

**Proceedings and Meeting Minutes of the
All India Kuki Worship Service Co-ordination Committee
Seminar on
“Christian Leadership and Integral Mission”
from 14 to 16 October 2005
at SCEPTRE, Srachi Centre, 74 B, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-16**

The All India Kuki Worship Service Co-ordination Committee (AIKWSCC) organized a Seminar on “**Christian Leadership and Integral Mission**” at the Senate Centre for Extension and Pastoral Theological Research (SCEPTRE), Srachi Centre, Kolkata from 14 to 16 October 2005. The Seminar was sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR) and hosted by the Kuki Worship Service, Kolkata.

The Resource Persons in the Seminar were: Rev. Dr. Leaderwell Pohsngap, International Director, Global LEAD (Leadership, Equipping and Development) Alliance; Rev. Dino L. Touthang, General Director, EFICOR; Rev. Paothang Haokip, General Secretary, Good Shepherd Community Church; and Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip, Registrar, Union Biblical Seminary (UBS), Pune.

The Seminar was attended by 17 delegates from seven sister KWS units (excluding host KWS). The following is a list of participants:

(a) Bangalore:

Mr. Samuel Gangte (Secretary)
Mr. Boilen (Member)

(b) Delhi:

Mr. Thanga Singson (Chairman)
Mr. Holpao Baite (Treasurer)
Rev. Dino L. Touthang (Chaplain)
Mr. Paul Paolen Haokip (Asst. Chaplain)

(c) Guwahati:

Mr. Lunjalén Khongsai (Secretary)

(d) Happy Valley (Shillong):

Rev. Helien Singsit
Mr. L.T. Kuki (Chairman, Missionary Board)

Mr. Lalboi Khongsai (Secretary)

(e) Hyderabad:

Rev. Paothang Haokip (Chaplain)

(f) Pune:

Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip (Chaplain)
Mr. Nehthang Haokip (Advisor)
Mr. Onkhongam Haokip (Finance Secretary)
Mr. Gogou (Worship Team Member)

(g) Shillong:

Rev. L.B. Angam (Pastor)
Mr. Letthang Mate (Chairman)

Besides these delegates, Mr. & Mrs. T. Haokip, IRS and Dr. Vumkhoneh Haokip also attended a good number of Sessions. Members of the host KWS, including its Chairman, Mr. Tongkholun Haokip; Secretary, Mr. Letthang Haokip and others also participated in the Seminar.

The daily proceedings of the Seminar and Minutes of the Business Sessions are given below:

DAY 1: 14 OCTOBER 2005

Opening Session

The Opening Session was held around 4:30 pm after the arrival of the delegates. The Session was conducted by Mr. Lunjalien Khongsai and opened with a prayer. Rev. Paothang Haokip, Secretary, AIKWSCC welcomed the delegates, which was followed by a briefing from Rev. Roger Gaikwad of SCEPTRE. After these, Rev. Dino L. Touthang, Chairman, AIKWSCC delivered a brief message. Reading from I Chronicle Chapter 22, he spoke on King David's desire to build the House of the Lord, a house of Hope. He encouraged the participants to widen their perspectives so as to receive God's blessings more abundantly. He spelled out the direction to which KWS should head on and identified three important role missions for KWS. Firstly, KWS should be a forum striving towards facilitating members of our community to go to church. Secondly, as King David gathered stones to build the temple of the Lord, we should play that role of building a solid foundation for the KWSs that is to come later. Thirdly, we should strive for a KWS that will be a channel of blessings to our Churches at home, with those words, the Chairman ended the Session with a prayer.

Business Session (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

After the Opening Session was concluded, the first Business Session was held. In this Session, chaired by Rev. Dino L. Touthang, no agenda was discussed, and instead, brief reports were given by the units regarding their activities, ongoing projects and plans.

Reports:

1. **KWS Bangalore** (as reported by Mr. Samuel Gangte): The KWS Bangalore has a membership of about 60 persons. There has been a continual growth in membership and with this, there is a need for a full-time Chaplain. The Unit has recently started a Church Building Project and a Committee was formed in April 2005. Of the targeted Rs. 8 lakh for the purchase of a plot, Rs. 7 lakh has been raised so far. Rs. 6 lakh was donated by Pu Ngamthang Haokip, Minister. With this project in hand, registration of KWSB is also underway. Another notable project of the unit is a music project to buy an electronic keyboard within October 2005, with a budget of Rs. 20,000/-.
2. **KWS Delhi** (as reported by Mr. Thanga Singson, Chairman): The KWS Delhi has membership strength of over 600 persons and over 60 families.

The regular Sunday services have an average attendance of about 300. As of now, church building is the main project of the unit. The unit is organizing an 'Evangelistic Week 2005' from 3 to 6 November 2005. In his report, the Chairman mentioned that the growth of KWSD has had positive effects on other aspects of the Kuki society in Delhi. He encouraged other participants to focus on the spiritual aspects in their units. Supplementary information was provided by Asst. Chaplain, Mr. Paul Paolen Haokip. He gave information on the broad aspects of the work of the two Asst. Chaplains in Sunday school, Music Classes, Women Fellowship and the unit's monthly Newsletter – '*Aroma*'.

3. **KWS Guwahati** (as reported by Mr. Lunjalien Khongsai, Secretary): The KWS Guwahati has a membership of about 300 persons and 30 families. The unit is actively engaged in the Church building construction. The project was started in 2000 and is expected to be completed by December 2005. The estimated cost involved in the project until now is Rs. 30 lakh. The church building being constructed will have three floors—a community hall on the ground floor, a sanctuary (Church hall) in the first and a Pastor quarter in the second floor. The church plot has been registered in the name of KWS Guwahati. The unit has prayer cells in about 4 localities.
4. **KWS Happy Valley** (as reported by Mr. Lalboi Khongsai, Secretary): The KWS Happy Valley was established on 7 April 1999 with a view to cater to the specific needs of members who had decided to settle down in Happy Valley, Shillong. The unit has a present membership of over 500 persons and about 70 families. It has 343 baptized members. Besides the regular Sunday services, services are also held on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings weekly. A whole-night prayer meeting is held on every last Friday of the month. The unit has four departments *viz.* Youth Fellowship, Sunday school department, Church Building Committee and Mission and Evangelism Board. The unit is currently sponsoring a missionary (Mr. K. Atoi Achumi) under FMPB (Friends Missionary Prayer Band) in Himachal Pradesh. The unit has recently bought a plot with a building therein which was renovated as a church. It was bought for Rs. 6,34,000/- and consecrated on 14 September 2005.
5. **KWS Hyderabad** (as reported by Rev. Paothang Haokip, Chaplain): The KWS Hyderabad holds regular Sunday services with an average attendance of 35-50 persons. The unit has 10 families. Of these, 4 families owned a poultry farm of 4 acres each. In addition, there are about 20 trainee nurses. One notable aspect of the unit is the active part taken by the women fellowship whose members meet every month. The unit also has close interactions with other fellowships, especially the North East Fellowship. A full-time Asst. Chaplain is also being considered for employment.
6. **KWS Kolkata** (as reported by Mr. Letthang Haokip, Secretary): The KWS Kolkata has membership strength of about 70 persons. Sunday Services are

held on the second and last Sunday of every month. The unit held a revival programme in September 2005. The fund drive boxes for the revival programme were continued and converted into building fund as a humble beginning.

7. **KWS Pune** (as reported by Mr. Onkhongam Haokip): The KWS Pune has a membership of about 190 persons. The unit also brings out a monthly Newsletter. One novel project of the Pune KWS is the ‘**Som-Inn**’, which is a holistic training centre for discipleship. Supplementing information on the project, Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip said that the traditional or customary ‘**Som-Inn**’ has been re-introduced and Christianized. The centre has seven residents and is run on a rented building. Its aim is to infuse moral values to students at large, to train residents to lead a pious life based on Biblical teachings. It is based on the belief that the concept is God’s gift as a part of enlargement of ministry.
8. **KWS Shillong** (as reported by Mr. Letthang Mate, Chairman): Apart from holding regular Sunday services, the unit has active prayer cells in about 7 localities. The Sunday school is classified into three categories. The church building has been completed and was consecrated on 30 January 2005. The church building has three floors: First floor for Pastor quarter; the second floor for community hall and third floor with balcony for sanctuary with a capacity of 400 persons. The unit sponsors a seminary student (Mr. Seiboi) in UBS, Pune. The unit has recently bought a scooter for the use of the Pastor. Besides the Church building, the unit also owns a cemetery.

After the presentation of unit reports, the Secretary briefed participants on the following day’s programme and the Session was concluded with a prayer.

DAY 2: 15 OCTOBER 2005

Morning Devotion (8:00 – 9:30 a.m.)

The Morning Devotion was led by Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip. He delivered a message on “**KHANKHUO: Re-discovering the Historical Jesus for an Integral Mission**”, based on John Chapter 4. He defined *khankhuo* as a Kuki term which connotes a code of living, ethical principles providing a foundation for living. The term ‘re-discover’ suggests that something or value was in practice, but has lost its significance somehow, is to be realized again. ‘Historical Jesus’ refers to the personality of Jesus. Integral denotes a holistic approach and mission, a calling for every Christian. In recent times, we have lost or forgotten much about *khankhuo*, which may be due to the way we adopt Christianity or due to the invasion of the consumerism culture of the globalized world. Now the challenge facing the Kuki Christian youth is to look back again and redeem much of what is lost. Speaking on the story of the Samaritan woman and Jesus, Rev. Lamboi said that Jesus, in transforming the woman, bridged the gender, sociological and psychological gaps. Thus, Integral Mission means –

- (i) A focus on the ‘whole’ person, attending to the spiritual, psychological, physical and emotional well-being of the person,
- (ii) That Mission should be in harmony with nature, that is in peaceful co-existence with our surroundings, and
- (iii) Integral Mission should be a worship of God in a two-way manner.

Seminar on Leadership (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Topic:

- i) Leadership and change
- ii) Leadership and Strategic Planning

Resource Person: Rev. Dr. Leaderwell Pohsngap

In his introductory note, Rev. Dr. Leaderwell narrated a story of his village called ‘Clearwater’. It was a peaceful simple village inhabited by good people then. Now it had grown into a town losing much of its pristine character. Dr. Leaderwell likened today’s world to his village, which give us ample opportunity for change. He made a case study on the character of Nehemiah and asserted that there is no leader in the Bible who did not bring about change. As a result of this, leadership and change has in fact become synonymous. Saying that it takes one motivated individual with a vision to bring about change anywhere, he exhorted participants to be one such person. To bring about change a leader ought to have a vision. He should be dreaming and praying about change. He needs to see the end clearly. Speaking on Nehemiah, he challenged the participants to constantly begin their tasks will full surrender to God by prayer. The next step is to plan,

finding favour in the eyes of the Lord; then to have a macro-view of the plans and finally to take steps each turn by strategic planning.

After the presentation was over, all participants were divided into four groups. 30 minutes time was given for personal reflection after which each group sat together for discussion for about 45 minutes. The groups then re-assembled in the Seminar Hall. One person from each group gave a report on what was arrived at in each group meeting. Each group discussed on—What are the difficulties they individually come across as leader and what would be their solutions. In the reports, certain issues emerged which included, among others, the need to spread the message of salvation, the problem of second ring of leadership, resources and building networks, denominational dogmas etc. Some of the solutions suggested were imparting education, promoting awareness, bringing members to closer ties, improving communication skills etc.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Leaderwell underscored the principle that none of us could bring about change by ourselves. We could only be agents/instruments of change, that too only when God is in charge. Saying that it is only God who makes a way out of the desert, he ended the Session with a prayer.

Business Session-II (2:00 – 7:30 p.m.)

The second Business Session was held from 2:00 in the afternoon till 7:30 p.m. in the evening with a tea break in between. The Session was chaired by Rev. Dino L. Touthang and opened with a prayer by Mr. Thanga Singson. Rev. Paothang Haokip read out the resolutions passed at the AIKWSCC Meeting on 5 February 2005 in Pune. Agenda items were collected from the units. The following list of items were discussed and resolutions passed thereon:

- i) KWS Home-page
- ii) Chaplain / Pastor
- iii) All India Youth Conference / Youth Seminar
- iv) Renaming of AIKWSCC
- v) Common theme / Logo for all units
- vi) Registration of KWS
- vii) Relation of KWS units with AIKWSCC
- viii) Sunday School curriculum
- ix) Partnership / Ministry
- x) Relation with Home Churches
- xi) Constitution

1. KWS Home-page:

In the AIKWSCC meeting in Pune, it was agreed that a Home-page be launched for All India KWS. The task of developing the web-page was entrusted to Mr. Paul Paolen Haokip who informed that only a few KWS units have so far sent material

It was agreed that the work may be expedited and that units which are yet to sent material for the home-page should do so latest by 15 November 2005. It was further agreed that the home-page will be common for all units containing links for all the units. The information pertaining to the units will be updated by them from time to time.

2. Pastor and Chaplain:

Either of the two terms has been used by different KWS units. It was considered whether 'Chaplain' should be substituted with 'Pastor' as the latter has a wider connotation. Rev. Paothang Haokip gave some elucidation on the term 'Chaplain' and said that it was used mainly among the military and then among students and hence a bit limited.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the designation 'Pastor' should be used, henceforth, in lieu of 'Chaplain' in all the KWS units.

After a resolution was passed in this regard, the need for a Chaplain/Pastor in some of the KWS units was raised. Before further discussion could be held, it was agreed that the matter might be taken up during the discussion on AIKWSCC and units' relations.

3. All India Youth Conference / Leadership Seminar:

Observing the enthusiastic response of the participants at the present seminar, a proposal was made for organizing another Seminar or an All India Youth Conference. After consideration, it was agreed that the next leadership Seminar will be hosted by KWS Guwahati to coincide with the dedication/consecration programme of their church Building in December 2005.

As regards the Youth Conference, it was agreed that the matter be discussed in the units first, to see if any of the units would be interested to host the conference. The AIKWSCC Executive was entrusted to pursue the matter.

4. All India KWS Coordination Committee; renaming:

A discussion was held regarding an alternative name for AIKWSCC. In this regard three alternatives were suggested:

- i) Association of Kuki Worship Services (proposed by Rev. Dino L. Touthang)
- ii) Fellowship of Kuki Worship Services (proposed by Rev. Paothang Haokip)
- iii) Union of Kuki Worship Services (proposed by Pu T. Haokip, IRS)

In this regard, it was agreed that all the units should select one among the above alternatives and then convey their decisions to the Secretary, AIKWSCC latest by February 2006.

Earlier, an idea was mooted whether the name 'KWS' should be changed to a more suitable one e.g. Kuki Christian Fellowship. After some thought was given to the matter, it was agreed that the name should remain as it is in view of the fact that many of the units including KWSG, KWS Happy Valley, KWSS have registered their Church building/plots in this name.

5. Common Motto and Logo:

In indication of oneness among the units, it was suggested that the units should have a common motto and logo/emblem. As for motto, it was agreed that the Shillong unit motto: '**Shine for Christ**' be adopted by all the units. As regards a common logo, it was decided that the units should submit a logo of their choice to the Coordination Committee out of which the best one may be selected.

6. Registration:

Registration of KWS, --unit-wise or at All India level – was discussed. It was agreed that the units may register themselves in their respective places. The emphasis is on local autonomy and registration at the national level would require full-time staff to look after the annual audit, and other legal requirements. As part of the discussion on Registration, it was also agreed that the Headquarter of AIKWSCC should be Delhi.

7. Relationship of KWS Units with AIKWSCC:

During the discussion on this agenda, three units namely, Bangalore, Happy Valley and Kolkata put forward their need for a Chaplain/Pastor. They also wanted to know whether they should write to Home Churches, as in the case of Shillong. In the process of discussion the specific requirements of these units were identified. Bangalore needs monetary support, Kolkata requires both monetary and personnel support. Happy Valley required a Pastor as well as a Church elder. Earlier in the discussion, Happy Valley unit enquired if AIKWSCC could ordain one of their members as a Church elder. The matter discussed and it was agreed that Rev. L.B Angam and Rev. Helien Singsit be commissioned to conduct a study and then report back to AIKWSCC. As regards Bangalore and Kolkata, it was agreed that they may specifically write to AIKWSCC about their needs. The latter may consider what steps could be taken.

8. Sunday School:

There was a discussion on the prospects of a common syllabus for the Sunday Schools. In this matter, it was agreed that the units may continue with their syllabi for the time being. For the sake of uniformity, it was agreed that AIKWSCC will suggest 4 or 5 curriculum for units to choose from as they so desire.

9. Partnership/Ministry:

A discussion was held on probable and available avenues for partnership and ministry. Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip spoke on the ‘**Som-Inn**’ project in Pune, where EU Teams would visit residents and educate them on various issues including their educational subjects–Math, Commerce, etc. He pointed out that the project has some advantages like free accommodation for the warden, a platform to revitalize declining moral values etc. Rev. Dino L. Touthang spoke on a survey made by the Delhi unit on the prospect of running similar project in partnership with Bryan Hope International. He also mentioned other opportunities like Care force, U.K, where 7 members of KWS have gone so far. He added that other similar opportunities should be explored in the future so that many of our members may get exposure and be a blessing to our society. Pu T. Haokip stressed the need to go back to our home Churches on tour during Christmas/holidays and to encourage our fellow villagers. The members of the tour team may be drawn from various units. This proposal was accepted and accordingly, it was agreed that such tour programme comprising a worship team and preachers will be arranged by the AIKWSCC sometime in 2006.

10. Relationship with Home Churches / Tithes:

The relationship of KWS units with home churches including over the payment of tithes was discussed. It was informed by delegates that in some units, members pay their

tithes to home churches and in some units to their unit KWS. In this regard, Rev. L.B. Angam suggested paying a portion of the tithes to home churches as they are in need of resources. He suggested that 50% of the amount may be paid to them. Rev. Dino L. Touthang stated that the very payment of tithes by members was even more important than where they pay. He was of the view that in units where there are no big projects, members may pay their tithes to their local churches. This position was accepted by all and agreed to.

11. Constitution:

As agreed in Resolution No. 6 in the AIKWSCC meeting in Pune, on 5 February 2005, a Draft Constitution was prepared for AIKWSCC by a committee duly selected. The Draft AIKWSCC constitution was presented by Mr. Lunzalien Khongsai. However, no detailed discussion could be held due to want of time. It was agreed that the Draft Constitution may be discussed at the units and inputs/suggestions, if any, may be submitted to the AIKWSCC.

In the brief discussion on the Draft, it was suggested that the post of Finance Secretary-cum-Treasurer should be bifurcated and placed under the charge of two persons. This was agreed to. Then, regarding the provision on 'funds', it was suggested that certain amount of fund may be raised and maintained to meet the ordinary working expenses of the AIKWSCC Executive body. It was also agreed that, besides the 5 office bearers of the AIKWSCC, all the Chairmen and Secretaries of the units, Chaplains/Pastors, Asst. Chaplains/Pastors shall be *ex officio* members of the AIKWSCC Executive body.

After all these agendas were discussed and resolutions passed on them, Rev. Helien Singnit closed the Business Session with prayer.

Prayer Meeting (8:00 p.m.)

A prayer meeting was held in the evening after the day's Business Session. It was led by Rev. Paothang Haokip. He opened time for prayer requests from participants. Many participants made prayer requests. Then Rev. Dino, Rev. L.B. Angam, Mr Paolen and Rev. Paothang prayed in turn for these various prayer requests. In between, Pi Chinlhing Haokip also presented a special number.

DAY 3: 16 OCTOBER 2005

Morning Devotion

(8:00 a.m.)

The morning devotion on the last day was led by Rev. Dino L. Touthang. He read from Micah 6:1-8. In reflection, he said that God has been helping us all these years. Twenty years ago there was only one KWS unit in Shillong. Now we have units in several cities of India. Speaking on Integral Mission, he said that the concept was bought about by Dr. John Stuart in 1971 in Loussane. In his message he addressed three pre-requisite principles of Integral Mission –

- i) The need to act justly
- ii) The need to have love and mercy, and
- iii) The need to walk humbly with God

At the end of his message, Rev. Paothang Haokip, Secretary, said a vote of thanks.

Leadership Seminar-II

(10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Topic:

- i) Leadership and People's Management
- ii) Leadership and Integrity

Rev. Dr. Leaderwell, in the second session, spoke on people's management and integrity in leadership. He stated that both of them are vital issues in leadership. Dealing on the issue of people's management, he drew an example on Moses who tried to do all things by himself and got thoroughly exhausted. It was at this juncture that his father-in-law advised him to delegate powers. When the Israelites were building the Tabernacle, all people were involved with their specific skills. Paul also wrote to the Romans that if they were gifted with one thing they should do that faithfully. To the Corinthians, Paul wrote that they were like parts of a body. No one person could bring about change. Therefore, we need to involve the professionals, businessmen, students, and politicians in the work of God. In every leadership situation, money or plan is often not the problem; people are always the problem. We should deal with people like Nehemiah did with kings and authorities. It was God who gave him the wisdom. Nehemiah motivated the people with appreciation and made no distinctions among them. To him each of them mattered and each could make his own contribution. Dr. Leaderwell also cautioned that there might be people who always discourage us, people who wanted things not to grow. This kind of people threatened Nehemiah. He dealt with his adversaries firmly and with humility. Nehemiah also knew his limits and was humble. In all situations, he saw the 'Gracious hand of God'.

Coming to Integrity, Dr. Leaderwell said that nobody will believe us if we do not have integrity, no matter the fact that we may be gifted with so many skills. When Nehemiah wanted to change something, he first changed himself. Proverbs 4:23 says –

‘Guard your heart, it is a well-spring of life’. It means we must keep our relationship with God afresh all the time. We need to maintain the purity of our hearts. It is like a compass, which will show us the right direction all the time. Even in the dark world that right relationship with God, that purity of the heart will guide us in the right direction. We should deal with people with the power of God. We need to check our heart all the time.

(After an hour of lecture, as usual, time was given for personal reflection and group discussion.) In his concluding remarks, Dr. Leaderwell cautioned that, as leaders, we could get self-centered. When Nehemiah dealt with his people he did so with humility. He underscored three principles of leadership, in the acronym STF: Soft--Slow to Anger; Tough--not to move when you are on the right; and Flexible--to deal with different situations differently. As leaders we have to remember that the people are our best investment and that we should be open before God and to people.

Joint Worship Service With Kws Kolkata (2:00 p.m.)

After the conclusion of the Seminar, there was a joint worship Service with members of the KWS Kolkata. It was conducted by Mr. Letthang Haokip. Invocation prayer was led by Mr. L.T. Kuki and followed by a special number from Mr. Haopu. There was a vote of thanks from the Chairman, KWSK during which mementoes were presented to all the delegates. It was followed by a message from Rev. Paothang Haokip who spoke on ‘Israel in Captivity as a model for Integral Mission’. Reading from Jeremiah 29:7-19, Rev. Paothang Haokip encouraged participants to take the opportunity of living in different cities to witness God’s words. Wherever we live, we should seek the welfare of the city by praying to God. In a particular way, he exhorted that God may use each one of us while we are far away from our homes.

Concluding Session (4:30 p.m.)

The Concluding Session was led by Rev. J. Lamboi Haokip. In the short session, all the participants were asked to write on a piece of paper and submit: -

- (a) What is your most important benefit in the Seminar
- (b) What is the most important thing you learn from the Seminar that you would like to share with your KWS Unit
- (c) What one thing do you consider is the most important need for your society

After all participants had written and submitted the slips, all joined in hand with a prayer and the Seminar was formally closed.
