

WALDRON NEWSLETTER

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SAGMOOTEA ESTATE

Last month we carried the report of a church planted on November 13th in a tea estate not far from the Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam, N.E. India. The estate is located near the Kaziranga National Park, which lies about 125 miles northeast of Guwahati, the state capital. The picture to the right shows our new brother O'Hemon (38), the former pastor of the "Believers Church" with his family members, who have now obeyed the gospel: his wife in the red shawl, two sons, his daughter-in-law, his daughter and an aunt.



The next picture shows Colin Martin, one of the young men in the preacher training school at Guwahati baptizing one of three young women who obeyed the gospel on the weekend of December 16. Colin is shown to the right of the three in the next picture. The young woman in the pale yellow dress is 22 and the daughter of the treasurer of the Believers Church. This brings the number of those who have been baptized out of that denomination to fourteen since the 13th of November. Included among those is a former professor in a denominational seminary, Simon Nayak, who obeyed the gospel on Saturday the 26th of November.



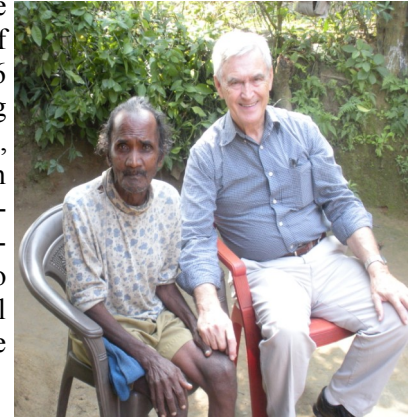
The picture to the left shows sixteen of the students who go out from Guwahati each weekend to work with eight to ten new congregations in the Karbi Anglong district of the state. There are seven languages spoken among these brothers, not counting English; some speak three or four languages. Some of these you might like to know a little better. The brother in the blue sweat shirt in the second row, Khen Samte (57), is a special student who took leave from his government job to study the Revelation in November. He is strong in faith and zealous in his service of Christ. He obeyed the gospel at the age of 17 in 1971. His wife's name is Niang and they have a son and three daughters. His son (far right in top row) is Lal (31). He serves as purchaser for the school kitchen and is in his second year of studies. Brother Khen's oldest daughter, Grace (28), is also a student in the second year of the school.

The young brother seated on the carpet at the left is Kanna; he is from Tamil Nadu in the deep south of the country, but while he was very young his parents migrated to Mumbai where he learned the Hindi language. Not only so, but Kanna is a graduate of the two-year preacher training school at Chettipalayam in Tamil Nadu. When he graduates in 2012 he will have had four years of Bible and related courses at 20 hours per week. Already he is an effective evangelist.

Joy Singh who sits at the right of the picture, holding a copy of Bible Wines, obeyed the gospel while in a refuge camp back in 2006. At the age of sixteen he entered NBI and graduated in 2009. He is now just shy of 21 and a very effective evangelist, thus we (Scott Richards and I) asked him to come back for a year to improve his English and his Bible knowledge. Also we want to introduce him and others to New Testament Greek.

THE NEW CONGREGATION NEAR BAGDOGRA

As you may recall the July edition of this Newsletter carried a report of a debate on July 1st between a brother in Christ, Joseph Kathi, and the pastor of a Freewill Baptist Church in a village near Bagdogra in the state of West Bengal. Subsequent to the debate twenty people have been baptized out of that church; one of these is shown in the picture to the right with me. This brother is 86 years old and was one of five men who came to Joseph on July 2nd as a result of hearing the debate. They were wanting to hear more about the “*usli kalesia*,” (original church), that is, the church of the Bible. After about two hours of study Joseph said the men began to cry saying we have wasted our lives in a denomination; then all were baptized. My reason for being there was to make arrangements for a new preacher training school in Bagdogra. Thus on December 2nd I had taken a flight from Guwahati to Bagdogra in order to hold a selection class for the new school. The class began on the afternoon of my arrival and continued until Tuesday the 6th. The picture of the elderly brother and me was made on Sunday the 4th when Joseph and I went to the village in order to preach for them.



Shown here are the eighteen brothers, who attended the class with Joseph on the left, his fellow worker Markus Kishu on the far right; a visiting evangelist, K.B. Rai at the back in the blue shirt and Joseph’s wife Subna in the center. She took part in the selection class and aced the tests and memory work. Twelve of the 18 passed and will begin training in February. It will cost us about \$80 each per month to put them through two years of training.

TRAINING PREACHERS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The state of Arunachal Pradesh lies north of the state of Assam in the far northeast of India; it joins hard to Tibet and China. It has a very rugged terrain strung across the eastern portion of the Himalayan mountains. By the help of God and the many of

you who share in this work of faith and labor of love we have been conducting two schools of preaching in the state. On Thursday night the 24th of November I made an overnight trip by train to a town in the north part of Assam, called Tinsukia, which is about 175 miles from Guwahati.



The train arrived at 4:50 a.m. and I was met by Tifusa Yobin (a graduate of Shillong School of Preaching), who serves as director of the *Mustard Seed Village (MSV)* a home for orphan children set up by Garry Jones. Tifusa and I took a bus another 25 miles to Jagun, which is a small town near the children’s home. The graduations for the two SOP took



place at the MSV. The picture on the left shows the five graduates from the school of preaching at Gandhigram, which is a small town in Arunachal near the border with Myanmar (Burma). The school principal, brother Nguaphosa, who graduated about 5 years ago from the school in Shillong, is shown with the graduates. The other picture shows the seven brothers who graduated from the Bible School at Jairampur in Arunachal, which lies just north of the state line with Assam. Brother Taan Kaam Sankey (2004 graduate of Shillong) is shown with his graduates. As always let me thank you for your love of the Lord and your service in His Kingdom.

In Christian love,

Jim S. Waldron