



STRONGER
TOGETHER

apbf sunday

SAVE MANIPUR DAY OF PRAYER

August 20th, 2023



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SAVE MANIPUR DAY OF PRAYER

The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF) calls on authorities in India to stop ongoing violence in the North Eastern state of India, especially Manipur, where more than 120 people have been killed, 250 places of worship have been destroyed or damaged and up to 50,000 people displaced, and more than 1,700 homes seriously damaged or destroyed since violence flared up in Manipur.

Conflict between the Kuki-zo, a predominantly Christian ethnic group in Manipur, and the Meitei, who are mostly Hindu, began as a political dispute over land rights.

Riots first broke out in response to May 3rd protests calling on the government to grant scheduled tribe status to the Meitei people.



Scheduled tribes have constitutionally granted property protection, and tribal members have access to political representation, educational assistance, and affirmative action in employment.

We pray for restoring of calm and inclusive dialogue involving civil society and the affected communities. We also pray for the ongoing religious freedom crisis we are seeing throughout India. It's long past time for India to not only address the situation in Manipur, but also eliminate any laws and policies that obstruct freedom of religion. Our prayers are with the people of India.

Pray for restoring of calm and inclusive dialogue involving civil society and the affected communities.

Jesus speaks in the sermon on the mount in the beatitudes in Matthew 5:9-10 *"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."*

On this APBF Sunday may we stand together in prayer and advocacy because we are stronger together.

Blessings,

Rev Mark Wilson
President, APBF

Solidarity with the people of Manipur

How do we express solidarity with the people of the region and emphasize the importance of peace and reconciliation? We trust we can do this with prayer. As many are, we as the Asia Pacific Baptist Family are heartbroken by the violence that has taken place in the beautiful state of Manipur.

We all share the suffering and pain caused by the violence in Manipur and we therefore pray for God's mercies to bring peace forgiveness and reconciliation. We cannot allow innocent people continue to die, lives of families senselessly destroyed and properties lost. We cannot let this continue.

We urge therefore, let us work together for peace and harmony, to choose the path of dialogue, and to bring an understanding that surpasses all human understanding.

It is important to understand each other, forgive each other and find a common ground to find solutions. As written in Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" we are encouraged to pursue justice and show compassion.

*“Our faith has the power of
forgiveness and reconciliation.”*

While it is easier said than done, as followers of Christ, we receive the power to do so through Christ. We can learn to respect each other and pursue inclusive cooperation, rather than being divided and confronted by enmity and blinded differences. We can support each other and work together for our common goal of peace and harmony.

Once again, we are reminded in Matthew 5:9, Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The Scripture reminds us of the value of actively seeking peace and reconciliation. It encourages us to

strive for peaceful resolutions and to promote harmony among individuals and communities.

We send our prayers to the people of Manipur for the speedy restoration of peace and harmony.

Rev. Dr. Vesekhoyi 'Vee' Tetseo
General Secretary, APBF



WALK EXTRA MILE

The State of Manipur requires unceasing and deepest concern. Due to recent unrest and violence which started from 3rd May 2023 thousands of men, women and children are displaced, rendered homeless and are made to suffer. Several churches destroyed and burnt down, houses belonging to the victims burnt down; children and college/university going students had to seek admissions outside of Manipur since the institutions are closed.

In such a situation, our prayer and moral support is not enough. We have to go beyond, walk extra-mile to reach out to people who are going through untold hardship, pain and miseries. The CBCNEI made an effort to carry out Relief works with the donations/contributions received within

the country and overseas. We are so thankful to all the individuals, churches, Associations and Conventions under the CBCNEI in particular and others churches and Christian organizations in general for their generous contributions. In this relief work, we are so thankful to Manipur Baptist Convention staff for taking the trouble of assisting us in distributing the essential food items, medicines and other items required by women and children in different camps. The same is undertaken from Mizoram side through Baptist Church of Mizoram to reach out to displaced people in Churachandpur, Manipur. We still have to do more as and when called upon. Relief work was carried in all the camps irrespective of community & religion.



Let us all unite and give our best to stand by those who are in need of our support, and also uphold in prayer our brothers & sisters in Manipur in this

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very uncertain and critical situation. May our voices be heard in whatever possible way as we continue to pray and may God, in all His greatness, reveal to us His mighty works.

Rev. Prof. Akheto Sema
General Secretary, CBCNEI

APPEAL FOR PEACE

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, I might pray for PEACE in Manipur, but I will need to consider first the ground reality of pain, suffering and hopelessness looming over thousands of men, women, and children in Manipur.

Even for spiritually mature Christians, it is unbearable to suppress their intense hurt feeling and talk about forgiveness and reconciliations. I am wondering about the majority who are either spiritually infant or, others who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, how would they even consider our appeal for peace. Even for distant audience the burning of several religious sanctuaries, education institutions, and other institutions that served all communities, do not make any sense. How much more insane it is for the innocent victims whose beloved is killed and sole property is burned? In a situation like this what is the obvious option do the victims are left with?

Peace in the Bible is more than the absence of discord, harmony, and violence. It is wholesome state of justice, individual prosperity, and social rest. Biblical peace does not negate holy anger, voice for justice, repentance, and restitution.

Peace in the Bible is more than the absence of discord, harmony, and violence. It is wholesome state of justice, individual prosperity, and social rest. Biblical peace does not negate holy anger, voice for justice, repentance, and restitution. It is not hushing the injustice, ignoring the pain inflicted, burying the issues unresolved, and leaving the sin unpunished. Peace in the Bible demands the righteous to face the evil boldly without becoming the evil one.

What is the win-win solution for Christians in Manipur? Hatred, retaliation and initiating violence will only enhance the disaster and the Evil one alone shall win. Therefore, instead of one appeal for Peace, I would like to make four appeals for ACTIONS:

First, I must appeal for all kinds of help to the victims—financial, emotional, and spiritual—anything that might restore their life. In fact,

some Baptist Churches in the Northeast already did a wonderful job, but the need is enormous.



Second, I must appeal each community to withdraw from making any insensitive, provocative, derogatory comment against other, rather speaking words of regrets and sympathy for those who are suffering.

Third, I must appeal that all civilians must refrain from taking law in their hand and allow the legal machinery

to function smoothly in Manipur. If they want to act, they may rather volunteer to sacrificially build and restore the burnt religious and educational institutions as a symbol of restitution.

Fourth, I must appeal to all political, social, religious leaders and also, the bureaucrats to act boldly and justly according to provisions in the law. Peace of God is assured where human beings love and act justly to each other.

May our good Lord give us wisdom and courage to all the leaders in Manipur.

Rev. Dr. A. K. Lama
Vice-President, APBF

SAVE MANIPUR PRAYER FOR PEACE



1. Pray for restoration of peace in Manipur.
2. Pray for the State & Central government to call for peaceful dialogue and find a permanent solution immediately.
3. Pray for the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) for their rehabilitation and healing (physical, emotional & spiritual).
4. Pray that this genocide against the tribal Christians in Manipur will stop.
5. Pray for the Christians in Manipur whose churches have been completely burnt down and destroyed.
6. Pray for those who have lost their family, relatives, friends, and for those who have lost all their properties in Imphal (houses, cars, household items, clothes, children's education books, educational certificates, land/property documents – are either burned or destroyed. houses, vehicles, etc).
7. Pray for strength for the Meitei Christians during this challenging time to their faith.
8. Pray for spiritual awakening amidst this crisis and strength to overcome the terrible trauma for the families (parents and children).
9. Pray for Christian leaders who escaped this violent conflict - to be strong in the Lord as they lead their people during this crisis.

10. Pray for the Manipur Churches - to provide comfort, relief, forgiveness, reconciliation ministry.

Evangelical Baptist Convention (EBC)

1. Pray for the return of normalcy and peace in Manipur.
2. Pray that the destruction of more than three hundred churches in Imphal valley will not dampen the faith of Christians rather they will grow stronger wherever they are resettled.
3. Pray for healing and strength to forgive the enemy where more than one hundred innocent tribal Christians have been killed.
4. Pray for the many people who are in the relief centres whose future have become uncertain. While some of the displaced peoples can leave the relief centres to start a new life, there are still many who cannot leave the centres as they lost everything including land and houses.
5. Pray that the Evangelical Baptist Convention whose core value is to bring the gospel to others and plant self-reliant churches will send out missionaries to the rest of the world. Four missionaries have been commissioned to go, including one couple to overseas.



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SAVE MANIPUR DAY OF PRAYER

PRAY FOR MEMBER BODIES IN THE APBF!

Nepal Baptist Church Council (NBCC)

1. NBCC plans to "Baptist House Building concept" pray for all the management and financial needs.
2. Pray for skillful manpower in the NBCC and local churches.
3. NBCC plans to send missionaries in the diaspora mission field with the partnership of local Baptist Churches and Baptist families.
4. Pray for the program of 2023 to fulfill in time.
5. Pray for the good governance of Nepal government and stable government.
6. Pray for many souls to win for Christ in this generation.

Tripura Baptist Christian Union (TBCU)

1. A Member of Legislative Assembly in Tripura have spoken to the media and public meeting that those are converted into Christianity will be removed from the Scheduled Tribe status. They will not get any benefit from the Government. Pray for God's intervention.
2. Indirect persecution is happening in the state of Tripura. Pray for strengthening of believers in their faith.
3. Pray for unity in the church among the believers.
4. Pray church leaders, church congregations need to work hard for increase of believers in the state.

COME APBF FAMILY!



50th ANNIVERSARY

IMAGINING THE
FUTURE TOGETHER

Revisit the past! Rejoice God's faithfulness today!
Remain obedient to God's mission.

Strengthen our commitment to stay
STRONGER TOGETHER

November 17 – 18, 2023

International Baptist Church, Singapore

Hosted by



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<http://www.apbf.org/events/anniversary>