

IUGO

SEMI - ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NCF Mumbai exists to Reach the lost, Equip the Believers, Ascertain the church and Prepare to disciple the nation through all we do.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Time has a way of moving faster than we expect. And before we know it, another season has passed. This publication has been handcrafted to celebrate this past season and all those who made it meaningful. As we present the 22nd issue of IUGO, we thank God for His faithfulness in our lives and the church family.

In this edition, you'll find practical wisdom for navigating today's world, alongside a special look back at Annual Camp. May these pages remind us of God's goodness and inspire us for the season ahead. We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make this edition possible.

- Vishodu Shaozae



RENEWED TO RISE

PASTOR'S COLUMN



INTRODUCTION

A new year brings mixed emotions. Some step into it with excitement and hope. Others enter quietly, carrying disappointment, wounds, failures, unanswered prayers and unresolved struggles from the past year.

We also often begin the year with resolutions. We promise to do better, change our habits and try harder. But the Bible does not begin the year by asking us to try harder. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that before we rise, run or even walk, we must first be renewed. I believe, before doing anything, renewal must come first.

As the year begins, the Lord is not asking how strong we feel. He is asking whom we are waiting on. Isaiah 40 was spoken to people who were exhausted physically, emotionally and spiritually. They were discouraged, broken and tired of waiting and during such times comes this promise:

“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles; They shall run and not be weary; They shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

Three Key Points for our reflection:

I. RENEWED STRENGTH BEGINS BY WAITING ON THE LORD

“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength...”

The people of Israel were tired because they waited so long for deliverance. They were in captivity for many years. However, God reminds them that human strength has limits, but divine strength is limitless and endless.

Waiting on the Lord does not mean doing nothing. It means trusting God instead of rushing ahead in our own wisdom and strength.

Waiting means: 1) Surrendering our plans to God. 2) Trusting His timing, and 3) Seeking His presence daily.

Waiting on the Lord is not weakness, it is alignment. It is choosing God's strength over human effort.

Isaiah 40:30 says, “*Even youths shall faint and be weary...*”. Even the strongest among us grow tired. As we step into a new year, many already carry fatigue from responsibilities, ministry, family pressures, studies, unanswered prayers, disappointments, delays and long seasons of waiting.

May I remind each of us that God does not promise a year without challenges, but He does promise renewed strength to those who wait on Him. When life feels overwhelming and you cannot take another step, do not give up. Call upon the Lord. His strength becomes our strength.

Before planning the year ahead, let us first kneel before the Lord and take time to dwell in His presence. Those who wait on Him are never wasted. They are renewed.

2. *RENEWED STRENGTH ENABLES US TO RISE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES*

“They shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

It is often said that when storms come, most birds look for shelter in fear. But the eagle does something different. It does not escape the storm; it rises above it. Spreading its wings, the eagle uses the strong winds to soar higher. What frightens others becomes the very means of its elevation.

God’s promise is not that the new year will be free from problems, but that we will not be controlled by them.

Like an eagle, let us rise with God above our failures and discouragements, sickness and suffering, financial problem, uncertainties, broken relationships, emotional wounds, unanswered questions, fear, shame and the sins and habits that hold us back.

When we wait on the Lord and seek His strength, we rise above our circumstances. When God renews us, failures no longer define us, guilt and shame lose their hold, sin no longer rules, fear no longer paralyzes, and the past no longer imprisons us. **We rise not because life is easy, but because God is strong.** As we rely on God’s strength and as we wait upon the Lord, God will enable us to soar on high, run and walk.

Let us not allow last year’s wounds to determine this year’s altitude. Those who wait on the Lord will rise above their past and walk into God’s future.

3. *RENEWED STRENGTH SUSTAINS US FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD*

“They shall run and not be weary; They shall walk and not faint.”

Our lives are not always about soaring. Some seasons call us to run, and others simply to walk. God knows that life is not made up only of dramatic victories. Much of the Christian journey is about daily faithfulness.

Running speaks of intense seasons of pressure and responsibility. Walking reflects everyday obedience through prayer, holiness and consistency. Often, the excitement of a new year fades midway, and many grow tired or give up, yet God promises His sustaining grace. Isaiah 40:29 reminds us that He gives strength to the weary and power to the weak. As we depend on Him and wait on Him, our strength is renewed. This renewed strength helps us remain faithful when progress is slow, keep serving without recognition, walk steadily when excitement fades and wait patiently in uncertain seasons.

This year, let us not only begin well, but finish faithfully by relying on God’s strength daily.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 40:31 is a divine promise. Those who wait on the Lord will have their strength renewed. They will rise above their circumstances and be sustained to the end as they fulfill God’s purpose. The strength we need for this year is not found within us. It is found in the Lord. Let us begin this year 2026 with God and end it with God. And not just this year but throughout our lives, let us depend on Him daily for His sustaining grace, provision, strength and wisdom.

May God’s Blessings be upon each one of us!

ALUMNI CORNER

A JOURNEY GUIDED BY GRACE

My journey in Mumbai was brief, yet deeply meaningful, and one that I will always cherish. I thank God for leading me to this wonderful family and for allowing me to meet such beautiful people along the way.

When I look back, I see that it was God's hand from the very beginning, from choosing a new and unfamiliar course, to moving to a new city, and eventually finding NCF. My initial days in Mumbai were not easy. There were moments when I questioned my decision and felt overwhelmed with regret. Yet, what I once doubted slowly unfolded into a truly beautiful journey.

My first Sunday at NCF remains close to my heart. The warm greetings, genuine smiles, and welcoming atmosphere gave me a sense of comfort and belonging, a feeling of home away from

home. Throughout my time in Mumbai, NCF became one of my greatest sources of strength. Whenever I needed rest, clarity, or answers, I found peace and reassurance in God's presence.

I was later given the opportunity to be part of the leaders' team. At first, I felt unworthy and incapable of taking on such a role, but trusting God, I accepted the responsibility. Over time, my hesitation turned into excitement, and I found myself eagerly looking forward to attending services. Serving Christ and staying close to Him tuned my heart to His, and this remains one of the precious experiences of my journey. Through this, I realized that no one begins fully prepared or perfect for any role. We all start with fear, confusion, and uncertainty. Yet God, in His goodness, takes care of the rest.

I am deeply grateful that we do not have to navigate life alone. God goes before us, guiding our steps, just as He has faithfully done for me.

I will never forget the kindness and love shown to students and working youths who live far away from home, especially by the families in Mumbai. I thank God for their lives and pray that He continues to bless them abundantly. Even while being far from my own home, I found a second home in NCF. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord, and as I move forward in life, I remain willingly committed to serving Him in whatever ways He opens for me.

Lastly, I want to encourage my dear friends to trust in the Lord and keep your eyes fixed on Him. Maybe today, you're navigating a major decision, rather than look to worldly advice, look out for where the Lord is leading. Because, where the Lord is, that's always the right place to be.

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time."
Ecclesiastes 3:11*

KEVILETOUNUO RHATSU COMPLETED HER MASTERS IN POPULATION STUDIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES, MUMBAI. SHE SERVED FAITHFULLY AS THE FINANCE CORE LEADER OF NCF MUMBAI DURING HER STUDIES.



Greetings and warm Christian love to the NCF family. Praise and glory be to God. It is a great joy and privilege for me to write a few lines. My sincere gratitude to the NCF family for the opportunity.

Back in 2021, as a young and inexperienced student adapting to the unfamiliar environment of the new city, discovering the NCF family has been a beacon of comfort to me during a difficult season. NCFM has never just been a weekly service to me, it has been my home and a loving family which I firmly believe is the same to many.

Beyond being a place of worship, it was a vibrant hub where I forged lasting friendships and discovered a true sense of belonging. The church provided a unique platform for my personal growth, offering opportunities to refine my skills and develop a more confident personality through various responsibilities and interactions. Most importantly, it taught me the true value of fellowship. This bond was never more evident than during my periods of illness and hardships, knowing I had the sincere prayers and support of my church family was a source of immense comfort and a genuine blessing that I will always carry with me.

To my fellow Nagas navigating the hustle of Mumbai, I truly encourage you to find your home away from home in our church, where you can experience the same warmth of fellowship.

May NCFM continue to be a source of blessings and comfort to the people.

With love, peace and joy.

AVISHE SWU COMPLETED HIS CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM SARDAR PATEL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI

STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

The word MONEY is one of the most used terms in this materialistic world. It is so indispensable that some people worship and follow money as God. Today, the universe is dominated and controlled by the rich and powerful. Money can give you status, respect, position, power, comfort etc. It is so toxic and pernicious that we are seeing brother killing brother, husband murdering wife, church splitting because of money. Indeed, money can practically buy and lure everything except health, love, and death.

Why is money so vital? Have we literally become a slave of money? Let us spend some time on the approach of money from the Christian perspective. Bible says that money is a blessing from God as every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadow. (James 1: 17) From the narrative it can be construed that the intend of God is to use the money for communications and spread the good news of God to unheard and lost soul. It also encourages us to extend assistance to the undeserved and downtrodden section of the society. Money, therefore, is protecting and providing for yourself and loved ones such as family, church, community etc.

While money is a part of God's good plan for the world, he also warns us about its dangers. Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. (Ecclesiastes 5:10) So, here is the thing; if money is so essential, but how do we draw the line. The challenge for everyone is loving money at the expenses of God. The question before us is we always talk about money but whether any thought is given on how to spend it scrupulously at the same time invest and multiply your hard-earned income and church/community money through a legitimate and legal channel. An attempt is made below to give a finer touch on stewardship of money through habit of financial discipline and awareness. Let's deep dive to address some of the simple yet powerful pills to break the barrier.

One of the challenges church leaders and common people encounter today in our community is Financial Literacy. In the common parlance, it is basic understanding and awareness on spectrums of financial services and investment options available to public by the Government and Financial Institutions. To understand with more clarity, we should revisit how Marwari/Gujarati communities are saving and investing their resources. The magic is quite simple. For every Rs. 100.00 received, Rs. 80.00 is reinvested on investment centric schemes such as SIP, Shares, Bond, Social Security Schemes viz; Pension, Health and Life Insurance, House Construction etc. The remaining is spent on consumption and household expenses. Here, high yielding investment and return will be possible only when the investor is aware of the market trends and well informed. Financial awareness does help individuals realize the value of money and facilitate in deciding investment avenues and savings.

A Financial Committee with a well defined structured outlining Bye-Laws, Preamble, etc to function the affairs of the Church/Fellowship on financial matters like simple Balance Sheet, Prudent investment and saving may gradually inculcate financial discipline and boost environment of investment and growth. Opening of Bank Account and routing of financial transactions through the account will promote thrift, transparency, disclosure norms, and accounting rules. Cash is idle money and therefore is strongly recommended to deposit in the account to earn interest/return. Digital transactions are encouraged to save time and cut cost.

Conducting Executive training and Outreach camp periodically on financial matters like simple Bookkeeping, stewardship of money, investment opportunities on emerging markets like Crypto Currency, CBDC, Mutual Fund, and basic knowledge of Cyber Crime may help fellowship/church to mature early on financial decisions. A financial Advisor is suggested to seek opinion for arriving well informed and just resolution.

In conclusion, money is essential but not the end. **Obsession of money at the cost of others/church is unenviable as love of money is the root of all evil. God expects us to multiply his gift of money in an honest and transparent manner (Matt. 25:14-30). He expects us to deploy the resources judiciously to exalt His name.** To fulfill it, basic financial awareness on thrift, saving, book-keeping and investment knowledge should be embraced by everyone. Organizing workshop/seminar periodically to sensitize leaders and public on use of church funds in a transparent approach is highly suggested.



HEPUNI BISMARCK
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (DGM)
STATE BANK OF INDIA, CC, MUMBAI.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRUST AI WITH OUR PAIN?

A few years ago, if someone told me they were venting to a chatbot about their problems, it would've made me clutch my pearls and go, "Oh, bless your heart." But fast forward to today, and here we are: AI-driven mental health apps everywhere! We have chatbot counselors, virtual "friends," and AI-driven therapy apps all promising to lend a listening ear.

But let's pause here for a moment and really think:

- Is this genuinely a good thing for our well-being?
- Are chatbots simply providing an illusion of connection?
- Are they just making us more isolated than ever?
- Are we simply fooling ourselves into thinking an algorithm truly understands us?

INNOVATION OR ILLUSION? WHY ARE WE TURNING TO THE AI BOTS?

To be completely fair, access to mental health care is a privilege that not everyone has. Therapy is expensive. Waiting lists can feel endless and the persistent stigma still prevents many people from seeking help.

This is where the AI-powered chatbot makes its grand entrance. A quick scroll through the app store and you'll find dozens of mental health chatbots claiming to help with stress, anxiety, and even depression. And it's quite attractive, because:

- They claim to be available 24/7.
- They certainly don't judge you.
- They won't hit you with the dreaded, "Have you tried meditation?" (unless you ask!).
- And they don't come with a hefty price tag.

Therefore, in theory, it sounds like the perfect, accessible solution.

To supplement this further, countless studies show that a key motivation behind the adoption of these tools is accessibility.

One study found that chatbots can improve access to mental health support for people who might not otherwise seek help. This is because these bots make therapy-like conversations more readily available. At the same time, it reduces the barriers of time, cost and fear.

In fact, a study published in JMIR Mental Health noted that conversational agents like these AI Bots can provide immediate, low-threshold emotional assistance, particularly for those hesitant to reach out in person.

So who wouldn't want this kind of accessible help when they need it, right?

But that's just the point! Even with that being said, it is so important to understand that accessibility doesn't mean that it is automatically equal to safety.

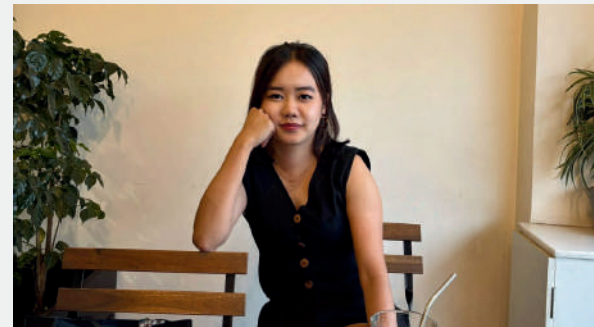
And I find it so utterly devastating that we, as a society, have come to a point where it's easier to type "I'm struggling" to a bot than to say those words to an actual human being.

THE EMPATHY GAP: WHERE AI FALLS SHORT

While chatbots can process text and respond, they fundamentally don't actually understand what it means to feel the weight of a heartbreak, or the crushing grip of anxiety, or the deep ache of sadness.

How could it?

Scientists researching this very topic often arrive at the same conclusion: while AI can retrieve information and reason logically, it doesn't feel anything. There's a massive difference between a chatbot responding with a well-coded, "That sounds difficult, how can I help?" and a human therapist picking up on the subtle tremor in your voice, the hesitation in your words, or the exhaustion in your posture. Because real human empathy goes beyond the words you exchange. It comes from connection and shared experience, and that's what makes you feel truly understood and heard.



SUNGJEMPLILA AIER IS A COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGIST. SHE RUNS THE SUNGJEM AIER COUNSELLING & THERAPY CLINIC IN DIMAPUR, NAGALAND.

THE RISK OF EMOTIONAL ISOLATION

The American Psychological Association (APA) has pointed out a growing concern: *people, especially teenagers, are turning to AI chatbots as their primary source of emotional support.*

We can all agree that AI is definitely a smart and helpful tool, but even with everything that it offers, it is unequivocally NOT a worthy substitute for human connection.

In fact, over-relying on AI can often leave you feeling more lonely than when you started because they:

- Are always available, anywhere, anytime.
- Don't require any emotional effort in return.
- Never challenge you in the way a real friend or therapist might.

When you lean heavily on a zero-effort relationship, reaching out to a fellow human can start to feel like just too much work. While real relationships require patience, vulnerability, and sometimes even discomfort, AI bots offers comfort without complexity and responses without responsibility.

Eventually, it makes real conversations with real humans feel unnecessary, or worse, exhausting.

On the surface level, you may feel like you're being supported, but what you're really experiencing is a simulation of closeness, not the closeness itself.

Chatbots are great at mirroring your words back to you, but they cannot truly sit with you in your pain, know you deeply, or grow alongside you the way you do in a real relationship.

And when emotional support becomes something automated, the messy, imperfect, deeply human parts of connection can start to feel optional even though they are often the very things that help us heal.

THE MISINFORMATION PROBLEM

And beyond isolation, there's the danger of misinformation. Chatbots are designed to respond quickly and confidently, but confidence doesn't mean it is always correct, especially when it comes to mental health.

There have been concerning reports of chatbots dishing out advice that's not just unhelpful, but potentially harmful to users in distress. In 2023, the American Psychological Association also warned that AI tools used for mental health may produce inaccurate or misleading responses, particularly in high-risk situations, because they are not held to the same standards as licensed professionals.

Someone reaching out during a panic attack, a depressive episode, or a moment of crisis doesn't need a generic, vague, or misguided suggestion. They need care, nuance, and more often than not, professional intervention. These are things that AI simply cannot fully provide.

The problem is that chatbots don't truly understand context the way humans do. They don't know a person's history, emotional state, or risk level. They can miss red flags, oversimplify serious issues, or even unintentionally validate unhealthy thoughts. And in vulnerable moments, even a small piece of wrong advice can be deeply impactful.

What makes this especially dangerous is how believable these systems can sound. When someone is struggling, they may take the chatbot's response as trustworthy guidance, even when it's inaccurate or inappropriate. And over time, this can lead people to rely on AI as a substitute for real mental health support, which it was never meant to replace. So when misinformation enters the picture, the stakes become much higher than just "*bad advice.*"

A BAND-AID, NOT A CURE

To be clear, AI isn't inherently harmful. For some people, it can be a helpful starting point like a journaling companion, a grounding tool, or a way to feel a little less alone when you can't fall sleep at 2 in the morning. When used thoughtfully, AI can support mental health in small, practical ways.

But it is important to understand that support is not the same as treatment. And convenience is also not the same as care.

- **At best**, AI is impersonal. It's a well-worded response without a real presence behind it.
- **At worst**, it's a reminder that no matter how advanced it gets, it still doesn't truly get you. It can simulate empathy, but it cannot offer the depth, care, and accountability that comes with real human connection.

So yes, AI chatbots can be a useful tool. But they should never be replaced with therapy.

Think of them like a band-aid: useful for a small scrape, but not a replacement for actual medical treatment or for the steady and nurturing presence of a human being.

Technology sure is evolving fast, and so is our approach to mental health. But no matter how advanced and sophisticated AI becomes, one thing remains crystal clear: Human connection isn't a luxury, it's a fundamental, non-negotiable need and no algorithm, no matter how advanced, can ever truly replace it.



A CHAPTER I WILL ALWAYS CARRY

“Nagamanu ase?” - that’s how it all started.

When Dr. Akok approached me in the college canteen with those words, I had no idea that a simple conversation would lead me to my first Naga Fellowship. What began as a simple visit soon became a weekly rhythm and before I knew it, NCF became an important part of my life. God, in His perfect timing, placed me here when I needed it the most.

When I first walked into this church, I was new to the city. College didn’t feel too great either and Sundays quickly became the only days I truly looked forward to. I loved coming to Church. Through the teachings, prayers and fellowship, God was shaping me in ways I may not have noticed at the time but clearly see now.

Somewhere along the way, the church became more than just a building. It became a home. The warm smiles, the prayers lifted together, the worship, and the fellowship created a deep sense of belonging. And even though I wasn’t the “northeastern” everyone thought I was (hehe), I never once felt like an outsider. You all welcomed me and treated me like a family. NCF taught me what it truly means to walk in community, to rejoice together, to pray for one another and to stand united in faith.

A bigger part of my stay here in Mumbai became the friendships I built. Friends I may never have met if it weren’t for church. And the best part? I got to serve with them. Being part of the worship team and the core leaders team was truly a privilege and a blessing. Standing in worship, leading prayers and planning together, these experiences shaped me deeply and stretched me in the best ways possible.

Church was never just about Sunday service. It was Pastor and Sis. Lima praying for me before I left for college on Mondays. It was eating good food at Connect on Tuesdays. It was downloading Google Meet for online prayer meetings every Wednesday. It was the “oh no, we need to post the Sunday poster!” on Thursdays. It was the sleepovers on Fridays. It was dinner at Kenneth’s place after worship practice on Saturdays. Church wasn’t just a weekly gathering, it was every moment in between.



I still remember the first time I was asked to take up the offertory prayer, I was so nervous, I felt like I completely messed it up. Then came the first time leading a service, the Wednesday prayers and eventually Sunday worship. Looking back now, I can see how far God has brought me. He was shaping me all along in ways I didn't realise then but clearly see today. I am forever grateful to God and to our church for trusting me and giving me opportunities to grow. I still have so much to learn, but I can confidently say that I am ending this season well. Thank you, Church, for believing in me even when I didn't fully believe in myself

I am deeply thankful to each one of you.



To the Pastoral team and the elders - Thank you for always supporting me through your prayers and wise counsel.

To the worship team - Thank you for the dedication, the late practices, the laughter in between songs, and for loving God so sincerely.

To the core team - Thank you for your heart for service and for carrying the church with so much faithfulness behind the scenes. Serving alongside you was one of the greatest blessings of my time here.

To the families - Thank you for opening your homes, your tables and your hearts to me, you made a city far from home feel safe and warm.

To my friends - Thank you for your love, your support, your prayers and the countless memories filled with laughter and comfort.

NCF didn't just give me memories, it gave me courage. Courage to pray out loud. Courage to lead. Courage to step up even when I felt unqualified. And now my only prayer is that NCF continues to grow, to welcome strangers like you welcomed me and to be a home for many more students, glorifying God in everything you do.

But everything has its time. And now it's time for me to leave behind this beautiful chapter and step into what God has in store next. As I return home, I can't help but wonder where will I get to use my Naga vocabulary again? No more "kinika ase," or "bhal ba khaise," or "so morom," and my favourite, "misa mishi."

So for the last time, at least for a while - *bhal bara thakibi deh*, I'm going to miss all of you and NCF biggg timeee.

I'll see you all again, perhaps not in Mumbai, but in a land I haven't seen with my own eyes, yet have come to love through its people (wink)

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3)

MISS P. RAI SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HER MEDICAL ASSOCIATE STUDIES AT D.Y. PATIL UNIVERSITY. SHE FAITHFULLY SERVED AS THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF OUR CHURCH. SIMULTANEOUSLY, SHE WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE SELAH WORSHIP TEAM OF NCF MUMBAI.



HOW TO BALANCE WORK LIFE AND PERSONAL LIFE.

In today's fast-paced world, especially in a city like Mumbai, work often demands more time than ever before. While hard work is admirable, its growing cost is visible in families less conversation at home, fewer shared meals, emotional distance, rising stress and burnout.

The Bible reminds us that balance is God's design. *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Work has its place, but it was never meant to replace rest, relationships and spiritual life.

This truth becomes very real in my everyday life. As a working mother, I juggle my work, while running a home-based business, care for my family and manage the household. Most days are full and sometimes chaotic, but over time I have learned that balance doesn't happen by chance it comes through intentional choices and faith. No matter how busy the day has been, my family makes it a point to sit together for meals, whether it's lunch or dinner and spend time talking and praying as a family. After work, we try to be present with one another rather than rushing into the next task. Weekends are intentionally kept for family, friends and church, something we never compromise. Putting God first in our daily routine brings order, peace and direction and reminds us that while work is necessary, it is faith, family and togetherness that truly hold our lives together.

I believe that time spent with family, moments of rest, and time with God are not distractions from success, they are the foundation of a meaningful life. If we work endlessly for our family but never spend time with them, what are we truly working for?

True balance in life is choosing what matters most, before it is too late. God calls us to diligence, but not obsession. *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain"* (Psalm 127:1).

MRS. MOAKALA (KATI) LONGCHAR
*CURRENTLY WORKING AS A TOUR LEADER AT
INTREPID TRAVEL*



KINGDOM SPROUTS CORNER

If you ask our students why they love Sunday School, you won't get a dry answer. Instead, you'll hear a joyful chorus: "I make new friends!" "We dance!" "We get candies!" "We learn to pray!" and the best part of all "We learn about Jesus!" As teachers, these are the answers we live for. Through our journey we have learned that when we teach the Bible through fun activities, the children enjoy it more. Because they are having fun, they are more eager to learn and they understand God's Word much better.

Our youngest learners dived into the stories of the Bible, exploring the faithful heart of Samuel, the incredible strength of Samson and the bold courage of David. We didn't just read these stories, we brought them to life. The children crafted paper shields inscribed with their favorite verses, serving as a reminder that God is our ultimate protector. We had coloring sessions and learned action songs. The Junior class made every Sunday a memorable celebration.

It has been incredibly encouraging to watch our Senior class transition into a more interactive session. The students have truly stepped up, showing great initiative by leading voluntary opening prayers, meditating on the Word and sharing their personal insights during open discussions, testing their knowledge through periodic quizzes and taking turns as storytellers to teach their peers.

The highlight of our year remains the times when Juniors and Seniors join forces. Together, they have studied the Ten Commandments and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, focusing on how to weave these divine principles into their daily lives. These joint classes are a beautiful whirlwind of energy filled with learning new songs, engaging in crafts, watching movies and the spirited fun of playing games together.

As teachers, we've seen it all, students giving their absolute best just to win a piece of candy and older kids stepping up to help the younger ones. We've faced the blunt truth when they didn't like our songs, and watched them drift off into daydreams right in the middle of a lesson. We've managed the transition from chaotic, high-energy noise to those sudden, suspicious silences where we realize they're simply bored. Through these highs and lows, our students have taught us how to be truly patient, how to stay honest, and how to find joy in every single moment.

We look back on this year with immense gratitude for these achievements and we are confident that these children are growing into individuals who truly love God.

— MISS MEYISENLA LEMTUR AND MISS DEEPA LAMA



PHOTO LOUNGE



On 7th September 2025, we observed **Cultural Sunday**, celebrating God's desire for every tribe, nation, tongue and language to worship Him together in unity.



On 21st September 2025, a special Sunday was dedicated to the working youth of NCF Mumbai to encourage and pray for them, as they led the entire worship service. Mrs. Phomtai challenged and encouraged the working youth to put God first in their lives and live a holy and victorious life in Christ.



On 12th October 2025, we observed **Pastor's Appreciation Day** to honor and appreciate our Pastor and his family for their faithful leadership, dedicated service and love for God and the church family. Brother Lipok Lemtur shared the Word of God on the occasion.



NCF Mumbai joined the rest of the world in celebrating **World Sunday School Day** on 2nd November 2025. It was a day filled with great joy, celebrating the precious gift of children in our lives. They showcased their best talents on that special day. A special prayer was offered by our dear Pastor for the little ones and the teachers.



Every year, NCF Mumbai observes Hymnal Sunday to reflect on the depth of hymns and the richness of what God has done for us. On 18th October 2025, the assigned members led us into a meaningful time of study and singing of beautiful hymns.



The Maharashtra and Neighbouring NCF Regional Connect, hosted by NCF Mumbai from 26–28 September 2026, brought together Pastors and Church Leaders from Pune, Ahmedabad and Mumbai for a blessed time of fellowship, unity and encouragement. Ps. Meyi of NCF Pune shared the Word of God.



We celebrated the much-awaited **Advent Christmas on 7th December 2025**. A highlight of the day was the Carol Singing Competition among the different Groups of NCF Mumbai. Navi Mumbai Connect won the first prize in the singing competition.



NCF Mumbai carries out a **Christmas Outreach** on the eve of Christmas every year. On 13th December, we collaborated with Dunamis Ministry and conducted a successful outreach, sharing the love of Jesus among slum children and mothers in Panvel, Navi Mumbai.



NCF Mumbai celebrated **the birth of Jesus Christ on 25th December** with the theme "The Cross in the Cradle." Miss Veasini led the service, and our Selah Worship Team led us into a meaningful time of worship. Mrs. Komune led the intercession, while Ms. Elle Kreo presented the song "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." Mr. Redinokdang Lemtur prayed for the offering. A special performance was presented by the Hill Top of Hope. Pastor Hamyan challenged the congregation with the Christmas theme.



On 28th December 2025, we observed **Testimonial Sunday**, where church members came forward to testify about what God has done in their lives. Many shared their testimonies of blessings, healing, forgiveness, answered prayers and God's faithfulness.



On 1st January 2026, we had a blessed service themed "Renewed to Rise" (Isaiah 40:31). Dr. Akhrienuo led the service. The Selah Worship Team led heartfelt worship, followed by a Responsive reading by Mr. Ahiezo and Mrs. Christy Yeptho prayed for the offering. A special song "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" was presented by the Pastor Family. Ps. Hamyan spoke on the given theme. The service concluded with a warm New Year Potluck, where everyone shared food, fellowship and thanksgiving as we stepped into 2026.



We had a Church Outing on the 10th of January at Kondichi Wadi. It was a memorable day of sharing potluck food, playing games, catching fish, swimming in the river and enjoying friendship and fellowship.



We observed the **39th Church Foundation Day** in celebration of God's faithfulness on 1st February 2026. Dr. Meriyani Thakkar led the service and the Selah Worship Team led uplifting worship. Rev. Dr. Ningsang Jamir, the first Pastor of NCFM, shared memories of the past through a video presentation. Mr. Abhishek Sandeep prayed for the offering, Miss Rai and friends presented a special song, and Winner son read the Scripture. Rev. Thomas Samuel was the Guest Speaker for the joyous occasion and he challenged the congregation and blessed the gathering.



The gentlemen of NCF Mumbai organized **Ladies Sunday** on 8th February 2026 with the theme, "Beauty that Reflects Christ" (1 Peter 3:3-4), to honour the beautiful women of the NCF family.



Church Sports Day was held on 21st February 2026 at Acharya Turf, Chembur, where we enjoyed a joyful day of fellowship, fun and friendly competition through various games.

One church, many homes. Through **CONNECT**, we share life, faith and fellowship together.





FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



Heartiest Congratulations !!

We praise God for **Reverend James Lana**, who was ordained on 22 December 2025 at Purul Akutpa Baptist Church (PNBA), Senapati Manipur .

The picture above shows the Holy Communion officiated by him at NCF Mumbai after his ordination.

May God continue to bless him and his family abundantly and use them mightily for the advancement of His Kingdom !!

Kune Mission, Lonavala

ANNUAL CAMP

17th - 20th October 2025

CHOSEN



FROM THE CAMP DIRECTORS

Even now, our hearts are overwhelmed as we reflect on what God did at Chosen Camp.

Serving together as Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director, we thought we were leading a camp but in truth, God was leading all of us. He orchestrated every session, every conversation, every tear and every breakthrough in ways we could never have planned.

Nearly 50 campers gathered for a 3-day spiritual journey at Kune Mission, Lonavala. Our theme, “**Chosen**,” was not just a title. It became a revelation in our hearts.

Many arrived carrying doubts, hidden pain and silent struggles. Some leaders came spiritually weary. Some volunteers quietly questioned whether they were enough.

Yet through every worship session, every message and every prayer, God kept reminding us:

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.” – 1 Peter 2:9

Those words were no longer just Scripture, they became identity.

We were reminded that we are not chosen because we are perfect but because He is gracious.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” – Ephesians 1:7

There were moments when worship felt like heaven touched earth. Tears flowed not tears of defeat, but tears of healing. Prayers whispered in brokenness became declarations of freedom.

During the camp, we saw strangers become family, hearts soften, burdens surrendered and courage rise again.

We sincerely and specially thank Pastor Jonathan for faithfully teaching God’s Word, guiding us with patience and spending one-on-one time with campers. His sessions and personal connection deeply impacted many lives.

We also thank Brother Longba for leading us in powerful worship, helping us connect with God through songs that stirred our hearts.

The evening activities especially expressing our names through actions and expressions brought joy, laughter and unity among us. The self-reflection session by our Pastor Hamyan touched many hearts and helped us grow spiritually in a deeper and more personal way.



We are truly grateful to all the elders of NCF Church for their prayers, support and encouragement. A heartfelt thank you to every single person who contributed through the Saving Boxes, your generosity made this camp possible.

Chosen Camp reminded us of this beautiful truth:

“We love because He first loved us.” – 1 John 4:19

And we hold on to this promise:

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” – Philippians 1:6

Chosen Camp was not just an event. It was an encounter. It was grace in motion. It was a reminder that we were chosen long before we ever chose Him.

Even though the camp has ended, our prayer continues not to let the camp remain just a memory, but let it become a movement and the fire continues to burn. Let healing continue in homes, churches and campuses.

All glory to God!

*With love and prayers,
Mr. Clifton Vaz and Miss Hoshenu Nyekha*



FROM THE GUEST WORSHIP LEADER

At the outset, I bring warm greetings to NCF Family in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

I thank the concerned committee for giving me this wonderful platform to share a short reflection on the camp we had last October. The Annual Camp of Naga Christian Fellowship (NCF) Mumbai held from 17th to 20th October 2025 was a deeply enriching and faith-strengthening experience for me. Centered on the powerful theme “Chosen” from 1 Peter 2:9-10, the camp reminded us of our identity in Christ that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, called to declare His praises.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the camp was witnessing the commitment and sacrifice of the campers. Many participants came despite demanding work schedules, personal responsibilities, and the fast-paced life of Mumbai. Their willingness to take time off, travel and even spend their hard-earned money to be part of this spiritual gathering spoke volumes about their hunger for God and their desire to grow in faith. It was a living testimony that when God calls, His chosen people respond not out of convenience, but out of conviction.

Throughout the camp, I was also blessed by the beautiful friendships formed and strengthened. The fellowship, shared prayers, laughter, worship and conversations created a deep sense of belonging. I felt truly connected to the NCF family, not just as fellow attendees, but as brothers and sisters united by faith, culture and purpose. These connections made the camp more than an event, it became a spiritual home away from home.

Reflecting on this camp, I am encouraged and fully content. To all the campers and the entire NCF family, my heartfelt encouragement is this: keep the fire burning. Do not let the flame fade amid life’s pressures and distractions. Remember who you are; chosen by God, called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Continue to walk boldly in that identity, supporting one another, growing together and shining as a witness wherever God has placed you.

May the lessons, friendships and spiritual renewal from this camp continue to bear fruit and may NCF Mumbai remain a fellowship that burns brightly with faith, love and commitment to Christ.

Lastly, I want to sincerely thank the NCF Family for the trust, privilege and honour given to me by inviting me back for the second time and allowing me to experience and engage in a meaningful spiritual encounter. I’m truly blessed and grateful. God willing, I look forward to coming back again in the future.

H. Longba Phom
Worship Leader

FROM THE CAMPERS



MARINA Y. KONYAK

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to share my experience briefly about the Annual Camp that was held on 17th to 20th Oct. This was my first time attending a camp and I am truly grateful to God for blessing me with this opportunity. I truly had a wonderful and blessed time.

Throughout the camp, I felt God's presence so strongly through the worship, the Word and prayers. It drew me closer to Him and reminded me of His unconditional love. It was especially encouraging to see youths of my age praising and worshipping Christ in different ways. The camp uplifted my soul, strengthened me spiritually and helped me become more rooted in Christ.

Attending this camp was the best decision I ever made. I am truly grateful for the love and guidance I experienced and I thank God for this beautiful beginning in my faith journey.

I believe everyone who attended the camp was truly blessed.

I really want to thank our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for another opportunity of learning more about Jesus through the camp "Chosen" and drawing me closer to his saving Grace.

Romans 8:30 (NKJV) *"Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."*



CLEMENT

My name is **Shepounai Chao** and I am 11 years old (10 years old in camp). I am very thankful to our Pastor, Core Leaders and Camp Directors for organizing this camp and giving me this opportunity to share and write about the Chosen Camp 2025.

When I heard about this camp I was excited and at the same time nervous because I never attended a camp and was excited because I was going to meet new people, places and learn more about God.

Pastor Jonathan, our Camp Speaker's word inspired and guided me closer to God. I learned why God chose me, He chose me to tell about the wonderful acts of God and to shine for God, when we have Jesus and Faith in our lives we receive eternal life, but without Jesus and Faith there is only death. Brother Longba's (who was our Camp Praise and worship leader) leadership in praise and worship made the camp more energetic and lively and leading us into the presence of God .

I am so thankful to our Pastor Hamyan and his family, church elders and all the campers for their love and support. NCF Mumbai fellowship is truly a gift and a blessing in my life. THANK YOU.



SHEPOUNAI CHAO

FROM THE CAMPERS

Praise the lord !!!

I'm Silvia !!!

The CHOSEN Camp, really blessed to be a part of it. It was a wonderful experience with God. A Great time with word and worship.

I always thought of myself as an introverted person, who doesn't easily open up but through this Camp, God made me Bold and courageous. God helped me discover myself and revealed the talents and gifts He has placed within me.

I really want such Youth Camps to be conducted as it encourages and deepens our relationship with God.

Thank you NCF Mumbai for The CHOSEN Camp!!!



SILVIA MOSES MOSUGANTI



DANIEL KEWANG

The 2025 camp was truly incredible!

I felt very blessed and fortunate to attend the camp, as it was my first one. I got to make lots of new friends. I was deeply impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Praise and Worship team and the camp in charges.

I am also very thankful to Camp Speaker Pastor Jonathan Mesen for sharing the amazing Word of God

The Chosen Camp 2025 was an unforgettable experience. It offered the space and stillness I needed to reflect deeply on my past and to rediscover the strength of a community grounded in faith and worship.

It had been a long time since I regained my faith in the Lord, which felt distant and out of reach. Over the course of the camp, that distance slowly melted away. What once felt lost was rediscovered like a treasured gift, and faith is now something I hold close to my heart, something I desire to nurture and grow for the rest of my life.

The camp helped me realign myself with the path God had always laid before me. It helped me keep my heart open and to admit my joys and sorrows sincerely, to ask for His forgiveness and to believe in His guidance again.

I returned from the camp carrying meaningful bonds, a deeper understanding of faith and a kinder, more compassionate heart. Above all, I remain grateful for the renewal, clarity and hope that the Chosen Camp 2025 has bestowed upon me.



ILEANA PEGU

CHOSEN

2025

MEMORIES



CORE LEADERS



GUEST SPEAKER & WORSHIP LEADER



NCF FAMILIES





TEAM KINDNESS



TEAM PATIENCE



MS. CAMPER



MR. CAMPER



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 30 CHURCH LEADERS THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP
- 31 CORE LEADERS SUNDAY CUM
CONSECRATION OF IN-COMING
LEADERS
-

JUNE

- 06 ANNUAL AUDIT
- 07 GREEN SUNDAY
- 13 ORIENTATION, PLANNING & DAY OF
BUDGETING
- 21 FATHER'S DAY

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