2021, NCFM visited Sulai Nagar Rabela MIDC Slum area on 18th December 2021 as a part of the Christmas Outreach. The outreach was a soulful fellowship in singing and sharing the words of God under the guidance of our Pastor Hamyan, and Outreach and Evangelism Core Leader, Redinokdang Lemtur.

I also want to especially thank and acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Pastor and Core-Team members. It is because of their relentless efforts and dedication many meaningful and engaging programmes were conducted successfully throughout the year. Our Core Team Replenish Meetings which were held consistently every month ensured in smooth planning and realization of all Church activities and Sunday service programmes. I would also like to thank the Pastoral Team and all the Church Members. It is because of your continuous support, guidance, encouragement and prayers we were able to come this far and grow together in Christ. It is my hope and prayer that we continue to serve Our Lord and make Him proud in whatever directions we are led by Him. May we all be guided by the wisdom of the Lord and be filled with Faith and Courage always!

In His Service

*Akali Chopy*

General Secretary, NCF Mumbai

# Congratulations



The NCF Mumbai family shares our immense joy and happiness as our very own church members *Mr. Ningsang + Mrs. Moakala (Kati)* and *Mr. Aditya + Mrs. Lanbangliu Lulu Kamei* tied the knots to become One in the body of Christ. Our heartiest congratulations to both the families! May the One who brought you together bless your marriage, enrich your lives and deepen your love throughout the years! We pray and wish that you all will place God as the Ruler in the centre of your marriage where you will experience His faithfulness and enjoy prosperous life together. God bless you all!

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## Be Thankful

*Poet: Unknown*

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something,  
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,  
because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,  
because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary,  
because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things.  
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who  
are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,  
and they can become your blessings.

# Upcoming Events

<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>		
5	SUNDAY	NCF FOUNDATION DAY
11	SATURDAY	CHURCH SPORTS MEET
19	SUNDAY	EVE'S SUNDAY
22	WEDNESDAY	WORKING YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (MEN)
25	SATURDAY	REPLENISH FOR CORE LEADERS

<b>MARCH 2023</b>		
5	SUNDAY	ADAM'S SUNDAY
12	SUNDAY	NCFM'S MISSION SUNDAY
22	WEDNESDAY	WORKING YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (COMBINED)
25	SATURDAY	REPLENISH FOR CORE LEADERS

<b>APRIL 2023</b>		
2	SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY
7	FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY
9	SUNDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
22	SATURDAY	REPLENISH FOR CORE LEADERS
29	SATURDAY	COMBINED FELLOWSHIP WITH STUDENTS (DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE)

<b>MAY 2023</b>		
1- 7	MAY	NMM MISSION WEEK
14	SUNDAY	MOTHER'S DAY
21	SUNDAY	CONNECT SUNDAY
27	FRIDAY	REPLENISH FOR CORE LEADERS
28	SUNDAY	CORE LEADERS SUNDAY CUM INSTALLATION OF NEW CORE LEADERS

<b>JUNE 2023</b>		
3	SATURDAY	ORIENTATION, PLANNING & BUDGETING
4	SUNDAY	GREEN SUNDAY
10	SATURDAY	FINAL AUDIT
17	SATURDAY	REPLENISH FOR CORE LEADERS
18	SUNDAY	FATHER'S DAY

**\*Core Leaders Prayer & Fasting -**  
Every 1st Sunday of the month

**\*Family Fellowship -**  
Every 2nd or 4th Saturday of the  
month

**\*Connect** will be held every month  
in all five areas

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