

## **KUKI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Christian works among the Kukis began in 1899, however the spread of Christianity was slow. Pu.Ngulhao Thomsong, the first convert was baptised in 1908 and the first Church was planted in 1912 at Sirhima Village which was followed by the second Church at Chalkot Village in 1918. Both the Churches were planted by Rev.Niesier Angami and Krunieze Angami under the supervision of Rev.Rivenburg. Later Churches were established at Inbung, Mandie, Tsangki, Khaibung, Paona, Molvom and so on. Under the Kohima mission field, the Zeliang and Kuki Association were formed in 1926. By 1936 the strength of Christianity had grown to two hundred. The first Pastor Ngulpu and Kenieze Zeliang, Evangelist Sojang and Huibing were all paid by the Kohima Mission Field. In 1953 due to linguistic problem, the Kuki formed their own Association and it was led by Kelhosekho Angami as field Director. He was succeeded by Rev.T.Hulai, the first Graduate in Theology from the Kuki tribe.

Today, the Kuki Baptist Association has its head office at Khaibung Village, Medziphema. The Association has 15 full fledged Churches and 3 fellowships with 4860 baptised members. It also has a Branch Centre at Ahthibung Hill Town. The Branch covers seven villages where three staff are taking care of the Ahthibung Area. The Association has seven Ordained Ministers namely Rev.T.Hulai, Rev.Seikholen Lenthang, Rev.Janglam Singson, Rev.Lamkhothang Singson, Rev.H.Minlien Singson, Pastor Lamkhogin (David) Vaiphei and Pastor Thensem Singson and also we have four fulltime Pastors of Association appointed under as follows; Mr.Lamkhotong Singson, Mr.Tongthang Singnit, Mr.Lamkholun Singson and Rev.Lettinlal Chongloi. The KBA aims towards building the Kingdom of God by demonstrative participation through Faith, Work and Life of the Kuki Baptist Churches in Nagaland and Church workers for spiritual development all over Nagaland. With this objective, the KBA has seven Departments such as General, Missions and Evangelism, Finance, Women, Youth, Christian Education, Development and Property Departments.

The General activities has covers all rounds developments of spiritual as well as social developments. Such as giving training, retreats, seminars, camp, Bible class for the Church leaders and for the government officers and also for the village leaders.

The Women Department of KBA started Dorcas Training Centre in 2005 which is a vocational Institute that offers Weaving and Tailoring for drop-out students, widows and down-trodden girls. They are trained and given basic of Bible Knowledge and literacy class and also from time to time, trainees and production unit employees are sent to visit different Churches and also to people of other faiths as witnesses.

The Youth Department is headed by Pastor Lamkhogin David Vaiphei, and the department are tremendously growing in all the area of spiritual and social development. They had three places in plantations namely in Pellhang Village, Ahthibung Hill Town and Saijang Village. True Loves Waits, Sports Festival to draw back of the youth to those who are un-going Church. As the results of their activities many youths from different Churches have pledged to lead a clean and spiritual life.

Christian Education Department, Christian Literatures such as publishing of Chorus Song Books and Sunday school texts for adult class and union Sunday school texts are prepared by the department. Annual Children's Bible Camp, Children Development Program, Children's Festival, Singing Competition, Bible recitation and various kinds of competitions are conducted in different Churches under KBA. The Association has started a student's Hostel for the villagers at Ahthibung Hill Town in 2015. The hostel is known as Yettrang Academy Ahthibung and all the development activities, duties and functions responsibility given to the department.

Mission Department is growing in the KBA Churches and outside Nagaland in evangelism. Such as the department has open a mission field at different parts in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and work with different mission agencies, Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), India Evangelical Missions (IEM) and Nagaland Missions Movements. The department fully operates a mission field at Uriamghat, Assam, taking care of the Churches members, preaching the words of God, Bible Camp, Crusade, Bible Class, Children's development program for students, literacy class and presenting the gospel in different forms, who is taken care by Missionary Jangminthang Singson in the station. All together the department s has 18 missionaries in different parts of India. For Churches yearly the department has conducted spiritual retreat camp for the church leaders and the church members.

Development Department has set up a wing called Northeast Rural Development Agency (NERDA) with its head office at Ahthibung Hill Town under Peren district and Nazareth Foundation with office at Khaibung KBA Centre, Medziphema, in Dimapur district. Both the objective is to uplift the poor and marginalised sections of society through trainings, seminars, retreats and awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with Nagaland Development Outreach (NDO), several SHGs were formed, especially for the benefit of the widows who are daily wagers. As a Self-Reliance project, the department has taken up activities like plantation of trees and bamboos with the help of Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, which was headed by the Development Secretary's Mr.Lalminthang (Palal) Misao. The department has taking responsibility of KBA Mission Resource Centre at Chumukedima for various kinds of development in future.

The Executive Secretaries under as follows:

1. Pu.Khaikhojang Thengeo 1954-1955
2. Rev.K.Savino 1955-1962
3. Rev.T.Hulai 1962-1982
4. Pu.Jamngam Haokip 1982-1983
5. Rev.T.Hulai 1983-1991
6. Pu.N.Singson 1991-1992
7. Pu.S.Singson 1992-1994
8. Pu.N.Singson 1994-1999
9. Rev.T.Hulai 1999-2004
- 10.Rev.H.MInlien Singson 2004- till dates