

# LONGKUMER UPDATE

MAY 2017

Hi Friends,

Greetings from Dimapur where we are enjoying an unusually cool day thanks to cyclone Mora. The cyclone that wreaked havoc and loss of life in Sri Lanka has made its way up the Bay of Bengal and as it advances northward we get the remnants of the storm. With sustained 45 km winds and gusts up to 65 km it reminds us of Chicago, but for the roar of the wind in the palm trees and deafening rain on the tin roof!

We are blessed to be able to enjoy our Dimapur home for a bit after being on the road extensively the last two months. A couple of nights ago we were running errands and noting the wonderful developments here; the fact that shops were open after dark, people were still out doing business, and it felt like normal life, commenting that peace brings prosperity. Gone was the violence that previously had everyone covering in their homes by dusk. Ahhh!

Unfortunately, we spoke too soon. Today all businesses are closed in protest after a bomb was lobbed into a small pharmacy last night, killing one and injuring four. This is the pharmacy our family frequents, as it's the only one in town that provides the medications we use. (This includes our recovering from cancer brother-in-law's meds). The motive for the attack and perpetrators are not yet known, no one has claimed responsibility.

Our home is located in a village at the edge of town, so we often are unaware of events like this till we get the news reports. We are safe, as safe as anyone, anywhere is in today's world plagued with random acts of violence.

**Now Some Good News!** Answered Prayer! **TAKU'S BROTHER** (battling throat cancer) recently had a MRI in which there was no sign of the tumor in his neck! He is still weak after being tube-fed for months but improving daily. The MD recommends follow-up chemo treatment as a preventative measure when he's fully regained strength. This has been a life-changing event for he and his family. We praise God for His grace and healing. **Thank you for your prayers!**

## Ministry Scenes

Here's a glimpse of our life this spring as we've ministered among our partners throughout India.

### Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI)



In Guwahati, we ministered at "Women of Peace" conflict transformation training program involving nearly 80 women leaders from the Church Associations of the CBCNEI.



Taku presenting a check from the Friends of North East Christian University at the NECU campus dedication.



Assam Baptist Convention Golden Jubilee



"A View From the Pulpit"  
Taku preaching at our local village church when we are not on the road.

**North East Christian University** is an ambitious endeavor of the CBCNEI to provide Christ centered, high quality education for the region, while also serving as an instrument of mission to all of South East Asia. Recently our MPT Convenor & Friends of NECU Development Director, Dr. Joseph Huse, spent several days with us, seeing the campus and meeting with the University Governing Council. Several members of the ABC-USA World Relief Committee attended the CBCNEI Annual General Meeting in Assam and made a trip to Nagaland to see the future campus sites. It was a blessing and privilege to host these friends and share the vision for this immense work.

### Baptist Churches Council of Eastern India (BCCEI) Formerly Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Churches' Association (BOBBCA)

We were encouraged as we participated in the Executive Meetings and Annual General Meeting of our partners, Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Churches' Association (BOBBCA) in April. Several aspects of the gathering were very encouraging. The organization has changed their nomenclature to Baptist Church Counsel of Eastern India, (BCCEI) reflecting the broadening scope of their ministry, opening avenues for growth, as well as being more inclusive as the names of the Indian states in which they are located have changed. Another encouraging development was the inclusion of women in ministry. This partner is among the leaders in supporting women in leadership roles. They have appointed two women as main pastors (other partners have 'Women Pastors' to minister primarily among the women). These two BCCEI women pastors each have two churches in different villages. Also highlighting ministry of women, Katie was invited to preach the Sunday morning sermon during the AGM, with a local woman translating. It was specifically noted that this was to promote women in the pulpit.



**PLEASE DO UPHOLD US & OUR INDIAN PARTNERS IN PRAYER**  
**Grace & Protection** for Christians in India as opposition in many areas is on the rise.  
• Pray for Neighborhood Ministry and the leader, 'Sh.U'. There is a mighty move of God with weekly baptisms and new House Churches beginning.  
• **Provision: Please pray and give for projects online (India House Church)**  
**Peace and Continuity of Basic Services** (i.e. no protest closures/communication blockages)  
**Our Family:** for our children, grandchild & Katie's parents in the U.S.

**UPCOMING MINISTRY**  
**June 2-4: Worship Training for 3 NBCC Associations in rural Nagaland**  
**June 8-9 Guwahati, Assam, Neighborhood Ministries Consultation**  
**June 13-22 Hong Kong, International Mission Conference w/the Philippine & Hong Kong Baptist Conventions)**  
**July 5-9 Hyderabad & Hanamakanda, Telegana : Banjara Pastor Training**  
**July 10-12 Chennai, Tamil Nadu 2019 IMS Planning Meeting**

**THANK YOU!!**  
We are so very grateful for your partnership in ministry! You are an integral part in the amazing work God is doing in the lives of people in this part of the world. We are so encouraged by your commitment, prayers, giving and communication.  
**GOD BLESS YOU ABOVE AND BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS!**