



# Echo of Himalaya

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*Verse to be remembers!*

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

**Jeremiah 29:11**

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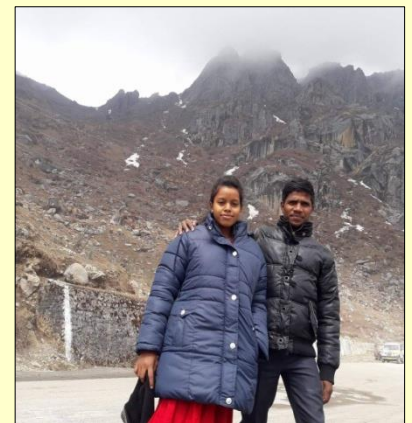
03. Obituary & Prayer Desk

**"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."**

## Story of Mission and Church Planting Work: East Sikkim to Malda (West Bengal)

Malda is a district covering area of 3733 sq Km with Bihar and Uttar Dinajpur at North , Murshidabad at South , Bangladesh at east , and Jharkhand and Bihar at West. It shares 165.5 km international border with Bangladesh. Having a central location it is an important junction and entry point to Siliguri from South Bengal. The river Ganga makes its first entry in West Bengal near Manikchak of Malda. As it is a low lying basin, it is prone to flood. **Malda district**, also spelt **Maldah** or **Maldaha** is a district in West Bengal, India. It lies 347 km (215 miles) north of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. Mango, jute and silk are the most notable products of this district. The special variety of mango, Fazli, produced in this region is popularly known by the name of the district and is exported across the world and internationally acclaimed. The folk culture of gombhira is a feature of the district, being a unique way of representation of joy and sorrow of daily life of the common people, as well as the unique medium of presentation on national and international matters.

Here is the story of mission and church planting story of Himalayan Free Church of India in Malda: In the year of 2010, during the crusade of Joyce Mayer (an American Charismatic Christian author, speaker and president of Joyce Meyer Ministries) a friend named Shamuel Shankar met with another friend Tala Murmu (later he known as Daniel Murmu) who belongs from Bintara (a small village under Block Malda Old). Later, in 2017 they formed a team under united churches called Immanuel United Fellowship (IUF) and started preaching the gospel in and adjoining areas of Bintara for five consecutive days. In the next year (2018) also same team prayerfully sowed the seed of the gospel at the same place and adjoining areas.



Evangelist Daniel Murmu and his wife

Later in the year of 2019, IUF unable to support the evangelism and Church planting work further at Bintara. Soon after, with God's provision, leaders and congregation of Himalayan Free Church of India, Lower Khamdong (East Sikkim) took this mission work with a vision to plant a Church Congregation and Sister Church at Bintara, Malda. In December, 2019; Mr. Amrit Rai of HFCI Lower Khamdong hired some mango-yard and fish pond where Mr. Daniel Murmu also helped him. Simultaneously, evangelism and mission work remain continuous at the Bintara and adjoining areas.

With God's grace, a church congregation has been planted at Bintara where eight (8) baptised members are attending the fellowship. In the first week of September 2021 itself, one more family accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their saviour and the Lord at Bintara and two more families are attending fellowship and growing in faith.

HFCI, Lower Khamdong continuously working at Bintara reaching out the gospel and their physical needs. In January 2021, a team from HFCI lower Khamdong distributed fifty (50) blankets to poor and deprived families at Bintara. A length of 25 feet by 15 feet Church hall also been constructed within seven days by working more than 15 hours in a day. Keeping in view quality education need of the region, free Coaching (Tuition) camps are running at two villages named Azna and Sindoorbona (the adjoining village of Bintara) where many students are getting benefit of it. Please continuously upholds in prayer for HFCI Sister Congregation at Bintara (Malda) and mission work at adjoining villages called Azna and Sindoorbona.

## Church Construction Project:

### Four Methods of Evangelism

There are many wonderful Bible passages prescribing godly evangelistic methods:

**First**, a loving church: “they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved’ (Acts 2:42-47). In the Jerusalem church, recently filled with the Holy Spirit for prophesying the wonders of Jesus from the scriptures, it wasn’t just through a few gifted individuals but the whole church community devoted to learning, loving, sharing and praying, that people were daily being saved.

**Second**, a respectful manner: The Apostle Peter instructs Christians scattered across the Roman Empire and experiencing persecution to speak with gentle honesty, “Do not fear what they fear, do not be frightened; but in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” Fear is dissolved away by believing our own gospel that Jesus is Lord, authorizing our evangelism and sovereign over our conversations. But we must be equipped to answer people’s queries, ready to testify to our hope in the risen Jesus. But we must speak gently and respectfully, remembering we were all once lost and ignorant of God, and keeping a clear conscience before God – rejecting all exaggeration and exploitation. Promising health and wealth or taking advantage of people in need is evil.

**Third**, a cultural flexibility: Paul explains that while he will not twist the gospel message in order to make it more palatable, he is always willing to be culturally flexible and radically contextualize his ministry: “I have become all things to all people that by all means I might save some” (1Cor. 9:22).

Fourth, **an honest sincerity**. Paul has explained that unlike so many false teachers, we are not “peddlers of God’s Word” for profit but people “of sincerity” (2Cor. 2:17). In chapter 4, having explained that evangelism is the ministry through which God’s Holy Spirit gives new life, he elaborates four principles:

Tell the truth (4:1-2), **Expect blindness (4:4), Proclaim Christ and Honest Sincerity.**

Courtesy: The Gospel Coalition.



Kindly upholds in prayer for ongoing Church construction project of Himalayan Free Church of India, LepchaKhheta, Badamtam Tea Estate under Lebong valley of district Darjeeling. The new church building project is undergoing with prayerful contribution of local church and all generosity of free will prayer and financial partners.

~Reported by Evan. Rueben Rai, HFCI LepchaKhheta, Lebong Valley.

## Pastors Ordination:

The office of the Himalayan Free Church of India officially ordained Pastor Milan Gurung of HFCI, Rangbhang busty and Pastor Sewan Rai of HFCI, Rishhihaat TE as a Church Pastor of respective congregation on 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2021 and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 respectively. Pastor Amosh Bhutia, President of HFCI solemnized the Ordination Service of both Pastors. Pastor Anand Rai, General Secretary, Pastor Tirash Rai, Treasurer, Pastor Nicanor Chong, Coordinator, Lebong Valley, Pastor Daya Rai, Coordinator, Ghoom Sukhia region and other pastors and leaders from different congregations were present during the service.



## Virtual Interaction with Pastors and Youth Leaders:



On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, a virtual meet has been organized among Pastors and Youth Leaders of HFCI with a vision to share a common platform for HFCI youth for God’s kingdom. Pastor Amosh Bhutia, President presided the meeting. Mr. Suman Rai, Youth Leader of HFCI Gangtok shared the vision and common challenges of youth and teenagers in the current context. Pastors from different congregations and youth leaders also shared their concerns for young generation. The meet has decided to seek a common ground for HFCI youth to lead with a vision for the expansion of God’s kingdom in HFCI and beyond.

## Obituary:



Senior Pastor of HFCI, Pastor Philip Lepcha, Klimpong went to be with the Lord on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 after a prolong sickness at the age of 65. The funeral service was held on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 at his residence.

Pastor Philip was an ardent Pastor, who loved to proclaim the profound Word of God.

Entire Himalayan Free Church of India and HFCI Pastorate expressed heartfelt condolences and prayers to bereaved family of Pastor Philip and the congregation.

## Pray for persecuted Churches in India

Persecution in India has increased significantly over the past five years, and has now remained relatively unchanged for the past year. The COVID-19 pandemic has offered a new weapon for persecutors, though, and Christians are often deliberately overlooked when official COVID-19 food and aid are distributed. This has left many desperate for food, particularly since many Christians are from the Dalit caste and thus very poor, and have lost their sources of income this year.

Christians from a Hindu background are most vulnerable to persecution in both public and private life.

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background. Christians are accused of following a “foreign faith” and blamed for bad luck in their communities. These believers are often physically attacked and sometimes killed, as well as being under constant pressure from their family and community to return to Hinduism. If they do not “re-convert,” they may be boycotted by their community, with a devastating effect on their ability to earn income. Many believers are isolated and don’t know any other Christians.

Christians are persecuted in all areas of public and private life, and anti-conversion laws (currently in nine states, with more considering adoption) are abused to harass and intimidate Christians. Few people are actually convicted under these laws, but cases can drag on for years.

Courtesy: Open Doors Report

## ~Prayer Desk~

### Few More Prayer Points:

1. We request the Churches to pray for the persecuted churches, members and leaders that God may give them the boldness, faith and protection to shine for Him in the midst of persecution.
2. Pray for all upcoming scheduled events of HFCI viz. Mission and Evangelism, Fellowships/Seminars, Shepherd Bible Seminary etc.
3. There are reports of many more suicides in India than usual due to the pandemic. Please pray for Churches, NGOs as they support people not just practically but also emotionally and spiritually.
4. Pray for the Nepali people spread throughout the world. Pray that more workers will go to help reach these people with the gospel, so that they will have the opportunity to respond to Jesus Christ.
5. Pray that Tibetans would truly perceive that the gospel is ‘good news’ and that Jesus is the true Lord of all 5.5 million Tibetans. A version of the New Testament is now complete and freely available to Tibetan people groups, both on the Internet and as an app. Pray that, through these means, the word will be sowed widely find fertile soil and bear much fruit. May whole households and communities receive Jesus as Lord and be disciple together.

### Your Quality Contribution Matters:



*Dear Readers!*

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*You may send soft copy (Only Word File) of write-up on given email or WhatsApp.*

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