

NEWSLETTER

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IMMANUEL
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

CHRISTIAN CENTRE, CHIULUAN, TAMENGLONG - 795 141,
MANIPUR, INDIA.

Theme: "The Interval and New Embark"

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Editorial Note

In the soothing calmness of God's grace, as the academic year 2023-24 comes to closure, there lies an interval - a thin space between what was and what is yet to come. The old year retreats casting light for new embark. Like realized dreams, hence the graduation day, a glorious embark for them - beloved sojourners, who have ventured out for higher purposes. As we step into this new academic year, we find ourselves at the precipice of interval- a time to reflect, regroup and welcome new faces to the ITS family.



Editors

Vire Rume, *Asst. Prof.*
Vilinoto K Yeptho, *Asst. Prof.*

It is pleasingly apt to have "The Interval and New Embark" as a theme, with the intention to remind and encourage the ITS community and people reading it; that in this interval of transition, let us approach each passing day with enthusiasm, viewing each assignments and responsibilities as a step towards brighter future. Immanuel Theological Seminary standing true to its motto 'To know Him and to make Him Known,' has trained many young men and women to the best of their ability. Our task is not just to point out what the world should do but to demonstrate through our words and deeds what Christ can do through us. In this new embark of ours, let us move a step ahead and guide others to find their way back to the ultimate reality.

As we embark on this new chapter, may we carry with us lessons learned from the past, and the optimism that will guide us through the adventures that lie ahead.

May the Lord Continue to bless ITS!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Looking back the history of ITS both the challenges and progresses, it's the Lord who has led us thus far. ITS continues to reel on our pioneers' strong footprint training leaders to keep the church alive and to reach the unreached - evangelism. We are proud that, today our own products engage at various levels in our local churches and beyond.

As the Lord has urged us to proclaim the good news to all the nations and the whole creation (Matt. 28:16-20; Rom. 8:19ff.). As such, theological studies cannot be short of wholesome ministry. Therefore, an interdisciplinary intelligence with various approaches in theological studies is the need of the hour to have a fruitful ministry. Nevertheless, an amalgamation of school of thoughts in theological thinking creates a tension between ecumenical and denominational feeling. However, to make our theology normative and relevant for our churches, it is not "either of" rather an ecumenical as well as the "particular" is imperative. The "Particular" in other words means "contextual denomination" in Zeliangrong-Inpui context, like the "Baptist Polity" is equally important to have a congenial ministry. However, denominational centric approach ignoring open academic excellence can be a naïve yardstick in the theological studies. Academic competency demands wholesome theological discourses with sincerity and diligence and so also ministry should be academic and contextual/denominational oriented.

In the light of the above, ITS embraces new ideas without unduly sidelining the pertinent emerging issues, however, the heuristic key centres in the Bible based on Baptist principles and frame within which any theological discourses are maneuvered.

Hear from your very own...

1) Tell us about your academic career?

I did my BA from Patkai Christian College (university), my BD from Trinity Theological College and MTH from John Roberts Theological College.



Ms. Vilinoto K Yeptho

2) What do you love the most about your career?

I take great joy to have the privilege of teaching the future ministers of God.

3) What is the most challenging thing about your career?

To strike a perfect balance between pastoral and academic synchronization is quiet challenging for me, unlike any other theological academicians.

4. What are your expectations from your students?

As a teacher, I prefer sincerity over perfection. One need not have all the answers but I expect my students to challenge themselves to read more and write more. At the end of the day I would rather have my students go back with more questions than with answers.

5. Any advice for 2nd and 3rd year students?

You are all young, beautiful, energetic and capable. I really appreciate the caliber and ethics you display in various ways. Do not be satisfied with who you are today but always strive for better. There's a light in the other side of the canal. Keep striving forward.

6. One positive change you want to see in ITS community?

There are many positive things that I am seeing in ITS community. Apart from that we still have so many rooms to improve, such as; to be more open- minded to others, to be able to "agree to disagree."

1. Tell us about your academic career?

I come from a pretty lowly secular background (level +2). I graduated from Manipur Theological College with a Bachelor of Divinity. At United Theological College in Bangalore, I finished my Master of Theology in the Old Testament program.



Sir DK Angkham

2. What do you love the most about your career?

Discovering new ideas, concepts, perspectives and having intelligent discussions are processes that I adore.

3. What is the most challenging thing about your career?

A theological career can be rewarding, but it also comes with unique challenges. Some of the challenges I faced are intellectual and spiritual balance, cultural and religious sensitivity, and criticism and controversy

4. What are your expectations from your students?

Teachers generally have several key expectations from their students to foster a productive and positive learning environment. These include: active participation, respect and courtesy, responsibility and accountability, curiosity and a willingness to learn, and critical thinking and problem-solving.

5. Any advice for first year Students?

Starting a journey in a theological seminary is a profound and transformative experience. Here's some advice to help the students navigate this path: stay grounded in faith, embrace intellectual curiosity, balance academics and spiritual formation, and prepare for ministry.

6. One positive change you want to see in ITS community?

One positive change for the ITS community would be creating frequent, organized opportunities for social outreach and community.

1) Tell us about your academic career?

I did my BD from Eastern Theological College (ETC) and completed my MTH from Clark Theological College (CTC) in the counseling department.



Sir Njiandai Gonmei

2) What do you love the most about your career?

Among various interest what interests, what I love the most about is teaching and learning; as the saying goes, "learning is a lifelong process." I feel that I have a wide range of knowledge to uncover, learn and unlearn.

3) What is the most challenging thing about your career?

Challenges are inevitable and the most challenging thing about my career as of now as a teacher is my poor reflection towards students diversity in terms of cultures, emotions and cognitive capabilities and their background experiences.

4. What are your expectations from your students?

Students are doing great in general sense. However, I expect them to be more critical, creative and independent in their thinking and action from the lens of their faith.

5. Any advice for the final year students?

My advice for the final year students would be, "go out there in whatever ministry you want it to be and be the fire for God with the heart of humility and taking up responsibility you were given."

6. Any Cultural shock encounters at ITS?

So far, no cultural shock encounter at ITS and I really appreciate that.

7. One positive change you want to see in ITS community?

No doubt, ITS community is growing uphill but I want to see having opportunity of better infrastructure in terms of classroom and library in ITS.

Pictorial Highlights of the Key Events



Guest Speaker with Graduating Students, Faculty & other Dignitaries



Guest Choir, UBC Tml., LNBA-M



Students (Batch of 2024)



Venue (New Building Site)

Graduation Day: On 30th April, 2024, the college held its 22nd Graduation Ceremony. 13 students were conferred with the degree of Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) and Master of Divinity (M.Div.). Dr. Rathaipou Riamei, *General Secretary, RBCC* graced the ceremony as the speaker who identified the qualities of servant leadership encouraging the graduating students to embody as such. The day was blessed with renowned church leaders, deacons, sponsors and donors, well-wishers, family and friends.



Educational Tour: On 5th May, 2024, a team comprising of 23 members & ITS faculty/staff and students ventured out to Aizawl city for annual Educational Tour. Various churches and academic centres were explored as the team resided in the city till 8th of May 2024.

World Environment Day 2024: Each person contributes a lot to environmental sustainability when we take our act of cleaning and preserving environment not as a project but as daily practice (Cleanliness drive from Chiuluan to Medical Gate).



Welcome Service, Foundation Day & Thanksgiving of SSC Affiliation Programme : On 1st July, 2024, the college organized a grant programme, celebrating its 24th Foundation Day cum welcome service and thanksgiving celebration for its affiliation to SSC (University). The celebration was attended by in the persons of Rev. Dr. Alungbou Newmai, *Executive Secretary, LNBA-M*, as the speaker of the day. Rev. Namreikeu Pame, *President, ZBCNCEI*, Mr. Gangkhui Gangmei, *General Secretary, ZNCNCEI*, Mr. Gaichaengsui Gangmei, *Board Chairman, ITS*, Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP, *Principal, ITS*; Board Members ITS, Local Pastors, church leaders, ITS staffs, faculty, students, ITS Alumni and other dignitaries.



Fresher's Meet: Marked by a mix of activities, on 12th July, 2024, the ITS community organized a heart-warming programme as "Fresher's Day", thus welcoming the new members to ITS family. Rev. Gangkhui Gangmei delivered speech on a relevant theme "Acknowledge God in your Lives" drawn from a popular Proverbs, chapter 3:6.

Faculty and Staff Fellowship: Gathered around the table, visions shared, bond strengthened and team spirit enhanced. The ITS staff and faculty first meal fellowship for the academic year 2024-25.

Pictorial Highlights of the Key Events



ITS Staff Orientation: On 29th June, 2024, the ITS Staff and faculty orientation was held at ZBCCNEI conference hall. The presenters were enriched and motivated with powerful and inspiring words from Rev. Jaojian Gangmei, *Finance Secy., RBCC* as the resource person of the day.



Heartfelt Condolence!

Late Dinsalabou SP father of Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP, Principal, ITS.

As a community, we extended our heartfelt condolence towards the bereaved family, on 19th July 2024. May God's grace and comfort continue to be with them!



ITS Silver Jubilee Meeting: The ITS Silver Jubilee (2025) committee members had meeting on 10/08/2024 at 10 am, at ZBCCNEI Conference Hall chaired by Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP. Tentative date and size of celebration for the upcoming event was the main theme of discussion.

Fasting and Prayer Program: The ITS community had a devoted time of fasting and prayer on 14th August 2024. It was a time where we interceded on various prayer concerns such as; prayer for the state and nation, mission and evangelism, sick and suffering, students and youths, ecological crisis, families, ZBCCNEI, ITS sponsors and well-wishers.



Baptism Ceremony: On 18th August 2024, Sunday; Baptismal Ceremony was prayerfully enacted, ministered by Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP, where three members; namely Ms. Wisaisuilu Pamai, Mr. Joseph Pamai, Mr. Zeptha Kamei stepped forward to be embraced by the secret rite of baptism symbolizing their rebirth into a new faith journey.



Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP, member of Asia Theological Association (ATA) Commission Team with Board Members of Grace Bible College, Churachandpur.

Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP, presenting an Academic Seminar on the topic, "English Bible: An Evaluation"



CAPTURED GRATITUDE THROUGH CAMERA LENS

SOCIAL WORK: Theological Studies transcends theory. It is a journey of all round development (Work Ethics photo dump).



SPORTS ACTIVITIES



A GLIMPSE OF MEMORABLE PICTURES



Persistent Responsible & Motive, a Non-Profit Organization well wisher donated towards college New Building Project



Building Committee with Shri. Akinsin Gangmei, *Former MP Nominee*



Tamenglong Youth Organization (TYO) & ITS Board Members (photo shot post -Cyclone Remal disaster aid at ITS campus)



Rev. Dr. Tunchapbo SP at Inpui Baptist Church Tml. Mother's Day Programme



Building Committee with Smti. Mercina R Panmei, IAS Commissioner



Building Committee with Shri. Awangbou Newmai, Minister of Water Resources Dept. & Relief and Disaster Management Dept., Govt. of Manipur



Desktops graciously donated by Old Tousem Baptist Church (ZBCA) to ITS community

CAPTURED GRATITUDE THROUGH CAMERA LENS



Building Committee with Shri. Namsinrei Panmei, ADC Tml, Care Taker



Bethel Baptist Church, Tml. extending help amidst natural disaster



Old Age Group (EBC) fellowship with ITS/ZBCCNEI



ZBCC & ITS Staff with Dr. L. Angshim, DC Tml.



ZNBC Tml. extended help amidst Cyclone Remal



Building Committee with Longmai 3 Baptist Church



Building Committee with Shri. Janghemlung Panmei, Hon'ble MLA 53 Tml.



Vegetables provided by Taijijang Women Society & Pastor Guangdijuang's Family



ZNBC Tml., Women Dept.



Happiest Birthday to @Felicia!



Progress of college New Building



Faculty & Staff

STUDENTS ENROLLMENT 2024 -2025

Total No. of Residential Students	88 Students	108 Students
Total No. of Non-Residential Students	20 Students	

Just for Laughs!

A man asked God, "How long is a Million Year?"
 God answered, "To Me, it's about a minute."
 The man asked again, "How much is a Million Dollar?"
 God answered, "To Me, it's a penny."
 The man said, "God, Please give me a penny."
 God replied, "Wait a minute!"

DID YOU KNOW?

Delilah did not cut Samson's hair (Judges 16:19)

ADMISSION OPENS
 FROM 1ST TO 30TH OCTOBER 2024

NON-RESIDENTIAL COURSES

(Under Senate of Serampore University)

- Diploma of Christian Studies (Dip. CS)
- Bachelor of Christian Studies (B. CS)

CONTACT:

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- # Academic Seminar
- # Literary Day cum Musical Night
- # ZBCCNEI Day of Prayer
- # ZBCCNEI ADB Meeting
- # 1st Semester Exam
- # ITS Day of Prayer